

opponents began to take place on almost a daily basis. For its part, the LTTE reportedly suspects the GSL of assisting the Karuna faction. In any case, through mid-August 2004, according to human rights advocates, there have been more than 40 such murders.

As the Indian newspaper *The Hindu* editorialized on September 30, "It is time for all concerned to acknowledge that the LTTE has done nothing less than unleash a terrorist campaign amounting to a sub-guerrilla war against the very people it claims to represent. From the recruitment of children, which continues unabated despite international outrage, to the harassment of Muslims, the discrimination against eastern Tamils, and the killings of opponents, the LTTE demonstrates on a daily basis that its rule is by fear and terror."

In this troubling circumstance, it is clear that the international community needs to consider additional steps to put pressure on the LTTE to abandon its tactics of terror and prove that its days of violence are over.

It is remarkable, for example, that only four countries—the U.S., U.K., Australia, and India—have declared the LTTE to be sponsors of terrorism, frozen their assets and prohibited financial transactions with the Tigers. It is well reported that alongside a finely tuned propaganda campaign, the LTTE also run a sophisticated international fundraising campaign. The majority of financial support comes from the Tamil Diaspora in countries where there is no ban on transactions with the Tigers, including Switzerland, Canada, and the Scandinavian countries. It is my understanding that the LTTE's overseas financing includes investments in real estate, restaurants, stocks, and money market funds. Even film, food festivals, and cultural events may contribute to insurgent income. The U.S. Department of State also reports that expatriate Tamil communities in Europe have been tied to narcotics smuggling, another potential source of funding. In this context, surely the stark record of LTTE terrorism demands a firmer response from our friends and allies abroad.

Likewise, in view of the current stalemate in the peace process and the new campaign of violence by the LTTE, it is appropriate that the U.S. review the adequacy of current levels of security assistance to Colombo. In particular, in view of the mixed operational success of the armed forces of Sri Lanka, the Department of Defense and U.S. Pacific Command may want to consider increasing senior level military exchanges as well as boosting technical assistance. In this regard, I understand that in recent months senior officials with PACOM visited Sri Lanka, including the Jaffna peninsula.

Similarly, given the long and sordid track record of the Tigers—including continued abductions of child soldiers—as well as ongoing concerns about disappearances and other abuses in government controlled areas, it is also high time to place on the table an explicit inclusion of human rights and humanitarian considerations in either the current cease-fire agreement or in a separate understanding between the GSL and the LTTE. All parties must promptly take steps to end ongoing grave human rights abuses.

Finally, it is imperative that all parties take steps to work to rebuild trust and schedule the promised talks as soon as possible. In particular, it is incumbent on the LTTE to show that it is committed to a political solution and

to peace. Clearly, the ceasefire and a return to negotiations represent the best hope for Sri Lanka's future as a peaceful, prosperous, and unified nation. As the Department of State has made clear, the United States stands ready to implement commitments to aid in Sri Lanka's reconstruction, but this will only be possible through a continuation of the peace process.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TROY BLEDSOE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Troy Bledsoe, a dedicated coach and athlete from Alamosa, Colorado. Troy was recently inducted in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Hall of Fame for his long history of dedication to athletics in Colorado, and I am honored to recognize his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Troy knows what it means to be an athlete because he was a multiple letter winner in football, basketball, and tennis at Hendrix College in 1949. Troy began his coaching career with 6 years of high school coaching in Arkansas before moving onto the college level. He led several basketball, golf, football, and volleyball teams to championship seasons at Fort Lewis College and the University of Denver. Troy was also the chairman of the Exercise Science Department at Fort Lewis, and the Director of Athletics for 18 years. Troy was instrumental in the creation of the Fort Lewis College Athletic Hall of Fame, of which he himself was inducted into in 1995. One of Troy's biggest legacies is the award bearing his name for the male and female senior student-athletes with the highest grade point averages that are presented at the all-sports banquets every spring.

Mr. Speaker, Troy Bledsoe is an energetic coach that encourages his athletes to work hard to achieve their dreams both on and off the athletic arena. He has demonstrated a love for coaching that resonates in his compassionate and selfless service to the Colorado athletic community. Troy's enthusiasm and commitment certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress and this Nation. Congratulations on your induction Troy, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF RULES CHANGE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I join in a bipartisan way, with my colleague Representative CHRISTOPHER SHAYS from Connecticut, Representative JOHN DINGELL, the distinguished Dean of the House, and my friends and colleagues Representatives ED CASE, MAX SANDLIN, and DENNIS CARDOZA to introduce a bill that addresses the serious security threats that are impacting our Nation. According to the recommendations of the 9/11

Commission, Congress must reorganize to provide more effective oversight of our Nation's intelligence and homeland security efforts. This bill effectively deals with the problems by doing the following things:

1. Creates a permanent standing Committee on Homeland Security—[According to the 9/11 Commission, leaders of the Department of Homeland Security now appear before 88 committees and subcommittee of Congress. This is "perhaps the single largest obstacle impeding the department's successful development." Currently, the Committee on Homeland Security is simply a Select Committee];

2. Creates a permanent standing Committee on Intelligence—[According to the 9/11 Commission, Congressional oversight for intelligence and counterterrorism is "dysfunctional" and the Intelligence Committee is simply a Select Committee];

3. Creates a 14th Appropriations Subcommittee on Intelligence—[According to the 9/11 Commission, the Intelligence Committee should have authorizing and appropriating authority].

Last week during markup of H.R. 10 in six committees, members and committees alike were uncertain of their jurisdiction over various parts of the bill. In fact, no single committee had overarching jurisdiction, so there was no mechanism to address the bill in its entirety. This proposed rules change will fix this problem. We cannot rely solely on the Executive Branch to solve our problems. We must not shirk our responsibilities as elected officials, and instead do everything in our power to prevent another tragedy from occurring. For these reasons, I am proud to introduce this important resolution.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL LATINO AIDS AWARENESS DAY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize October 15 as National Latino AIDS Awareness Day. The theme for this year is "Abre los ojos: el VIH no tiene fronteras—Open Your Eyes: HIV Has No Boundaries." On this day, in over 150 cities throughout the United States, Latino leadership will honor the theme as they sponsor a variety of activities raising awareness of the state of AIDS among Latinos.

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day was first observed in 2003. Since then, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported that HIV infections among Latinos have risen 26 percent. Latinos in the United States are disproportionately affected by the virus and make up 20 percent of reported AIDS cases, even though Latinos are only 14 percent of the total United States population. As of 2002, the CDC also estimates that 28,364 Latinos are living with HIV and 76,052 are living with AIDS.

Statistics are important in order to understand the epidemic. However, we must also recognize the needs of the Latino communities confronted with the virus. Latinos face several obstacles and cultural barriers when it comes to accessing HIV prevention services. The lack of funding for culturally competent HIV

prevention education poses a threat to the Latino community and efforts to stop the spread of HIV.

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day allows us to actively open our eyes and bring light to the epidemic. It is a day of hope for the future of a world without HIV and AIDS. On National Latino AIDS Awareness Day, I ask that we remember those who have lost their lives because of AIDS, show compassion and support for those living with the disease, and pray for all families and communities whose lives have been touched by HIV/AIDS.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 4, 2004, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 487, 488, and 489. The votes I missed include rollcall vote No. 487 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to S. Con. Res. 76, recognizing that November 2, 2003, shall be dedicated to A Tribute to Survivors at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; rollcall vote No. 488 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S. 1814, to transfer Federal lands between the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior; and rollcall vote No. 489, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 567, Congratulating the American Dental Association for sponsoring the second annual Give Kids a Smile program.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote Nos. 487, 488, and 489.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES PATRICK SHINOGLE FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charles Patrick Shinogle, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 261, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Charles has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Charles has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Charles Patrick Shinogle for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING TREVOR MICHAEL CARVER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Trevor Michael Carver, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 261, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Trevor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Trevor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Trevor Michael Carver for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A BILL FOR LONG-TERM ENERGY SECURITY

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a bill that would provide long-term energy security and greater consumer protection to the American people.

The legislation would permit the Secretary of Energy to use any supplies in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in excess of 700 million barrels to address sustained price increases in gasoline or oil that could have an adverse impact on the Nation's economy. Currently, the President may authorize a release of supplies from the SPR to provide economic relief from petroleum price increases, though such an act would need to be in response to a sustained reduction in supply. This legislation would expand that authority for cases when price increases were not attributable to a shortage, such as international volatility, a major shift in demand, or a decline in refining capacity.

The consistently high prices our Nation is paying for petroleum—today, oil reached \$53 per barrel—threaten to damage our economy and stifle growth. Furthermore, they remind us of how reliant our Nation is on foreign sources of oil. With volatility in Iraq and elsewhere, major hurricane damage to energy facilities in the Gulf of Mexico, rising demand in nations such as India and China, and OPEC's apparent inability or unwillingness to reduce world oil prices, the United States has reached a point where we have little influence over a major factor affecting our economic well-being. It is therefore imperative that we increase the size of the SPR both to protect our Nation in a time of strife as well as to insulate our economy from problems in the petroleum market.

I have no illusions that this legislation will solve our Nation's energy crisis. In fact, the new release authority would not even enter into effect until the SPR surpassed 700 million barrels, which will not occur until next year at

the earliest. We must adopt this new long-term goal as part of a larger effort to reduce our reliance on foreign oil, pursuing a comprehensive energy policy that encourages alternative fuel sources and energy efficiency. I look forward to working with my colleagues to see this measure enacted into law.

CONCERN ON PROPOSED NEW TAXES ON CIGAR MANUFACTURERS

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my grave concern about the proposed new taxes on cigar manufacturers included in the FSC/ETI conference report. This new tax, which was not included in either the House or Senate version of the FSC/ETI legislation, amounts to \$282 million. Companies in the State of Florida will pay more than 75 percent of this tax increase.

I do not know how this new tax provision appeared in the conference report, but it is bad policy. This is supposed to be a jobs bill for all Americans, but I am afraid that this new tax will cost jobs in my state. For the historic Florida cigar industry, this provision is nothing more than a tax increase and job killer.

Since cigar manufacturers generally do not use the types of tobacco being "bought out," it is improper to impose a new tax on them under this bill. We should not increase taxes on industries unless the new tax has something to do with the purpose of the new program. The cigar industry should not subsidize the cigarette and smokeless tobacco industry. I hope that this issue will be revisited in the near future and a correction can be made to reverse this ill-conceived tax increase.

IRAQ IS EVER MORE DANGEROUS

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, the land of the "not quite right" has turned into the land of the ever more dangerous and difficult. I returned to Iraq last week on a Congressional fact-finding mission after less than a year since my previous visit. The trip gave me an opportunity to hear from our troops in the field, meet with military commanders and visit with some Iraqi citizens.

Unquestionably, the mission in Iraq has become more dangerous and difficult. The insurgents have expanded their support. They are more sophisticated, coordinated and lethal in their tactics. They enjoy sanctuaries in some major cities and they are exploiting the lack of progress in rebuilding the Iraqi infrastructure to their advantage.

Our troops are doing a terrific job under difficult and dangerous circumstances. We can all be proud of our men and women in the military who are following their orders, carrying out their missions and sacrificing so much to give the Iraqi people a chance for a more peaceful and prosperous future. But they