

center in the world. It provides resuscitation, emergency surgical intervention, diagnostic and medical treatment and intensive care to Dade County's trauma victims. In addition, the center features extensive research and educational facilities. Its primary focus is on lowering the preventable death rate by increasing the delivery of trauma care during the critical 60 minutes after an injury.

In addition to the aforementioned centers, tremendous strides have been made in enhancing the hospital and the invaluable services that it provides to our State of Florida. Relationships have been established with other prime providers to position the Public Health Trust as a leader.

Jackson has evolved from a single-location health provider into a system that stretches throughout the county and includes 12 primary care centers, four school-based clinics, two medical long-term facilities, a maternity hospital and a community hospital. All this has been established while maintaining Jackson as one of the foremost hospitals in the country.

The Public Health Trust also has responsibility for clinics in six of the county's correctional facilities and a number of other services, such as the South Florida AIDS Network.

Throughout his career, Ira Clark's talent and energy have been focused on one overall mission: providing high-quality health care to all people. He has clearly achieved and surpassed this vision.

Thank you, Ira, for your outstanding contribution to the enhancement of the lives of our south Florida residents.

#### LOWERING THE HIGH COST OF DRUGS FOR AMERICANS

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today in USA Today, they released a poll that showed that 71 percent of the American people believe they should be allowed to buy prescription drugs from Canada and other European countries. People from around the world come to the United States for their medical care, yet Americans are forced to go around the world for their medications. The American people know what is going on here, and they know the situation is wrong and it is unsustainable.

A recent Families USA study found that the prices of 50 drugs most commonly used by seniors have increased in price by an average of 3.5 times the rate of inflation over the past year. Between 2000 and 2003, seniors' expenditures on prescription drugs increased by 44 percent.

For too long, seniors have been paying premium prices for the same prescription drugs that are available in other countries. Take tamoxifen. It costs \$60 in Germany, and \$360 in the United States.

We cannot sit back and allow this situation to continue. Right before we left for recess in August, the United States House of Representatives passed legislation to allow Americans, elderly, folks of any age, to buy their medications in Canada and Europe. It is competition, the free market, and allowing choice to exist.

Today we exist in a closed market and Americans pay the highest price. If we had a free market system, allowing Americans to buy their prescription drugs if they want in Canada or Europe, their name-brand drugs, prices would drop dramatically in this country. Today we are paying 40 to 50 percent more than the poor starving French and Germans. That price would be reduced here in the United States.

A lot of folks in the pharmaceutical industry say it is a safety risk. Right after our vote here in the House, Pfizer, the largest pharmaceutical company in the country, said they were going to pull out of the Canadian market or limit their sales in Canada. It had nothing to do with safety. When people tell you it ain't about money, folks, it is about money.

The second argument the pharmaceutical industry raises is they say this will endanger research and development. Today the American taxpayers fund the National Institutes of Health for \$27 billion. They also fund research at the pharmaceutical industry with a tax credit for R&D.

There is not a single cancer drug or major AIDS drug or drug dealing with diabetes that has not been developed without taxpayer-funded research. The American people pay for the research on the front end, and they pay the most expensive prices on the back end. That is a system we have created. It is working for the pharmaceutical industry, and it is time we changed the law so it works on behalf of the American people.

Today our legislation is in conference on the prescription drug bill. We are thinking about a \$400 billion expansion of an entitlement, the largest expansion of an entitlement program in over 40 years, and I think we owe the taxpayers of this country, if we are about to go spend \$400 billion of their money, we owe them the decency to get them the best price, not the most expensive price.

Today, all we can guarantee is 20-year-old legislation on generics that guarantees that generics are held off the market, which would save our seniors money. We guarantee the pharmaceutical companies tax credit R&D as well as the National Institutes of Health funding, so the taxpayers pay for all the research, and we guarantee that the Americans pay the highest price for the prescription drugs.

There is a reason the pharmaceutical industry has paid \$28 million to try to defeat the legislation, because they have got a good thing going here and they do not want to change it; because they have got taxpayers funding the re-

search on the front end, and they have got Americans paying the most expensive prices on the back end.

So we have a chance to change that system. We have a chance to bring competition and choice to bear on the market, and the pharmaceutical industry will try to live under the free market, like every other industry. Right now, they have a closed market, and the end result of it is the American people are paying the highest prices.

We can make a difference here. We did it in the House. We now need our colleagues in the other Chamber to do better and join us in giving a voice to the 71 percent of Americans who said they too want the choice of the free market. No more continuation of this closed market, forcing Americans to pay the highest prices.

Over the summer, the reputable group called the AARP, that speaks for 34 million seniors, endorsed this legislation. Today their seniors, who are members of the AARP, who buy their pharmaceutical products in Canada, get reimbursed from United Health Insurance that represents the AARP members.

Now, do you really believe the AARP would be endangering the health of their members? There is a reason they did this: because the market is speaking. They pay 25 to 30 percent less in Canada than we here in the United States for the same drugs.

#### EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight with some hesitation, fearful that I might simply be accused of coming to the floor of the Congress to report on what I did on my summer vacation. But the truth is, Mr. Speaker, that I rise today with a deep sense of gratitude to the National Park Service, and in a deep impression imposed upon me and my three small children and my wife Karen during our visit to a place called Yellowstone.

The first of the national parks, established in 1880, it in fact inspired President Teddy Roosevelt himself to establish the National Park Service during his administration at the turn of the century, and now I know why.

With the assistance of an amateur photographer, age 11, by the name of Michael Joseph Pence, who I am sure is eagerly watching at this very hour, I hope to introduce you to some of the experiences of Yellowstone of our family and the remembrances of those who first explored it.

It was, in fact, General Washburn in 1870 who was commissioned by Congress to survey Yellowstone thoroughly for the very first time, and the Pence family expedition was filled with the same wonder this past August. In fact, it was September 14, 1870, when

General Washburn wrote, "There is daily crowded upon my vision so much novelty and wonder which should be brought to the notice of the world and which, so far as my individual effort is concerned, will be lost to it if I do not record the incidents of each day's travel, that I am determined to do so and omit no details."

Images like this, at the base of the Upper Falls in Yellowstone, bespeak the extraordinary glory and splendor that General Washburn experienced in his expedition, and my family certainly experienced in ours.

Of course, here are the geysers, not just Old Faithful, captured here memorably by my 11-year old son, but literally dozens of active geysers described by General Washburn as a geyser "exposed to the sun, whose sparkling rays fill the ponderous column with what appear to be the clippings of a thousand rainbows." So it was on September 19, 1870, and so it is today.

But my greatest memory came, as it does for many Americans, at a place called Inspiration Point. It is a place, perhaps the very best view of the falls and the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. It was there in August of 1870 that General Washburn wrote of this very picture and image, Mr. Speaker, "The place where I obtained the best and most terrible view of the canyon was a narrow projecting point situated two miles from the lower fall. Standing there, rather lying there for greater safety, I thought how utterly impossible it would be to describe to another the sensations inspired by such a presence. As I took in this scene, I realized my own littleness, my helplessness, my dread exposure to destruction, my inability to cope with or even comprehend the mighty architecture of nature." August 1870.

These visions inspired General Washburn's expedition, and they inspired the expedition of the Pence family this August and my young son, an amateur photographer.

But as I close, Mr. Speaker, in the words of General Washburn when he left Yellowstone he wrote, "We are all overwhelmed with astonishment and wonder at what we have seen, and we feel we have been near the very presence of the Almighty."

And so it is that as Americans in this generation, as in the past and in the future, because of the contribution of the National Park Service and its extraordinary stewards in the Yellowstone Park of Montana and Wyoming, Americans of this next century and every century, it is my hope, will be able to feel that same great presence amidst His great architecture of nature.

#### TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT IRAQ

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, 165 years ago in this House of Representa-

tives, John Quincy Adams came to the floor of the House to share letters from his constituents, letters which allowed him to speak about an issue that the House rules prohibited him from speaking about.

Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives in 1838, 1840, and 1842 passed a rule prohibiting, banning, a discussion of slavery, the biggest blemish in American history, prohibiting the discussion of slavery, banning the slavery debate from the floor of the House of Representatives. As a result, John Quincy Adams, former President, then Member of Congress in those years, came to the House floor and read letters from various constituents, organizations in his Massachusetts district and throughout the State of Massachusetts.

Today we see something perhaps not quite as serious, but pretty serious, and that is the questions of whether President Bush told us the truth about Iraq, about the weapons of mass destruction, about Saddam Hussein's and Iraq's links to al Qaeda, and the focus the President has lost from the war on terrorism by attacking another country, as bad as Saddam Hussein was, attacking another country and not 'fessing up to the American people the real story.

□ 1945

So because the President, this leadership, and this Congress will not let us really investigate what, in fact, happened, what the President said, what the truth is, I am reading letters tonight from constituents all over Ohio brought to us by an organization called MoveOn.org. MoveOn.org has received almost half a million signatures of people asking for this investigation. And about 100,000 of those petitioners to MoveOn have sent letters to the United States Congress, and I would like to share some of those letters from citizens in my State concerned about investigating how it is that we ended up in Iraq.

From Lorain, Ohio, in my district, a petitioner writes, "Our leaders must respect our democracy. If our leaders lie or mislead their own people to support military action and to make an immense change in foreign policy, this greatly undermines our country. Saddam Hussein was evil, to be sure. Maybe we should have gone ahead with this invasion, but that decision should have been based on accurate reporting by the leaders and not by deceiving the American people."

From Cleveland, Ohio: "United States citizens, particularly the families of soldiers in Iraq, deserve to know the truth about whatever intelligence did or did not exist regarding weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and support for terrorism by Saddam Hussein prior to the war and about whether or not that intelligence was falsely represented to Congress and the American people to make the case for war."

From Marion, Ohio: "It is time for the Oval Office to quit hiding behind

false and misleading information. We were wrong to invade Iraq. Please help to spread honesty in the Federal Government."

From Cincinnati, Ohio: "I am very concerned about what led our government to undertake war in Iraq. Clearly the threat of imminent danger to the U.S. and her citizens was trumped up. It is an extremely serious situation which has led to the loss of over 150 American soldiers and thousands of Iraqi citizens, mostly civilians."

From Cleveland Heights, Ohio: "There is no graver abuse of trust than a leader who deceives his fellow citizens into sacrificing themselves, their sons and their daughters in the name of protecting their liberty. These charges are too serious not to pursue until every question is answered."

From Loveland, Ohio: "This is a very important issue. Our credibility in the world is already at grave risk. We can restore it in part by taking this misinformation seriously and tracking down the process that led to erroneous statements by Colin Powell to the United Nations and by President Bush in his State of the Union address. I implore you to consider the image in a non-partisan light and support an independent investigation."

From Columbus, Ohio: "As a decorated combat veteran and the parent of a currently-serving member of the U.S. Navy, both status that is not shared with many administration officials or Members of Congress, I gather, I am particularly concerned that there be no hint that our military forces are being used primarily for political ends." That was from Columbus.

From Cincinnati, Ohio: "As a daughter and sister of veterans, I am appalled that soldiers may have been lied to about the reasons they were sent to Iraq. Please support an independent, nonpartisan investigation to get to the truth of the administration's call to arms."

From Granville, Ohio: "It was obvious at the time that the Bush and Blair administrations were playing fast and loose with the facts in order to drum up support for a war they had wanted to wage since September 11. It is time that the American people and British citizens, as well as people of the world, learn the facts."

Mr. Speaker, these are letters from constituents in Ohio.

#### TAX RELIEF PROVEN TO STIMULATE THE ECONOMY

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, in late July Congress recessed and the Republicans headed back to their districts amid a firestorm of criticism from the left for passing record levels of tax relief.

Democratic candidates for President issued blistering condemnations of tax