

do any work, does not show up. Yet we have hardworking Americans who are trying to raise their children, who are trying to do right by their children, trying to raise them with the right values, to know the difference between right from wrong; and they are going to deserve a tax credit just like every other child in America. They are America's children, too.

Now, if we can find the good will to pay these Iraqis \$20 a day for no-show, coming to about \$1,000, which is the same amount as we are asking for a child credit for 6½ million American families, they would get \$1,000 per child, it would be the same amount as the Iraqi citizens.

If they do not have a quibble there, I do not have a quibble here. But I have a quibble if we are going to give these people \$20 a day for no-show, \$1,000 in the last 2 months, and we cannot find the wherewithal to give 6.5 million American families, 12 million American children, the same tax break other children are getting or other Iraqis are getting.

President Bush, who often says he likes to note that he is a man of his word, who says what he believes and believes what he says, and says what he does and does what he says, "My jobs and growth plan will reduce taxes for everyone," at the signing of the bill the President said, "We have taken aggressive action to strengthen the foundation of our economy so that every American who wants to work will be able to find a job."

Well, we have people who are working who deserve a tax cut. They are not getting a tax cut. We have got 9 million Americans who are unemployed, 6.1 percent. When this administration started, they had 4 percent unemployment. We have got 6.1 percent unemployment now. We have added \$3 trillion to the Nation's debt, and 3 million Americans have lost their jobs. As we say back in Chicago, what a deal.

That is what has happened here. We have added \$3 trillion to the Nation's debt and 3 million Americans are without jobs. Corporate interests and special interests are getting tax cuts, and the American people are paying with their jobs. Now we are footing the bill for \$20 a day for people who do not show up for work, and yet we are denying 12 million American children their sense of economic justice.

If we do not take care of this problem today and take up what the Senate did, 94 Senators, Democrats and Republicans, if we do not take it up, these children's children, these families, Americans, hardworking families trying to do right for their children will be denied the same tax cut that will be provided for those children of other families here in America and have been denied that same \$1,000 we are providing for the families in Iraq.

I think it is high time, after 3 million unemployed Americans, 5 million more Americans without health care since when the President took over, \$1 tril-

lion worth of corporate assets that have been closed down since this President's economic plan has been adopted, and 2 million Americans walked out of middle class to poverty, I think it is high time we take these 12 million children who are part of 6.5 million families and give those hardworking Americans a tax cut. They deserve the same chance at that dream.

We are going to build a dream for Iraq, a better future for Iraq, one with roads, one with 13 million Iraqis with health care, 4 million Iraqi children will get early childhood education. Yet we are cutting 58,000 Americans from Head Start.

If we are going to do this for Iraq, I call on the Speaker, I call on the President, and I call on the majority leader, who have denied these 12 million children the same economic equality and the same economic vision of a better future tomorrow that we have provided to these Iraqis who are getting \$20 a day from the American taxpayer for no-show jobs.

BILL DESIGNATING POST OFFICE AFTER FRANCISCO A. MARTINEZ FLORES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce a bill designating a post office after Francisco Martinez Flores, a courageous and dedicated Marine from the city of Duarte in California in my congressional district.

Lance Corporal Francisco Martinez Flores demonstrated his courage and his love of our country when he lost his life serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom just 2 weeks before gaining his U.S. citizenship. I take this opportunity not only to pay tribute to Lance Corporal Martinez Flores as a brave and self-sacrificing Marine, but also to remember him as a loving son, brother, a friend to those living in California's 32nd Congressional District.

Known affectionately by his friends and family as "Panchito", Lance Corporal Martinez grew up in the city of Duarte, having emigrated with his family at the age of 3 from Mexico. He attended Duarte High School, where he displayed both his artistic and athletic talents by participating in the high school football team and jazz band.

After graduating from high school in June of 2000, Francisco enlisted in the Marines and was assigned to the First Marine Division Marine Corps Air Ground-Combat Center at Twenty-nine Palms in California. On January 23, 2003, Lance Corporal Martinez Flores was sent abroad to fight in Operation Iraqi Freedom. While only 2 weeks shy of gaining his U.S. citizenship, he was killed in the line of duty near Nasiriyah, Iraq, on March 25, 2003.

After his death, Lance Corporal Martinez Flores was granted posthumous U.S. citizenship on April 6, 2003. He was

one of those thousands of lawful permanent residents who volunteered their service to protect the United States by joining the U.S. military.

Lance Corporal Martinez Flores was a strong, noble, valiant man who lost his life to ensure the loved ones he left behind could live in a safer and more secure world. His mother, Martha, stated, "He loved the United States so much. He was from Mexico, but he was fighting for America and its ideals."

My heart and my prayers go out to the family and friends of Lance Corporal Martinez Flores, as well as to all those who have lost their loved ones during these turbulent times. The mayor and city council of the city of Duarte have also expressed their support for naming the post office located at 1210 Highland Avenue in Duarte, California, after Francisco A. Martinez Flores.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the American ideals of hero Lance Corporal Francisco Martinez Flores, who fought for and defended the spirit that we embody here in this House.

I also want to provide attention to his family, because his family is a working-class family. They work very hard to put food on their table, and I could see where they are going to need a lot of comfort and help and support by this Federal Government. I hope, too, that by the end of the week we also can pay them with the child tax credit that they would need that they would not be eligible for at this time.

So I would ask Members to remember a soldier who gave his life, a soldier who represents a working-class family who dedicated himself to the freedoms that we have. Let us not forget our men and women who serve us and those that are giving their lives as we stand here tonight.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCDERMOTT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

OFFERING SUPPORT FOR OUR MILITARY AND CALLING FOR CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION OF INFORMATION SUPPLIED TO CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION REGARDING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, we have had a very long journey. I think it is important today to first of all again acknowledge the brave men and women who serve us in the United States military; and to add a recommitment to those who are returning home, one, to ensure that they

have full health care, whether they remain in the service or they come out as veterans. In addition, I think it is important to add a \$1,000 bonus to combat veterans on returning, as they move into either their new lives or remain in the United States military.

I can truly say, Madam Speaker, that whether or not we agreed with the policies of the war in Iraq, as Members of the United States Congress and as Americans there was not one divide relating to our support for the United States military.

Even today, as we begin to analyze the aftermath of Iraq, in my meetings with Arab nations just a month or so ago, leaders of Arab nations, many of them offering to work with the United States in the rebuilding of Iraq, just a few days ago I had submitted into the defense authorization bill an amendment to ensure that small and medium-sized minority- and women-owned businesses are engaged in the opportunity of rebuilding Iraq. We realize that we have a responsibility to that nation, as well as to the troops on the ground.

We can also see that the war is really not over inasmuch as we are seeing the loss of our troops on a daily basis. There is much work to do to rebuild hospitals, roads, bridges, and neighborhoods in Baghdad and other places. We believe it is important to do it together.

But I think we have another challenge, Madam Speaker, that is extremely important. Madam Speaker, I recall the debate on the floor of the House. I stand by my vote. I believe that war should have been the last option and the U.N. inspectors should have been allowed to do their job.

But I know my colleagues who voted for the effort to go into Iraq did it out of conviction and the belief that this Nation was under imminent attack. Again, I say that we did not vote in the constitutional way because this Congress did not vote under article 1 to declare war. I maintain that we still had that hurdle to overcome. But the basis of the vote, the overwhelming vote to go forward was on the intelligence that was given by the intelligence community, not only to this Congress but, I assume, to the administration.

I believe it is imperative, Madam Speaker, that we have a special investigation, a special prosecutor to investigate what the intelligence community and officials knew, what information they gave to Congress, what information they withheld. We need to know for sure what information they had, definitive information, about the weapons of mass destruction. The American people need to know, first of all; the United States military needs to know; the United States Congress needs to know; and certainly all of the families of the loved ones of those who we mourn who lost their lives need to know.

Madam Speaker, I am unsure of what the intelligence community knew.

They stand now to say that they have documentation; but 2 months now have gone by, and we have found no weapons of mass destruction.

Many would say we as Members stand on the floor of the House and put ourselves in jeopardy because tomorrow we could find the weapons of mass destruction. I am not in an argument with my government. I hope my government is a government of truth, and whatever they find, it will be in conjunction with the work that they are doing on behalf of the American people.

But it was represented to us that because of the weapons of mass destruction that Saddam Hussein had, this Nation was under imminent threat.

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And so the President used his powers to go forward. Without the declaration of war of this Congress, Members of this Congress cried on the floor of the House because they were so conflicted with the idea that they must do what is right for the American people and go forward with war, because they believed in the information that was given.

In order for this Nation to be a true democracy, for the Constitution to prevail, for us to be a shining example of transparency in this Nation, it is important that we find out the truth. I do not believe we have the truth today. And I think it is imperative that even if Congress investigates this, because we have a one-party government, I think it is imperative that we have a special prosecutor to investigate and/or commission to investigate the tragedy of the war and as well the information that has been given to us.

Madam Speaker, I believe we can do no less to unveil the truth as our troops are fighting for us in Afghanistan and fighting for us in Iraq, as they are offering their lives for the ultimate principles of freedom and justice. It is imperative, again, must I say, that we have the truth. I hope that the administration listens, a special prosecutor, a special independent commission to investigate the existence of weapons of mass destruction and what the intelligence community knew.

ERASED CHILD TAX CREDITS HURT MILITARY FAMILIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, it is shameful enough that the Republican leadership in Congress has chosen to gamble our children's future on a risky and unsustainable tax scheme such as the one signed into law just a few weeks ago; but what is even more shameful is that Republicans sold out the very men and women who recently fought for our country in Iraq by cutting many of them out of the tax cut.

That is right, only hours before Congress was set to vote on President Bush's big tax giveaway, Republicans cut out provisions to expand the child tax credit for working families in order to give the President's wealthy friends a bigger tax cut.

The child tax credit provisions Republicans erased would have benefited millions of working families, including many families of American soldiers, sailors, and airmen just as they returned from war.

Just this weekend we had POW Shoshana Johnson in the Los Angeles area. During the time she was a prisoner of war, her family who lives in my district held a vigil. They tied those beautiful pink ribbons around the trees in the neighborhood so no one would forget that Americans were held hostage and were captives in Iraq.

So it is outrageous, and my outrage grows when I hear members of the Republican leadership suggesting that we are formulating a new welfare program. I am talking about and referring to working families. I am referring to those who have served their country in a land so far away many cannot even find on a map, in a land that did not have any concrete connection to 9-11, in a land that was headed up by a dictator who was not friendly with Osama bin Laden and we supposedly were going to have terrorism. But still, our troops went over under the command of the Commander in Chief, and they did an exemplary job.

This is the reason why we have set up an institute in Los Angeles that will work with the school district and will work with the community and it is an institute named after Shoshana Johnson, called the Institute for Heroism, Endurance and Patriotism. She had a daughter. Should she have been killed, as was rumored, that daughter would be in the care of someone else or maybe a part of the welfare system. I do not know, but she has a strong family. So in the name of the POWs, in the name of our veterans, we must vote to restore the deleted provisions that have helped millions of Americans and their children and our people who are still in Iraq and they have families back home.

Believe me, their incomes currently make them eligible for Federal programs. We must be sure that they too can take advantage of the child tax credit because, indeed, they are working people. We owe it to them. They deserve it.

AMERICA'S REPUTATION AS PEACEMAKER IS DOUBTED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, to win the war on terrorism ultimately America must be able to make more friendships and reduce the number of enemies that face us. In places very far from home, friendship is a matter of