

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I was pleased to read in Wednesday's New York Times that my Republican colleagues are working on a prescription drug benefit that will encourage the use of generic drugs.

In January, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON) and I introduced a bipartisan bill in the House that would create a voluntary, but guaranteed, Medicare prescription drug benefit for all seniors. We call it Medicare Part D.

Under our plan, seniors would pay an affordable monthly premium, an annual \$250 deductible, and a 20 percent co-pay on the cost of their medicine. This 20 percent co-pay will truly promote the use of lower-cost generic drugs and provide real savings for our seniors.

Our bill gives seniors the freedom to choose their pharmacy and their medicines.

Madam Speaker, the Emerson-Ross bill is a comprehensive, common-sense plan. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this bipartisan legislation that will truly modernize Medicare to include medicine for all seniors.

TRIBUTE TO NEVADAN SOLDIERS WHO DIED IN BATTLE AGAINST TERRORISM

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize two Nevada heroes, heroes who recently lost their lives in our Nation's war to defend freedom and defeat terrorism.

Private First Class Matthew Commons is one of the most recent casualties in our war against terrorism. A graduate of Boulder City High School, Pfc. Commons was killed Monday in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan.

Last month, our State mourned the loss of Army Specialist Jason Disney. A resident of Fallon, Nevada, and a graduate of Churchill County High School, Specialist Disney was the 20th American to die in the conflict of these young heroes.

Our sympathies and condolences go out to the families of these young men. Please know that Pfc. Commons and Specialist Disney will be missed, but that their courage, valor, and patriotism will never be forgotten.

May God bless these heroes and God bless all of our fellow Americans fighting for freedom and against terror.

STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise to highlight Lifetime television's campaign to Stop Violence Against

Women. This violence crosses all economic, cultural, racial, religious and educational lines. It is a multi-faceted problem with no easy solution. But prevention through education and awareness is key to ending the cycle of abuse perpetuated against nearly one-third of American women.

I will soon introduce legislation to dramatically increase the scale of intervention by urging every health care provider to screen women, age 18 and older, for domestic violence. My bill would also provide health care professionals with the training needed to assess women for signs of abuse.

In the confidential environment of a doctor's office or clinic, health care professionals would serve as a bridge to the criminal justice system. Routine screening for domestic violence would unlock options a woman may not otherwise pursue and allow her to see that shelter and advocacy services may be useful to her.

Madam Speaker, I commend all who have worked unwaveringly to bring the issue of violence against women to the forefront.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR BURMA

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, for years the people of Burma have suffered horrifying brutality, torture, rape, forced labor and destruction of homes and villages. Entire communities are forced to live in hiding in the jungles without access to medical care or education for their children because the military dictatorship of Burma continues to attack villagers who refuse to allow drug production on their land or who will not bow to the illegitimate authority of the SPDC.

Approximately 300,000 Burmese are now refugees in Thailand, Bangladesh, and India. When Rev. David Eubank visited with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League of Democracy in 1997, she suggested inviting churches from around the world to pray for the people of Burma.

Since then, people from all faith backgrounds around the world now join each March to pray for peace for the people of Burma.

Madam Speaker, I urge the American people and this body to join me in praying for freedom and peace for the people of Burma.

MOURNING ARI HALBERSTAM

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

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, today is the twenty-third of Adar, 5762 on the Jewish calendar, the Yahrzeit, or anniversary, of the passing of Ari Halberstam. It was 8 years ago today that he died as a result of wounds suf-

fered in a terrorist attack on the Brooklyn Bridge March 1, 1994.

America awakened to terrorism on September 11, but for years there were Imams in mosques in the United States, who were inciting hatred and glorifying terrorism. For years, there were voices trying to bring this to our attention, one of the loudest of which was Deborah Halberstam, the mother of Ari. When she was told that her son's death was a result of simple road rage, she refused to let the authorities whitewash history. It was not just because of her son, it was because she realized back then what so many of us did not realize until September 11, that terrorism can happen in the United States and that, unless we are willing to confront terrorism, we are doomed to see it happen again.

On December 5, 2000, the FBI finally classified Ari's death as a terrorist incident. While it was heartening to see that they had abandoned their dogmatic view, this was a hollow victory. For 6 years, the FBI did not admit what it truly was. So today, as the candles burn in honor of Ari Halberstam, let us pause to remember the boy who was taken from us and let us stop to think of the lessons we should learn and let us pray that we have the wisdom to prevent attacks such as these from happening again.

CONGRESS PRAYS FOR MARTIN AND GRACIA BURNHAM

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, today marks day 285 that Martin and Gracia Burnham have been held captive by Muslim terrorists in the Philippines.

Yesterday, in a video made by the Abu Sayyaf group, the Muslim terrorists, they confirmed their direct connection to the al Qaeda. Martin Burnham was forced to read a statement of grievances by the Muslims. The terrorists, through Martin, said they were targeting Americans and Europeans.

Martin and Gracia are innocent Americans, God-fearing people who are simply trying to make the world a better place. In a recent letter from Paul and Oreta Burnham, Martin's parents, they wrote, "We pray that we will soon be able to pass on to you good news of Martin and Gracia's release, but until then continue praying and believing God will see their release and being reunited again with their family."

At a time when the Nation is directly confronting terrorists in Afghanistan, contending with recession and unemployment and quietly fearing an additional attack, it would be easy to lose faith. I encourage our citizens to look at the strength exhibited by the Burnham family. Their plight is grave, but their enduring optimism and faith in God is a beacon of hope for us all.

Please join me in praying for Martin and Gracia's safe release, for the welfare of their family and friends, and for all of us that we share the Burnham's strong faith and use it to make our world a better place.

BALTIMORE ZOO WELCOMES ALASKA

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, at times it seems that so much that we deal with on this floor is beyond our control. Yet it seems that there are small steps that we can take to make a difference.

One such step is a livable community promotes humane treatment of animals, whether in our community or the wild. Wild animals, such as polar bears, should be allowed to remain in their natural habitat and be contained only in spaces that directly replicate their natural environment, such as accredited zoos.

Many have been appalled at the polar bears languishing in sweltering temperatures in the Suarez Brothers Circus in Puerto Rico. I am happy to report that yesterday U.S. marshals and agents with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rescued Alaska, one of the polar bears. It turns out that the origins and identity of this polar bear may have been false on the Suarez Brothers' import permit obtained when entering the United States. If true, the circus would be violating international and domestic wildlife protection laws.

I applaud the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for taking this action. I understand that Alaska will be housed at the Baltimore Zoo, and I think we can look forward to welcoming her to a safe and healthy environment. We can only hope the other six will be spared a life of misery performing circus tricks in tropical climates.

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RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEER EFFORTS OF NATIONAL ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION TO REBUILD PENTAGON ROOF

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

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the small roofing contracting companies who have donated labor, funds and supplies to rebuild over an acre of the Pentagon's roof.

On September 11, the Pentagon experienced severe structural damage when terrorists flew American Airlines Flight 77 into the building. The massive fire caused by thousands of gallons of jet fuel destroyed over 40,000 square feet of the slate roof.

At the urging of Northern Virginia Roofing, a contracting company owned

by a husband and wife team in Falls Church, Virginia, the National Roofing Contractors Association negotiated an agreement with the Department of Defense to give the Pentagon a new roof. To date, nearly \$400,000 in cash and supplies has been raised by small roofing contracting companies who felt compelled to defeat the terrorists in their own special way.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

(Ms. BALDWIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, tomorrow is International Women's Day. This is a day when women from all countries come together to celebrate a common struggle for justice, equality, and peace. It is a day that celebrates the acts of bravery and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of women's rights.

Women have made incredible progress in the last 9 decades since the first International Women's Day was celebrated. However, we are still seeing overwhelming numbers of acts of violence against women. Worldwide, domestic battery is epidemic, and it is estimated that one of every three women and girls has been beaten or sexually assaulted in her lifetime. We must reaffirm our commitment to ending discrimination and violence against women.

Those who say that ending domestic violence is impossible need only look at the progress made in Afghanistan to know that we can make a difference. On this International Women's Day, we should be proud of the progress we have made, but recommit to end violence everywhere.

MOURNING LOSS OF MITCH TYLER, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join Hoke County, North Carolina, in mourning the loss of one of our most respected citizens, Superintendent of Schools Mitch Tyler. At the age of 46, Mitch was taken from us far too early, and we will feel the loss to our community for years to come. Mitch had been superintendent for less than 2 years, but his more than 20 years in education, from the State and university levels to Hoke and Cumberland County, made him a well-known, trusted figure and a respected role model.

Mitch, a Robeson County native, started his career in Hoke County. He was a teacher or administrator at West Hoke Elementary, J.W. McLauchlin Elementary and the Turlington School. From 1989 to 1992, he was principal of

Hoke County High School. He also worked as a coordinator of Hoke County's Indian education program, a senior assistant to State Superintendent Mike Ward and a director of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke where he was a liaison to region schools.

He was a tireless and selfless advocate for children and an enthusiastic consensus-builder encouraging camaraderie, teamwork, and self-respect among teachers and staff. They knew they could trust his word and that he would do things right. Mitch was also a man of faith who served as assistant pastor and Sunday school teacher at Shannon Assembly of God.

Today we mourn the loss of Mitch Tyler, a man of great character and a leader who always strived to do what was best for children. Barbara and I join the Hoke County community in prayer for Mitch's wife and two teenage children as they grieve the loss of husband and father. Yet we celebrate the life of one who lived so well. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

COMMEMORATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAITH COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Faith Community Credit Union. Faith Community Credit Union is headed by my good friend, Rita Haynes; and in the 50 years of this credit union, this credit union has come from a small church credit union to being a community credit union where they now in fact have the opportunity to administer Small Business Administration loans to small businesses in our communities.

Last week I had the opportunity to address the National Credit Union Association, and I was introduced by my good friend Rita Haynes. I want to celebrate the great work that the Faith Community Credit Union has done for our community. It has even taken the step of trying to provide loans for people who are being subjected to predatory lenders and those payday loans that you have seen all over the TV where people come in and say to you, get a loan this week and you can pay it off next week with next week's check, and then what do you do with the money that you do not have at that time?

I am so pleased that credit unions are stepping in where many other financial institutions have stepped out. I again rise to celebrate Faith Community Credit Union's 50th anniversary.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY

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