

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, over the years the true meaning of Memorial Day has faded from the public consciousness. Memorial Day began after the Civil War as a solemn day of mourning, remembrance, and honor to our departed loved ones. But today, Memorial Day seems to be more about planning a 3-day weekend than remembering our fallen heroes. As a veteran of two wars, I know all too well that Memorial Day is much more than a 3-day weekend or the beginning of a summer sale.

Veteran's Day, a day set aside to honor all veterans, living and dead, is celebrated on November 11, regardless of which day of the week it falls on. The same should be true for Memorial Day.

Mr. Speaker, this week I am introducing legislation restoring Memorial Day to its actual day, May 30. We owe our loved ones and friends who died in service to their country a restored Memorial Day.

JOIN THE PICTURE THEM HOME CAMPAIGN

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I will again digress this morning from my stories of Ludwig Koonz, but not our effort to return him to the United States from Italy.

As chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children, I would ask that as we approach this Memorial Day that we not only pay honor to those who have given their lives to our country, but to the tens of thousands of innocent children who are still missing from their loved ones in this country. We maintain hope that the children will come home and that they will come home not only with the help of law enforcement, but with the help of the American people.

A few years back, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children instituted the Picture Them Home campaign to be observed during the month of May. I have asked my colleagues on a number of occasions to place pictures of missing children on their franked envelopes, which is allowed under the franking guidelines, and many of them have chosen to do so. This morning I ask that everyone here join me in supporting this effort and help us Picture Them Home.

Participating in this campaign only takes a few minutes of your time. First, pledge to take the time to really look at the pictures of the missing children that you see. These may be pictures on bulletin boards in your local Wal-Mart, or they may be the "Have You Seen Me?" cards that are sent out by ADVO. Second, if you are a parent, make sure that you maintain current, high-quality pictures of your children for use in case of an emergency.

Mr. Speaker, we know that pictures work. All you have to do is look.

NURSING SHORTAGE PLAGUING U.S.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, health care experts are worried that a national nursing shortage could become widespread later in the decade, just as the aging U.S. population requires more care. Educational institutes, hospitals and Congress are working feverishly to fill this global shortage, because it is nurses who impact the lives of people in times of health, illness, pain, stress, and even death.

Nurses' talents, long hours and many sacrifices should be recognized. One of the ways in which Baptist Health South Florida appreciated nurses is by having recently hosted "Shadow a Nurse Day."

Baptist Hospital, South Miami Hospital, Homestead Hospital, Mariners Hospital, and Baptist Outpatient Services were the health care sites which participated in this event.

By helping the population to gain a greater understanding of the issues facing nurses today, these health care sites perhaps contributed to helping relieve the existing nursing shortage plaguing our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Baptist Health South Florida for its commitment to the future of nursing.

END THE TRADE EMBARGO ON CUBA

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, 90 miles from America's shore is the island of Cuba, but what really separates the people of Cuba and the American people is the U.S. Government's hypocritical trade embargo restated this week by President Bush.

This failed policy towards Cuba empowers Fidel Castro, denies American businesses the freedom to trade, and prohibits the American people the freedom to travel.

Around the world, the United States has used economic engagement to promote political reform, democratic values and human rights. With Cuba, our government does the opposite. We punish the Cuban people with a trade embargo.

For a free and open Cuba, let us free American businesses to trade with Cuba, free America's farmers to sell to Cuba, and free the American people to travel to Cuba. The trade embargo has failed. The spirit of the American people and the power of our economy can achieve the freedoms we all desire for the Cuban people.

STATE DEPARTMENT RELEASES TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in the coming weeks, the State Department will be releasing its annual "Trafficking in Persons report." This report will highlight the very serious problem of international sex trafficking and forced prostitution around the world in the countries that tolerate it.

Still, some of the worst offenders such as India and Thailand have made no progress in combating this sex trafficking. Worse, it is on the rise.

In India, over 2.3 million girls and women are believed to be working in the sex industry against their will. Yet there are no known convictions for sex trafficking.

In Thailand, we are up to 1 million trafficking victims. Approximately 100,000 are children, boys and girls; yet there are no known convictions for sex trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, the complicity and tolerance of sex trafficking must stop. The State Department must not grant passing grades to these countries in its report until they show real improvement and begin to protect women and children in their country.

AMENDMENT ALLOWS DEFENSE DEPARTMENT FREE HAND FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, during my tenure in Congress, I have worked hard for the Federal Government to be a better partner to promote the liveability of our communities by walking the walk, by acting the way that we are asking the rest of America to behave. Yet, here today, we are going to be asking in the supplemental to exempt the Defense Department, the largest manager of infrastructure in the world, from being a good environmental citizen.

This bill contains an amendment that would relieve the Department of Defense from its responsibility for dealing with water consumption that occurs outside the control of the Secretary of Defense that is a direct result of the military installation. In particular, this is focused on the San Pedro River in Arizona, one of the richest biological reserves in all of North America. It has over 82 species of mammals, 385 species of birds, and was designated by this Congress as a National Riparian Conservation Area in 1988.

But as a result of this amendment, snuck in without debate by the substantive committee, that will not be substantively argued on this floor, we are going to basically give them a free

hand to damage the environment. It is wrong.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DANNY BROWN, THE 2002 KANSAS PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2002 Kansas Principal of the Year, Danny Brown. Mr. BROWN currently serves at the Fort Scott High School in Fort Scott, Kansas. For almost 3 decades Danny Brown has demonstrated outstanding educational leadership and has humbly served his community and students.

In a letter recommending Brown for the honor, an associate wrote: "Danny's contributions to this community, to the school district and, most of all, to the students are immeasurable."

I, for one, am heartened to hear stories of educators like Danny Brown who live a life dedicated to serving their communities and helping students reach their dreams.

As Oswald Spengler once said, "The influence of a genuine educator lies in what he is rather than what he says."

I am pleased that Mr. BROWN is being properly recognized for his exceptional performance and character, and I want to add my congratulations to this outstanding educator.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY ROLE MODELS WEEK

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, children need role models in their communities to help guide them through the many challenges that they face. Although we often hear inspiring stories about famous individuals, we seldom publicly recognize exceptional local people with whom children can more readily relate.

The Michigan-based R.A.R.E. foundation has established a program to recognize outstanding community residents and teach children about their work ethic, their values, and their accomplishments. The foundation helps children develop a sense of purpose and hope for the future by providing inspirational examples of ordinary people with traditional jobs who make extraordinary contributions.

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I will introduce legislation today that encourages communities to adopt similar programs and support the goals and ideals of a national community role models week. Establishing an annual week for identifying role models in our local communities would remind us how each individual, no matter his or her profession, plays a vital role in the progress of this Nation.

JUST SAY NO TO SOCIAL SECURITY PRIVATIZATION

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, all we need to do is just say no to privatization of Social Security. When it comes to reforming Social Security, our Republican majority thinks they can fool the American people. They think that if they avoid the words like "privatization" that they will be able to mask the true nature of their Social Security reform proposal.

In Texas we have a saying, "You can put lipstick and earrings on a hog and call it Monique, but it's still a pig." No matter how much our Republican friends want to dress up their proposal to disguise its details, it is still privatization.

Privatization schemes, let us just be honest and call them what they are, would cut benefits, increase administrative costs and place the financial health of the Social Security program in jeopardy, but suddenly, in an election year, my colleagues changed their tune. They will do anything, say anything, to hide their true agenda. This is a cynical ploy, and the American people will see through it.

Let us call privatization what it is, and a pig, a pig.

DEMOCRATIC PRESCRIPTION FOR SENIORS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of seniors who want prescription drug coverage, today, tomorrow and always, and against those who do not.

Earlier this month, Congress Daily noted that a Senate Democrat prescription drug bill would sunset in 2010. That is right, the bill would just stop in 2010. Sorry, seniors, no more drugs for them after 2010. That is plain wrong. First, Democrats block permanent tax relief. Now they want to block prescription drug coverage.

Well, seniors better start saving, so when their benefits end, they will have money to buy their drugs. Hold on, just think about this. That is impossible, because the same Democrats refused to permanently extend tax relief so people can save some of their own money or even empower seniors to save their own money in a medical savings account.

Well, two-thirds of seniors have prescription drug coverage. The one-third going without are my top concern. Our Republican plan will help, and help them for life.

RAISING THE DEBT LIMIT

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to remind my colleague on the other side of the aisle who just spoke that the Republican prescription drug plan would do nothing about bringing down the cost of prescription drugs, which is what is killing Americans, all Americans, and their plan would cover 6 percent of seniors instead of 90 percent of seniors who would like to have that kind of coverage.

However, today, the House is going to vote on a very dangerous and cynical provision that allows the Federal Government to break its own spending limit, takes hundreds of billions of dollars from the Social Security trust fund. What they would like to do is hide this plan from the American people and what they want to do is to hide this debate today without leveling with the public, and what will happen is their plan is to take the Nation back into the deficit, raid Social Security.

We oppose this plan. We support a responsible budget. What we need to be trying to do is to make investments in national security, protect Social Security and Medicare, do something about prescription drugs and the cost of those drugs in the United States today.

It is time for the House Republicans to be straightforward with the American people. We need a responsible, honest, bipartisan budget. We need to protect and strengthen Social Security and shore up the prescription drug benefit, meet our obligations today so that our kids are not saddled with debt.

PRaising THE EFFORTS OF NUCOR CORPORATION

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Nucor Corporation, our Nation's largest steel producer, for their investment in South Carolina and their commitment to our economy, our families and our environment.

Nucor's commitment to South Carolina's economy is demonstrated by its 4 statewide facilities professionally managed by Mike Gurley of Darlington, Ladd Hall of Berkeley, Lynn Strock of Florence and Jeff Carmean of Swansea. These facilities have produced more than \$1 billion in total sales and have contributed more than \$1 billion in total investment back into the State's economy.

Nucor has touched the lives of families across the Palmetto State by employing 1,800 skilled and dedicated South Carolinians and by contributing over \$300,000 in education scholarships last year.

A leader in environmental stewardship, Nucor is the largest recycler in America, and through efficient fuel consumption, Nucor saves enough energy annually to power the city of Los Angeles for 8 years.