

will put Members of Congress on record as recognizing the Armenian genocide. Silence either out of indifference or as the result of political pressure only serves to encourage others who would again use ethnic cleansing as a tool of government.

As the anniversary of the horrific genocide in Armenia approaches, I wish the people of Armenia success in their effort to bring about the lasting peace and prosperity that they deserve, and I ask for Members' support in commemorating the Armenian genocide by co-sponsoring this important legislation.

HONORING ROWAN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA ON ITS 250TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the residents of Rowan County, North Carolina, part of which is located in my congressional district, as they celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of their county. Rowan County was founded in 1753, more than 20 years before the American Revolution. Today Rowan County has around 135,000 residents and is a thriving part of North Carolina's Piedmont. Salisbury, the county seat, is known as the hometown of the Food Lion grocery store chain, Cheerwine soft drinks and my new colleague in the Senate, Senator ELIZABETH DOLE. I always look forward to visiting Rowan County and was planning to ride in their parade this afternoon had the House schedule allowed that to happen.

I wish all the best to the Rowan County residents as they gather this weekend to celebrate the Rowan 250 Fest, with the theme of "History's Crossroads"—looking back at Rowan County's rich history and looking forward to a bright future.

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA AWARENESS WEEK

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

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, since its founding in 1946, members of the Paralyzed Veterans of America have visited public forums ranging from the halls of Congress to high schools and scout troops to relate their personal experiences and raise the public's awareness of their cause. In sum, the PVA's efforts ever remind us human suffering is the horror of war and no one more intensely experienced this horror more than our citizen-soldiers who uniquely endure its pains. Thus we, who are free because of these brave citizen-soldiers' sacrifices, must do everything in our power to alleviate and accommodate the pain they bore, and bear, for us.

Mr. Speaker, members of the PVA like my constituent Michael Harris

have been grievously wounded during their armed service for our country, yet still they nobly continue their altruistic service to our country. They are a source of pride and inspiration to our entire Nation. Let us, therefore, join with my home State of Michigan and the PVA and commemorate the week of April 13-19 as Paralyzed Veterans of America Awareness Week. They deserve much more but certainly no less.

HONORING HARDIN SIMMONS UNI- VERSITY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hardin Simmons University women's basketball team from Abilene, Texas, who have achieved an incredible record including their first undefeated regular season in school history, a fifth straight American Southwest Conference tournament title, and a strong finish in the NCAA Division III tournament. The university community knew this team had a winning chemistry when the Cowgirls won all 24 of their regular season games and their fifth straight ASC tournament title which earned them a spot in the coveted NCAA Division III basketball championship and a number-one ranking in the Nation of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association.

None of these victories could have been achieved without the incredible teamwork that these 15 young women have demonstrated. One player in particular, Kendra Anderson, has been named the Division III national player of the year, the American Southwest Conference most valuable player for the third straight year, the tournament most valuable player for the fourth straight year and the first-team all-American and all-South Region for the third year. Coach Briggs brings out the best from her players, sharpens their strengths and improves their weaknesses.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize my constituents from Hardin Simmons University.

THE FACTS ON ETHANOL

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

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, during last night's debate, there was a great deal said about renewable fuels and particularly about ethanol. Much of this was uninformed and inaccurate. I think some of it was due to the fact that it was based on old research.

One of the comments that was made was that ethanol is not energy efficient, that it takes a lot more energy to produce than what it actually yields. Actually for every Btu of fossil

fuel used, ethanol yields 1.4 Btus of energy. Gasoline for every Btu of energy used yields .8 Btu. MTBE yields about .7 Btu. It is the most energy efficient fuel that we have going at the present time.

Also, ethanol reduces farm payments by \$5.9 billion over 10 years and it adds \$51 billion to the farm economy. It reduces the trade deficit by \$34 billion over 10 years which certainly helps the economy as well, and in 2002 removed 4 million tons of carbon dioxide from the air.

MARKING ANNIVERSARY OF SINK- ING OF THE "SULTANA", AMER- ICA'S GREATEST MARITIME DIS- ASTER

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

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, during our Easter recess, we will pass the anniversary of a tragic historic event in America. We are all familiar with the sinking of the *Titanic* and its loss of 1,522 lives. In fact the greatest American maritime disaster, April 27, 1865, was the sinking of the *Sultana* in a photograph here shown loaded with former POWs on the Mississippi River. One of the boilers on the *Sultana* blew, it sank and lost probably 1,800 mostly Union soldiers that had been released from prisoner of war camps deep in the South.

This tragedy was combined with illegality. This ship was supposed to hold less than 400 people. It was overloaded in violation of law. It pushed out of the Mississippi River at 2 a.m., a boiler blew, it caught on fire as shown in this drawing, and experienced tremendous winds shortly thereafter. Here we can see the thing flips around and the fire pushes people off the other end of the boat. These men were all emaciated former POWs. It was with great, great loss of life. There are two books on the subject, "Disaster on the Mississippi" and "The *Sultana* Tragedy."

Its anniversary was April 27, 1865.

HONORING SERGEANT GEORGE E. BUGGS

(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 honor the life of Sergeant George E. Buggs. This young man grew up in the South Carolina town of Barnwell. After graduating from his local high school in 1990, he decided to become part of something larger than himself by joining the U.S. Army to defend our Nation.

On Saturday, the Pentagon announced that Sergeant Buggs made the ultimate sacrifice for his country during Operation Iraqi Freedom. His body was discovered during the rescue of Private Jessica Lynch along with eight

other fallen Americans. We do not yet know if Sergeant Buggs was killed in an ambush or later suffered torture. Yet we do know that Sergeant Buggs did not die in vain. He gave his life so that we could remain safe from Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction and so that the citizens of Iraq could be free from oppression.

Our prayers go out to the family and friends of Sergeant Buggs, especially his 12-year-old son, and we ask for God to bless our troops still fighting to protect our freedom.

ON YESTERDAY'S COMMENTS BY THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the comments yesterday from the Democratic Party's leader in the House should not surprise us. In case Members missed it, she said about Operation Iraqi Freedom, "We could probably have brought down that statue for a lot less."

It seems that the Democrats' political philosophy has been reduced to a collection of publicity gimmicks. Why should we expect their Washington leader to understand the deeper meaning of Operation Iraqi Freedom? The American people seem to understand what the Democratic leader apparently does not. This was not about a statue. To trivialize the suffering of our troops and the joyous liberation of our friends, the Iraqi people, is a sickening offense.

Politicians in Washington can have a tendency to be cynical, I suppose, but I would have thought the joy in the faces of the men and the women and the children of Iraq as they trampled on the image of their tormentor would cut through the most pessimistic cynic.

Mr. Speaker, the minority leader's comments were shocking and truly appalling.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 189 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 6.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 6) to enhance energy conservation and research and development, to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes, with Mr. LAHOOD (Chairman pro tempore) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. When the Committee of the Whole rose on the legislative day of Thursday, April

10, 2003, amendment No. 17 printed in House Report 108-69 by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) had been disposed of.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 18 printed in House Report 108-69.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MRS. CAPPS
Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 18 offered by Mrs. CAPPS: Strike section 30220.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 189, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) and a Member opposed each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I understand that Chairman Pombo has agreed to accept this amendment. I want to express my gratitude for his support. I will be brief and submit my full statement for the RECORD, but I do want to explain the purpose of this amendment to the House. This amendment would strike the bill's language requiring the Secretary of the Interior to inventory the oil and gas resources of the entire Outer Continental Shelf, including those areas now off-limits to new drilling. This would undermine current protections for sensitive coastal areas. President George H.W. Bush initiated, and President Clinton extended, moratorium protections for these coastal waters. And, of course, Congress has had a moratorium on new drilling in these areas for 20 years.

This section of H.R. 6 pushes to open these fragile coastal waters to the possibility of new drilling. There is widespread bipartisan support both nationally and locally against new drilling in these areas. Those of us who represent vibrant coastal communities like the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DAVIS), cosponsors of my amendment, know that our coastlines are too economically viable to risk more drilling. I want to thank my colleagues from Florida who have worked for years in a bipartisan manner on this issue. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), and other members of the Florida delegation have been extremely helpful with this amendment.

Finally, I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) for his support of this bipartisan amendment and the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) for helping get my amendment made in order.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I am offering this bipartisan amendment, with Mr. MILLER and Mr. DAVIS of Florida, to strike Section 30220 from the bill.

This section contains provisions that would seriously undermine current protections for sensitive coastal areas.

Section 30220 would circumvent the longstanding, bipartisan moratoria on new oil and gas drilling in particular areas of the Outer Continental Shelf.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed an executive moratorium ending new drilling off the entire U.S. West Coast, East Coast, Southwestern Florida, and Alaska's Bristol Bay.

This action was met with acclaim by the coastal communities it encompassed and, indeed, all of America.

In 1998, President Clinton extended President Bush's executive memorandum protections to 2012.

And, of course, Congress has had a moratorium on new drilling in these areas for twenty years. President George W. Bush endorsed the Congressional moratoria in his FY04 budget.

State officials—including Florida Governor Jeb Bush, California Governor Gray Davis and former New Jersey Governor Christine Whitman—have endorsed the moratoria.

The bill, however, lays the groundwork to reverse this broad bipartisan consensus by promoting activities—including exploratory drilling and seismic studies—in the OCS, including the areas that have been off limits to new oil and gas drilling for years.

Supporters of Section 30220 argue that it only calls for taking inventories and studying available resources on the OCS.

But I must ask . . . what is the purpose of this provision if not to open up the OCS areas to new oil and gas drilling in the future?

What is it we would do with this taxpayer funded "information gathering," if not use it to pursue new drilling?

In fact, the bill requires the Secretary of Interior to make, and I quote, "recommendations . . . that would lead to additional OCS leasing and development . . .".

Mr. Chairman, we already know that large reserves of oil and gas are located in federal waters of the central and western Gulf of Mexico, which are currently open to oil and gas leasing.

According to the Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service, this area contains between 60 and 80 percent of the nation's economically recoverable oil and gas available in the entire OCS off the United States.

So, the protection of sensitive coastal areas through the longstanding moratoria still leaves the vast majority of the nation's oil and gas located on the OCS available to industry.

Section 30220 would also examine how laws, regulations, or programs might "restrict or impede" development of resources identified in the study.

In addition to determining how the OCS moratoria protections constrain development, this bill would erode the legitimate rights of coastal states and local governments to have a say in offshore and onshore development as embodied in the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA).

The CZMA is a critically important law that allows the state to weigh in on projects that may effect the state's coastal zone. Oil drilling is just such an activity.

The CZMA is the very law that the State of California recently used to halt the development of 36 undeveloped leases off my district in Central California.