

September 11, Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton and National Park Service Director Fran Manella announced that all entrance fees to all of the 385 units of the National Park System would be waived over Veterans Day weekend.

The events of September 11 will never be erased from our memories. Each of us will remember where we were and what we were doing on that tragic day. They have taken their toll upon many of us in so many ways. Since these events, many have found solace in America's national parks for healing. All of our national parks serve as a tool to recapture the American spirit and provide much of the healing Americans are looking for.

I applaud the Secretary's announcement and encourage all Americans to take advantage of this weekend for unity, hope, and healing by visiting the diverse treasures of America's national park system.

VETERANS DAY

(Ms. SANCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, in anticipation of Veterans Day, I rise to thank the millions of men and women who have served in the United States military for their contributions to our Nation.

Many of our veterans first came to this country as immigrants in search of freedom and the opportunity to live in a country with liberty and justice. And they have demonstrated their belief in the principles of our great country with their willingness to put their lives on the line to defend the Nation which has given them so many new opportunities.

For example, after becoming American citizens in 1917, over 18,000 Puerto Rican citizens served America proudly in World War I. And during World War II, more than 300,000 Mexican-Americans served in the United States Armed Forces. Guy "Gabby" Gabaldon holds the distinction of capturing more enemy soldiers than anyone else in the history of United States military conflicts.

Over 81,400 Asian-Pacific Islanders served during the Vietnam War. These are but a few examples.

On Veterans Day, we all need to remember the sacrifices that veterans have made to protect our great Nation.

SALUTE TO RICHMOND AND WILL ROGERS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

(Mr. WATKINS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATKINS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the students of Richmond Elementary and Will Rogers Elementary School in my hometown of Stillwater, Oklahoma, for

their efforts and contributions to help the children of Afghanistan.

This past Monday, I met with my friend, Dr. Ann Dugger, and the school's principal, Dr. Gay Washington, of Richmond and also Mrs. Jerry Walstad of Will Rogers Elementary, and spoke to several hundred school students who gathered for an assembly. At this assembly it was announced that the children had raised more than \$500, and I was asked to deliver the check to the appropriate person from the White House for America's Fund for Afghan Children.

Yesterday I met with Governor Tom Ridge, Director of Homeland Security, and Bob Marsh, the White House liaison, about the contributions from the Stillwater schoolchildren. We can all be proud of the unselfish acts of kindness and generosity exhibited by these young Americans.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask the House to join me in thanking these schoolchildren from Stillwater, and encourage other schoolchildren around our Nation, for being shining examples of America's compassion. These children, like our children and grandchildren, have the right to live without fear. That is why we are fighting the war against terrorism.

BIOTERRORISM PROTECTION ACT OF 2001

(Mr. ISRAEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, this weekend we will commemorate veterans, honoring those who have served in America's armed services in times of peace and times of war. Tragically, this same weekend will mark the 2-month anniversary of September 11, 2 months since international terrorists declared war on the United States and the civilized world.

The veterans of America's war on terrorism are fighting today in Afghanistan. The veterans of America's war on terrorism are also our courageous first responders: our firefighters, our police, our emergency hospital personnel, our school administrators, even our school nurses. Our first responders are in the trenches, and it is our job in Congress to ensure they have all the resources they need to defend themselves and defend our people.

That is why I am urging my colleagues to join me in sponsoring the Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2001, providing both long-term and short-term strategies for fighting our new war, from laboratories to police stations, to firehouses and nursing tables.

We may not completely destroy the war on terrorism in 2 months or even 2 years. We may have to be on guard for 2 decades. But we shall prevail and American children will be secure because of our efforts.

IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE-PASSED ECONOMIC SECURITY PACKAGE

(Mr. CANTOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the House-passed economic security package that will help American families and revive economic growth in our country.

I have always believed that the private sector is the true engine of opportunity in our country. Increased Federal spending will not improve the fundamentals of our economy. In these difficult economic times, the role of Congress should be to create an environment of opportunity for America's families.

It is the hard work and sheer determination of individuals, families, and small business entrepreneurs that make this country what it is today. It will be these same qualities that will revitalize the American economy after the September 11 attacks.

The House legislation offers tax cuts for middle class families and provides incentives for businesses to invest in capital and human resources, thereby creating jobs and opportunity.

Congress must act now. The House has acted by passing this strong package to ensure economic security. The President has called on Congress to send him a bill that he can sign into law this month, and I urge Congress to heed his call.

TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

(Mr. LINDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, we are told that silence is golden. However, what happens when the body being silenced is the House of Representatives?

Most certainly my colleagues would object to the suppression of our voice and our role in the debate in consideration of legislative matters. Yet, without trade promotion authority, our voices are silenced regarding trade.

Trade promotion authority allows trade agreements to be considered as congressional executive agreements. These agreements represent procedural compromises. The President forgoes his ability to single-handedly negotiate treaties and, instead, agrees to consult closely with the Congress to ensure that congressional priorities are heard. Congress, in turn, commits to an up or down vote, but waives the right to offer amendments.

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Some of my colleagues seem to think that our inability to offer amendments is too great a sacrifice. What then is the alternative? Without TPA, the President would unilaterally negotiate a treaty which would then be presented solely to the Senate for ratification. This obviously begs the question where

is the House. The answer, absent. Without TPA we have no role, no authority, and no voice in trade agreements. This is the people's House. Do not let our voice be silenced. Support TPA.

TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

(Mr. CALVERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, the growth of services in the U.S. economy has been a tremendous boon to our Nation's GDP and the rate of employment. The benefit of services trade are particularly evident in my home State of California, and at the local level. In California, for example, services account for more than 85 percent of the State economy and 77 percent of employment.

There are over 5,500 establishments exporting professional, scientific and technical services in California. Those establishments alone provide jobs for more than 130,000 people, according to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau data.

Software publishers, broadcasting and telecommunications services employ another 130,000 people in California, a number which would grow if new trade agreements that would reduce barriers to services and tariffs on industrial products and agriculture are signed.

The services sector needs successful trade negotiations that expand substantially opportunities for U.S. trade in services. Trade negotiating authority plays a crucial role in our country's ability to negotiate, and implement, these negotiations; and so we need to move these negotiations along.

NAMES FROM OFFICIAL LIST OF CASUALTIES FROM SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, TO BE READ ON HOUSE FLOOR

(Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to request the participation of Members in honoring those individuals who lost their lives or are still missing as a result of the September 11 terrorist attacks. We have all heard the numbers, the devastations, the pain of the families and our Nation's anguish. What we have not heard in Washington is the names of the individuals, and that is why I will begin today during Special Orders to read on the House floor from the list of the dead and missing.

I will begin to read from the official list of casualties, and I encourage my colleagues to join me until the roughly 4,000 missing or dead are named and entered in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I have compiled this alphabetical list in a leather bound book that I would request all Members utilize for this effort.

Mr. Speaker, Members are requested to contact my office to coordinate dates and times so we can arrange for the book to be on the floor. I appreciate the assistance of Members in this important undertaking, and again encourage participation.

PROVIDE ENERGY, PROTECT THE ECONOMY

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, 3 months ago this House passed the Energy Security Act to increase and diversify our energy production. Only last month we passed an economic stimulus package to keep Americans working and our businesses open. Yet the Democratic leadership in the other body has refused to act on either of these two crucial measures which are so critically linked together.

It is time we ensure the economic prosperity of this Nation by ensuring our own domestic energy supply. Energy and other products produced from fossil fuels and minerals create the standard of living that every American enjoys and relies upon.

Obviously, an uninterrupted supply of energy, including crude oil and natural gas, are vital to the economy and security of the United States; and it is time for the Democratic leadership in the other body to meet the needs of the American people by securing our energy needs, thereby ensuring our economic prosperity. For the sake of this Nation and all Americans, I hope the Democratic leadership will act sooner rather than later.

AIRPORT SECURITY IS TOO IMPORTANT AN ISSUE FOR CONGRESS TO JUST FIDDLE AROUND

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, what are we waiting for? The Senate, or the other body, I should say, passed an airport security bill. The House passed a transportation security bill. In these two bills there are differences, but we agree on a great deal. We agree that this security for transportation should be a Federal responsibility. We agree that the Feds should do the background checks. We agree that the Feds should screen the applicants. We agree that the Federal Government should do the training, and we agree that the Federal Government should do the supervision.

Mr. Speaker, we agree on all of these important issues. Then why do we not move? We disagree on whether screeners should be Federal employees or should be private employees. Well, in the scope of things, this is an insignificant disagreement. What we agree on is that we want the job done and we want

it much better than it is being done today.

We should charge the President with the responsibility to get this job done, and let him figure out what mix of Federal and civilian and private employees there should be. Let us get on with it. It is too important for us to fiddle around.

TRIBUTE TO BRAD COHEN, GEORGIA'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR

(Mr. ISAKSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, as the House and Senate conferees work to complete the job of the President's number one domestic issue, No Child Left Behind and the reform of education, I think it is appropriate that we pay tribute to those that every day teach our children, America's teachers. In particular, to one particular teacher in Georgia, Mr. Brad Cohen, a man who suffers from what many call an affliction, Tourette's syndrome. People would never think Brad Cohen would be a teacher.

Instead, Brad Cohen calls Tourette's his friend, not his enemy. He has been recognized as Teacher of the Year, he teaches elementary at-risk children to read. He has changed their lives and taught them to appreciate that one's disability can be one's advantage with the right attitude.

Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to Brad Cohen and all of America's teachers.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE NEEDED

(Mr. TOOMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, people across America, across Pennsylvania, across the Lehigh Valley and Upper Macungie, the valleys that I represent, are losing their jobs in very disturbing numbers.

In October, we had a record high numbers of Americans who lost their jobs. The actual loss of jobs or the threat of a loss of jobs is hitting all of us: our families, our neighbors, our friends. And it is about time that Congress responded.

We need an economic stimulus package that is going to lower the record-high tax burden that is impeding our economic growth and create the incentives to bring people back to work because the people who are losing their jobs across Pennsylvania, they do not want to know how long they can stay out of work; they want to know how quickly they can get back to work.

Mr. Speaker, it is our responsibility to help create an environment where that is possible. The President has called for an economic stimulus package. This Chamber has passed one, but the Democratic majority in the other