

and it is committed to ensure that this happens. For most parents who have been separated from their children for years, this will certainly be an enormous relief.

I completely agree that abducted children deserve more than rhetoric, which is what most left-behind parents have had to contend with. Hopefully, the German authorities will keep their word and take some positive action to ensure that left-behind parents gain access to their children.

Nobody implies that courts in the United States are perfect, but this does not absolve the German authorities of their responsibilities to allow non-German parents to see their children. As the German embassy rightly pointed out, Germany is not the only country that has a poor record in returning abducted or illegally retained children to their country of origin.

Most left-behind parents are left without any enforceable access rights. This cannot be allowed to continue. We must bring Ludwig Koons and all of our children home.

WELFARE REFORM PRINCIPLES

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President of the United States outlined the principles for the reauthorization of welfare in America.

Many years ago, Ronald Reagan spoke of the purpose of welfare, saying, it is not simply to provide for the needy but more than that, to salvage these, our fellow citizens, to make them self-sustaining and as quickly as possible independent of welfare.

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I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to extol my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and the previous administration for enacting the welfare reform laws of 1996. They have been an unqualified success. Half of all welfare recipients got real jobs since that day and age.

Welfare reform has lifted 2.3 million children out of poverty; and, since 1996, we have actually reversed a decades-old explosion of out-of-wedlock births, recognizing that a marriage is the best environment for escaping poverty and building strong and healthy and well-balanced children.

Let us stay the course. Let us keep the purpose of welfare, so adequately described by President Reagan, and measure welfare success not by how many people arrive on welfare but by how many people leave it.

VETERANS COPAY FOR PRESCRIPTIONS

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

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, we oftentimes speak glowingly in here of

our respect for our military personnel and of our appreciation for what our veterans have done for us, but oftentimes our words are inconsistent with our behavior.

Many in this Chamber do not realize that just a few weeks ago we increased the copayment for prescription drugs that veterans must pay for these needed medications from \$2 to \$7 a prescription. Many veterans receive over 10 prescriptions a month. Ten times \$7 is \$70 a month. Many get a 3-month supply at one time. That is a cost of \$210.

I have introduced H.R. 2820, which will return the copay from \$7 back to \$2 and will freeze it at that level for 5 years. This is the least we can do for those who have served our country so nobly.

MARRIAGE: A WOMAN'S SAFETY ISSUE

(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, preserving and strengthening marriage in America is not just a values issue, it is a safety issue, especially for women. According to Federal statistics, women are much more likely to be victims of domestic abuse if they are not married.

In fact, domestic partner or spouse abuse against women is almost three times as high among cohabiting couples as it is among all married, divorced, and separated couples combined. If we simply compare married couples to couples who just live together, violence against women is five times as high for those who are not married.

Clearly, women are safest when they are living in healthy, committed marriages. To most Americans, this sounds like common sense, but for the most at-risk women in America, I mean poor women, our welfare laws create a strong disincentive against marriage. Mr. Speaker, that needs to change.

I hope that when we reauthorize our welfare laws later this year that we will address this. America's families and America's women deserve no less.

CONGRESS SHOULD NOT ENDORSE DECEPTIVE SENIOR GROUPS

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

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill in response to the deceptive tactics of a group that preys on our senior citizens. The Retired Enlisted Association's Senior Citizen League, or TREA, as it is called, has repeatedly targeted seniors with deceptive "Notch" mailings in an attempt to extort millions of dollars from these seniors.

This is a scam. TREA is telling seniors that they are working to correct a problem that does not exist in an at-

tempt to bilk the elderly out of their hard-earned money. From 1997 to 2000, this group raked in over \$46 million.

Because of these tactics, today I am introducing the Senior Protection Act, which would revoke TREA's Federal charter, a distinction given to groups with a patriotic, charitable, or educational mandate. Their deceptive tactics reflect none of these characteristics.

Congress can no longer turn a blind eye to TREA's fund-raising schemes which exploit our seniors. Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to join me and cosponsor this necessary legislation.

IMPORTANCE OF MARRIAGE

(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 affirm the importance of strong marriages in America. A strong marriage is the foundation for a strong family. Strong families, in turn, are fundamental to the pursuit of stronger communities and a stronger Nation.

There are numerous studies and statistics that document how critical it is for children to have a mother and a father dedicated to each other. If we genuinely desire to do what is right for our children, we must work to ensure that every child has the guidance that a strong marriage provides.

As convincing as the statistics are, I know these principles to be true based upon my own experience. My wife Anne and I have been married for 33 wonderful years. Our four children are living examples of what a strong marriage can provide. While we are far from perfect, I have seen firsthand the incredible results of a strong marriage.

We must continue to support measures that encourage and strengthen this sacred institution.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN STEINBECK

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

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address the House regarding the centennial of the birth of one of our greatest American writers, John Steinbeck.

John Steinbeck brought honor to the United States as a distinguished writer and endured criticism and suspicion for his progressive ideas and the themes of his novels, short stories, and essays. His work reflects deeply the compassionate view of America and Americans.

John Steinbeck promoted a greater understanding of the lives of people who experienced difficult economic times, war, the fulfillment of scientific study, the value of hard labor, the difficulties and joys of the bonds within families and between friends.

People from around the world are attracted to the central coast of California to visit the rich fields of the Salinas Valley and the bountiful Monterey Bay described in Steinbeck's books.

I believe the life and work of John Steinbeck deserves congressional recognition. I encourage my colleagues to support the bill I am introducing today to offer our appreciation and deep respect for the writings of a great American, John Steinbeck.

OFFER OF PRAYERS FOR MARTIN AND GRACIA BURNHAM AND OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO ARE CASUALTIES IN GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 277th day that Martin and Gracia Burnham have been held captive by Muslim terrorists in the Philippines.

Last Thursday, 10 American servicemen lost their lives in a helicopter crash while conducting a bilateral training exercise with the Philippine Defense Forces.

From the Army's E company, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, Airborne, we mourn Major Curtis D. Feistner, Captain Bartt D. Owens, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jody L. Egnor, Staff Sergeant James P. Dorrity, Staff Sergeant Kerry W. Frith, Staff Sergeant Bruce A. Rushforth, Jr., Sergeant Jeremy D. Foshee, Specialist Thomas F. Allison.

From the 320th Special Tactics Squadron, we mourn Master Sergeant William L. McDaniel, II and Staff Sergeant Juan M. Ridout.

I am extremely grateful for their service to our Nation. I send heartfelt prayers to their families, friends, and fellow soldiers for their loss. Their honor, courage, selflessness, and patriotism cannot be overstated.

These fine men were casualties in our global war on terrorism. The U.S. military's presence in the Philippines is assisting the Philippine government in their own national war on terrorism with the Abu Sayyaf. It is hoped that the Army's presence there may additionally help in the freedom of Martin and Gracia Burnham from their nightmare.

I ask my colleagues to join me in praying for these men and their families. Let us continue to make our Nation a shining beacon of freedom so their deaths were not in vain. Also, let us pray for Martin and Gracia, that they are safely released, so the Burnham family does not suffer the same heartache as these servicemen's families.

TRIBUTE TO DEREK PARRA

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of America's Olympic heroes, skater Derek Parra.

Derek is from my district. He went to school with my son, Joe Baca, Jr., and I attended church with Derek's father, Gilbert Parra, at Saint Catherine's in Rialto. His dad and I play golf together, and we used to play softball on the same team.

Derek unexpectedly broke the world record in the 5,000 meter speed skating race and won the silver medal. Derek later broke another world record in the 1,500 meter speed skating race. This record held, and Derek won the gold medal.

Derek's road to the Olympics has not been easy. He and his wife Tiffany have struggled to make ends meet raising their baby girl, Mia Elizabeth, while Derek trained for the Olympics.

As the first Mexican-American ever to win a medal in the winter Olympics, Derek expanded the dreams of millions of children. In a world that often tells our children, "no, you can't," Derek Parra has shown that "si, se puede," yes, you can compete. Through faith, determination, and hard work, Derek broke down barriers to become a beacon of hope for our children and children everywhere. Derek is truly a role model for others to follow.

Derek made history and opened the world of possibility for Hispanic Americans. His dream said, "dream big and don't be afraid." We are proud of you, Derek. You are our hero. God bless you.

IMPORTANCE OF MARRIAGE INITIATIVES IN WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, between 1970 and the year 2000, the number of children living in a single-parent home has jumped from 8.2 million to 19.2 million. That is almost a 150 percent increase.

The effect of that change had a devastating consequence. Children living with a single mother are six times more likely to live in poverty than children living in a complete family. The median income of a single mother with kids is about \$21,000. For a married couple with kids, it is about \$63,000. Almost a third of single-parent families with kids live in poverty. Only 6 percent of families headed by married couples live in poverty.

Mr. Speaker, it does not take a nuclear scientist to figure out that marriage is good for kids. But that is saying the cup is half full when it is really half empty. It is clear not being married is devastating to our children.

Our welfare laws still penalize poor couples from getting married. Congress needs to change this and change it for good.

FULFILL COMMITMENT MADE TO FUND UNPFA

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, last year Congress and the President agreed to fund UNPFA, the United Nations Population Fund, at \$34 million. Now the administration has said they will not spend the funds appropriated by Congress in accordance with the bipartisan deal that was made. They say that UNPFA performs abortions and points to their work in China.

What opponents do not say is that UNPFA does not perform abortions, not in China, not in Africa, and not in Latin America. They never have, and they never will.

My colleagues know U.S. law prevents them from doing so. Secretary Colin Powell and U.N. Ambassador John Negroponte know this as well.

President Bush knows this. That is why in his first budget in Congress he asked for \$25 million and most recently, last fall, approved US money for UNPFA for Afghan refugee women's health care.

Our country disagrees with the family planning policies of the Chinese Government. We all want change, and change will come through groups like UNPFA and USAID, who work to encourage voluntary family planning to control a surging population.

But let us not tie up \$34 million in funding that will save women's lives and children's lives around the world, to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS and to improve child health survival.

President Bush said that we fight the Taliban to give hope to women in Afghanistan. Let us fulfill the commitment of Congress to give hope to all women around the world.

IM MEMORY OF DANIEL PEARL

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

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in great sorrow and with much horror about the vicious killing of Wall Street Journal reporter, Daniel Pearl, in Pakistan.

A gentleman and a premier journalist, he enriched the lives of many, including people in my own hometown of Indianapolis during the summer of 1985, where he worked as an intern for the Indianapolis Star.

It was in Indianapolis that Mr. Pearl launched his career in journalism and discovered his passion for reporting. As a reporter, he always knew his job could sometimes put his life in jeopardy, but as the Indianapolis Star wrote so eloquently, David's death in the line of duty brings home the lesson taught by the Ernie Pyles of our history, that journalism, when taken to the heart of human conflict, can be the