

are here today. We wish Rabbi Behar's mom Rivka a speedy get well.

On behalf of the House of Representatives we would like to thank him, not only for his eloquent words this morning, but more importantly, for his service to his faith, his community, and to his country.

URGING MEMBERS TO ENACT ROBUST ECONOMIC STIMULUS PLAN THAT PRIORITIZES THE TAXPAYER AND CREATES JOBS

(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, our economy needs a boost, and it seems that lawmakers on both sides of the aisle agree on a couple of basic points: First, we must do something to stimulate the economy; Second, President Bush's tax proposal would create jobs.

Since we can agree that cutting taxes creates jobs, why would Democrats want to slash the proposed economic stimulus in half?

It is estimated that tax relief would create 700,000 jobs yearly throughout the country. In Kansas, this plan would create over 9,000 jobs per year over the next 5 years. Why do we choose to limit our success by cutting these numbers in half?

Some think the answer to our problem is to make the government a little larger. I believe the answer lies in empowering people with their own money so they can work, save, and invest in our economy.

I urge my colleagues to hold the line on spending and to enact a robust economic stimulus to prioritize taxpayers and create jobs.

THE ECONOMY

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong concerns over the current state of the economy and the President's solution to stimulate this economy.

The President has defended his proposal for a tax cut of at least \$550 billion, arguing that a large tax cut will create more jobs.

Now, let us see. The last tax cut that this President did was signed into law, and it was the largest tax cut in history, with a cost nearing \$2 trillion. How effective has that been in creating jobs? Let us see. It is estimated that 53,000 United States workers lost their jobs this month alone. Unemployment is still hovering around 6 percent. So it looks to me like the President is using more of his fuzzy math here.

We need to work to come up with real solutions that reduce unemployment and that help us with respect to

education, the environment, child care, and, yes, a prescription drug plan for seniors.

If Members want to cut taxes, then alleviate the tax burden on the working poor and on the middle class; do not do it to the wealthy, who are the least likely to get this economy turning.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR. CRUZ ACOSTA

(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, I rise today to celebrate the life and spirit of Mr. Cruz Acosta, a wonderful constituent and an exceptional human being who remains high-spirited despite his struggle with cancer.

Cruz was the first in his family to leave the tyranny of Cuba in search of freedom, living his life in appreciation of the liberty he found here in the United States.

Throughout the last 11 years, he has fought bone marrow cancer and leukemia, but his continuous desire for better health would not have been possible without the loving care and prayers of his family and the dedicated attention of the nurses and the doctors at Baptist Hospital, an exceptional medical institution located in my district.

As he remains in the hospital today, my thoughts and my prayers are with his wife, Miriam, with Cruz, and his entire family.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO FIRST LIEUTENANT FREDERICK POKORNEY

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, United States Marine Corps First Lieutenant Frederick Pokorney was killed in action in Iraq on March 23, 2003. On that day, Nevada lost a true American patriot, a proud Marine, and a loving husband and father.

Fred was born in California and raised himself from an early age, until he moved to Tonopah, Nevada, to live with Wade and Susie Lieseke, whom he regarded as his parents.

Fred's first love was his family, with his favorite time being spent with his "best little helper," his daughter. His second love was the Marines and this great Nation.

When I spoke to Fred's wife, Chelle, she said that he embodied what it is to be a Marine: honor, courage, commitment.

Lieutenant Pokorney's daughter Taylor expressed her loss in these words: "My daddy, my hero, I will take care of mommy for you as you asked. We will be best friends. I will take her to Sea World for my birthday like you planned. I love you. I need you. I miss you."

The hearts of all Nevadans and all Americans go out to his family and friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Shelly, and their 3-year-old daughter, Taylor.

CONDEMNING TERRORIST ATTACK IN TEL AVIV

(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, Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, was approved yesterday as the first Palestinian prime minister. Hours before he was sworn in, a suicide bomber blew himself up at a popular nightclub known as Mike's Place, located right beside the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv. At least three people were killed and 30 injured, including an American.

The world's attention is now focused on the new Palestinian leader, Abu Mazen. He has denounced terrorism, but words are not enough. Mazen must do everything possible to disarm terrorist groups such as Hamas and al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade that are doing everything possible to derail the peace process.

President George W. Bush has a vision for the Middle East, a plan that was delivered this morning where Israelis and Palestinians live side by side in peace. We must not let terrorists thwart the important peace process that is now under way.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

CALLING ON SENATOR RICK SANTORUM TO APOLOGIZE FOR REMARKS OFFENSIVE TO GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY OR TO STEP DOWN

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I waited patiently as the words of a Member of the other body permeated throughout our society with respect to negative comments on the gay and lesbian community.

As a Member of this great body and the Committee on the Judiciary, I have a great deal of respect and honor for the Bill of Rights and the first amendment, and the right for individuals to express their beliefs. I honor that.

But as an African American, I stand squarely and solidly against any form of discrimination. I think America loses its promise and its values and its beliefs in equal opportunity and equality for all and justice if there is a second-class discrimination.

I believe it is imperative for Senator RICK SANTORUM to apologize fully to the gay and lesbian community of this Nation and around the world or step down from leadership. We cannot tolerate this kind of reckless speech.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) should not and must refrain from making inappropriate references to Members of the Senate.

ON THE DEATH OF DR. ELIZABETH
KARNES

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

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today with a heavy heart. I am here to express the sadness and loss all Nebraskans feel at the passing of a selfless leader and volunteer, Dr. Liz Karnes.

Dr. Karnes embodied the best values of our State. Her good deeds and commitment to public service are greatly admired. She is well known for her 17 years of service on the District 66 School Board in Omaha and her work as a member of the Omaha Airport Authority, and her national policy work on behalf of children and schools.

But she is most known and committed to her finest work, raising her four daughters.

A 1967 graduate of Westside herself, Karnes went on to earn her doctoral degree in education administration. Along the way she graduated magna cum laude from the University of Nebraska, where she met her future husband, Dave Karnes. When Senator Karnes was appointed a U.S. Senator, Dr. Karnes accompanied her husband to Washington and worked as a volunteer assistant to First Lady Barbara Bush to advocate literacy.

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In March 1991, Dr. Karnes was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She began a courageous battle against the disease and she would survive. But in 2001 she developed kidney cancer which led to the complications that claimed her life late last week.

Dr. Karnes heroically fought cancer and its complications for 12 years. Her faith in God and the loving support of her family, friends, and colleagues kept her spirits strong, but Dr. Karnes was the real fighter. She continued to attend meetings and family events throughout her ordeal. She did not let her cancer come between her and her family, her work or her advocacy for the issues she believed in. Today we must redefine our definition of the word "hero." Our heroes are closer to us. They are visible. They are walking among us. Dr. Karnes is such a hero.

UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE
ACT

(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, 84 percent of Americans say they think Scott Peterson should be held responsible for the deaths of his wife, Lacy, and their unborn son, Connor. I agree. Criminals who kill an unborn baby in the act of a crime should be held accountable.

On January 1, 1999, Deanna Mitts was 8 months pregnant. And after celebrating New Year's with her family, Deanna, her 3 year old daughter, Kayla, and her unborn daughter, were killed by a bomb explosion in their Connersville, Pennsylvania home.

Joseph Miner, the father of the unborn child was arrested for Deanna and Kayla's murders but is not being held criminally liable for the death of the unborn child. That is not right.

If Scott Peterson should be held accountable, so should Joseph Miner. The Unborn Victims of Violence Act would make sure that Joseph answers to all 3 of these deaths under Federal law. The bill would protect the innocent and defenseless against crime, and it would hold accountable the Scott Petersons and Joseph Miners of this world. I urge the House to support the Unborn Victims of Violence Act.

FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS
AND THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, there is an epidemic of AIDS and HIV in Africa that can be described as a pandemic on that continent, 42 million infected with HIV, 8,500 deaths every day, entire villages in Africa where there is no single living adult.

Yesterday as I sat in the East Room of the White House, I heard President Bush describe a compassionate vision of moral obligation for the American people addressing this crisis that would bring with it not only \$15 billion over 5 years, but to put a priority on the values of the American people, abstinence and monogamy, and then condom distribution, and would protect faith-based organizations in the process.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, unless the House amends the bill we will consider tomorrow, the global AIDS bill will not reflect the values of the American people or the vision of the President of the United States of America. President Bush was right when he said we will not pass on the other side of the road, citing the good Samaritan in this crisis. But as we decide whether we will support abstinence first and protect the role of faith-based organizations in Africa, let us remember the good Samaritan not only stopped and provided money, but he took the man to a place where he could be made whole.

Faith-based organizations and those timeless values are such a place and I urge support of the Pitts and Smith amendments.

STOP UNNECESSARY MEDICATION
OF CHILDREN

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

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, today the House will consider H.R. 1350, Improving Results for Children With Disabilities Act of 2003. This bill contains a broadly supported bipartisan provision that I have offered during full committee markup.

There is a significant problem facing children and their parents throughout the Nation. Some schools are actually requiring parents to place their child on drugs in order to attend school. This is wrong. My provision is not anti-school. It is not anti-teacher. It is not anti-medication. This provision is pro-children and pro-parents. This provision simply protects our children from unnecessary medication and it provides parents the decision-making power that they should have for their child's safety.

I urge my colleagues to support this and other sensible provisions contained in H.R. 1350.

SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY
STUDENTS

(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 this morning to salute our soldiers of tomorrow. That is the service-bound academy students of the Third District of the Texas. This district of Texas is home to some of the best and the brightest young people, and it is always an honor to recommend such fine students to our Nation's service actions.

On the heels of our swift victory in Iraq, I know they are ready to join the premier military force of the world. This year, north Texas is going to send five students to the United States Military Academy; two to the United States Naval Academy; four to the United States Air Force Academy; four to the Merchant Marine Academy with students hailing from Allen, Frisco, Garland, Plano and Richardson.

I think that this is something that every student wants to do. They want to become a member of the defense of our country.

The 15 appointees and their hometowns are as follows:

U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY

Brittany Ladner—Allen, Texas—Allen High School.

Chad Lorenz—Richardson, Texas—Home School.

Jennifer MacGibbon—Plano, Texas—Plano Senior High School.

Andrew Moore—Plano, Texas—Plano West Senior High School.

Nathan Navarro—Frisco, Texas—Frisco High School.

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

Eric McBee—Plano, Texas—Plano Senior High School.