

in 2002. This is an increase of 3.9 million people in just 3 years. Of the 12.1 million households that were food insecure in 2002, 3.8 million suffered from such severe food insecurity that they are classified as hungry.

The root cause of most food insecurity and hunger in America is poverty. It is unconscionable that in 2004 there are people in this country who do not have enough money to buy food. Approximately 35 million Americans live in poverty, about the same number of people who were food insecure and hungry. The correlation is obvious. The poorest people in this country are going hungry. The sad reality is that every day there are parents who sacrifice their own food so that their kids can eat.

I recently read a speech by my friend, the late Senator Paul Wellstone, delivered at Iowa State University in 1998. In that speech, Senator Wellstone recalled how he traveled to the Mississippi Delta after reading the book "Let Them Eat Promises" by Nick Kotz, following in the footsteps of Robert Kennedy. Senator Wellstone was so moved by the story about how Robert Kennedy, when touring the country to see firsthand the poverty and hunger that ravaged parts of this Nation, tried to connect with a young boy in the Mississippi Delta. When the boy would not even respond because of his severe malnourishment, Bobby Kennedy just broke down and cried.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that if we left this Capitol building right now and traveled to another part of Washington or another city and town in America, we would find a similar situation. On that July day at Iowa State University, Senator Wellstone asked his audience, "Can't we do better?" Well, Mr. Speaker, the answer is, yes, we can.

During the last several decades, Congress has passed landmark legislation providing nutritious meals for low-income children and families. While the programs created over the last century do not adequately address the problem of poverty in America, they help in part to alleviate the food insecurity caused by poverty. These programs are vitally important and have improved the quality of millions of lives since their adoption.

The school lunch program, the school breakfast program, WIC and food stamps are just a few of the landmark programs that make up the core of our antihunger safety net here in the United States. Many of these programs are up for reauthorization this year, and our colleagues on the Committee on Education and the Workforce, led by the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman BOEHNER) and the gentleman from California (Ranking Member GEORGE MILLER), have produced a bipartisan bill that reauthorizes and expands many of these programs.

While I am disappointed that this bill, as currently drafted, does not go farther than it does, it is a good bill

considering the circumstances under which it was drafted, and I am looking forward to its consideration in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, while these programs are important and need to be reauthorized and expanded, issues I will talk about at a later date, we cannot continue to ignore the fact that poverty is the root cause of food insecurity and hunger here in the United States.

We have a moral responsibility to end food insecurity and hunger. We have a moral responsibility to end and combat poverty. We can achieve these goals if we have the moral and political courage to do so.

The President recently challenged us to do what is necessary to put a man on Mars. That is a fine goal; but I would submit that a better, more urgent goal is combating hunger and ending poverty. We should begin a new war on poverty.

Let us utilize all that the government and the private sector can do to undertake this challenge. Only then will we end the scourge of food insecurity and hunger.

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

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

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the gentleman from New Hampshire's (Mr. BRADLEY) place at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

AUTHORITIES ARE CLOSE TO CAPTURING OSAMA BIN LADEN

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today we have received tantalizing reports that Pakistani authorities may be close to arresting Osama bin Laden's deputy, Ayman al Zawahiri.

We do not know if this is true, but we do know that hundreds of American men and women in uniform are currently risking their lives as part of Operation Mountain Storm to arrest high-level terrorists in the critical border region of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

This border region was the safe haven for the world's most wanted man. Osama bin Laden lived there for many years since his first visit to the region during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

This January, I conducted a mission to this region to review the operations of the State Department's terrorist rewards program. This program was highly successful in helping the arrest of key international criminals important to the United States. The program led to the arrest, capture, or death of two-thirds of U.N. war criminals in Bosnia. It led to the arrest, prosecution, and execution of Mir Aimal Kasi who killed many Americans outside the CIA gate in Virginia. By the way, Mr. Kasi was arrested in the very region of Pakistan receiving so much attention today. The program also led to the arrest and death of Uday and Qusay Hussein, the two Hussein brothers, sons of Saddam Hussein.

As a congressional staffer, I drafted the bill that lifted the rewards program from 5 to \$25 million and allowed its use against U.N. war criminals. Based on my January mission to Afghanistan and Pakistan, we found the need for more reforms. We asked to raise the award for Osama bin Laden's arrest to \$50 million and to make the payment of cash rewards more flexible so that in rural communities we could provide trucks or farm implements that could be a much more motivating factor with rural families.

In the frontier autonomous tribal region that we are focusing so heavily on today, we face a population largely illiterate, very poor and speaking the Wasari tribal language. In making these reforms, we need the State Department to do media surveys and use more radio and TV, which is much more appropriate to communicating with large, illiterate communities.

These ideas would all combine with one other idea: Osama bin Laden has slowly been changing his source of financing. He used to depend on Wahabi donations, his personal fortune and donations from Europe, but those sources of funding have largely dried up under a series of United Nations legal orders.

Today, Osama bin Laden stands as one of the world's number one sellers of heroin. Haji Bashir Noorzai of Canada provides him with 2,000 kilograms of heroin every 8 weeks, giving bin Laden from that source alone \$28 million a year. In mid-December, the United States Navy arrested three dhows in the Arabian Gulf that contained methamphetamine, hashish, and heroin worth \$10 million, an attempt by bin Laden to move from the Pakistani market where he gets \$2,000 per kilogram of heroin to the United Arab Emirates where he would get \$10,000 per kilogram.

Osama bin Laden has more money access to his fortune than ever before, and these ideas need to be incorporated into our new bill, H.R. 3782, the Counter-Terrorist and Narco-Terrorist Rewards Program Act. That act just passed the House of Representatives an hour ago by a vote of 414 to 0, a monument to bipartisan cooperation on a critical national security issue of the United States. The passage of this bill

was needed, and it is needed more than ever because of the news coming from Operation Mountain Storm.

We need to thank the uniformed men and women of Combined Task Force 180 and the men and women of U.S. embassies in Islamabad and Kabul and other government agencies that are today risking their lives this very hour for the arrest of some of the world's most dangerous terrorists.

I also want to recognize our allies in this battle, the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan. President Musharraf of Pakistan is riding a tiger tonight, but he has made the bold step to move against al Qaeda, regardless of the political risk. He and his Special Forces team are key, key parts of this allied victory against terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, we may or may not have good news tonight, but we can already thank the hundreds of Americans in uniform and out of uniform who are so far from home today, but are doing our government's most dangerous and important work.

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

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

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to accept the gentleman from California's (Mr. FILNER) time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO SPAIN

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, a week ago we all mourned the loss, along with our brothers and sisters and friends in Spain, of so many innocent civilians.

Having had the opportunity to live in Spain for 2 years, I would like to take a few moments, if I may, to express my personal condolences in the hopes that our Congress, in its entirety, will do so before long.

Como estadounidense y miembro del Congreso de los Estados Unidos de América, quiero expresar mis más profundas condolencias al pueblo de España por la trágica pérdida de tantos inocentes en manos del terrorismo. Personalmente, tuve la oportunidad de vivir en España durante dos años, y desde entonces llevo una parte de ese país y de su gente en mi corazón. Hoy mi alma llora las muertes provocadas por la crueldad del terror. Hoy, todos somos españoles.

Nuestras naciones han sido a lo largo de la historia, aliados y amigos, unidos por los

mismos valores y por una herencia común. Compartimos libertad, compasión, tolerancia y democracia. También es voluntad común mantenernos juntos y firmes contra aquellos que amenazan esos valores y matan inocentes en nombre del fanatismo político y religioso.

Cuando nuestro país sufrió los atentados del once de septiembre, el pueblo español y el resto del mundo ofreció a esta nación y a su gente, apoyo, comprensión y solidaridad. Ese ofrecimiento sin condiciones supuso más de lo que nunca podremos agradecer.

Ahora, somos nosotros y el resto del mundo los que debemos alargar nuestras manos hacia España y su gente. Permídnos que os abracemos como vosotros lo hicisteis. Permittednos guardar el luto de vuestras víctimas. Queremos agradecer vuestra lealtad y mantener el compromiso de llevar a la justicia a los responsables de esta atrocidad.

Los terroristas nunca vencerán. Su brutalidad y sus objetivos son contrarios a la civilización, a la decencia y a las aspiraciones de los seres humanos.

Nunca vencerán, pero hasta que podamos con ellos de una vez por todas, tendrán que pagar un precio muy alto. No hay mayor evidencia de sus errores que este acto atroz de crueldad contra gente inocente que iba a su trabajo o a su centro de estudios. Por ello, debemos mantenernos unidos frente al terror, unidos con nuestros amigos y aliados, unidos con España.

Cuando viví allí y aprendí su bonita lengua con mis grandes amigos, me impresionó el hecho de que la frase "I'm sorry" signifique realmente "lo siento". Permittedme decir a mis amigos españoles que "sentimos" su pérdida. Sabemos lo que es ese dolor, esa tristeza y la indignación e impotencia por unas muertes tan injustas. Hemos sentido en carne propia el drama del terror y lo volvemos a sentir con vosotros.

No hay palabras que puedan consolar tanto dolor, pero debéis saber que en este momento no estáis solos. Juntos, triunfaremos. Llevaremos a los responsables ante la justicia y más importante: les enseñaremos con el ejemplo de nuestros dos grandes países, que existe un camino mejor. Un camino que demuestre nuestra fuerza común y nuestro amor por la libertad.

Fuerza, amigos españoles . . . fuerza, coraje, y ánimo. Estamos con vosotros, hoy y siempre.

(English translation of the above statement is as follows:)

As an American citizen and member of the Congress of the United States of America, I want to express my profound condolences to all of the people of Spain for the tragic loss of so many innocents at the hands of terrorists. Having lived in Spain for 2 years, part of my heart and soul will always remain in Spain and part of Spain will always be within me. Today, my heart and soul are saddened by the losses and outraged by the inhumanity of the attackers. Today, we are all Spanish and we have all lost good people and friends.

Our nations have long been allies and friends, united by shared values and a common heritage. Liberty, compassion, tolerance, and democratic institutions are dear to all of us. So too is our willingness to stand together against those who would threaten those values and who kill innocents in the name of political and religious zealotry. Because of our shared values, we are now also united in suffering and loss.

When our Nation suffered on September 11th, the people of Spain and the rest of the world reached out to offer our own Nation and our people comfort, support and solidarity. That outpouring of kindness and sup-

port meant more than we could possibly express at the time.

Now, it is we and the rest of the world who reach out our hands to Spain and to all of the people of Spain. Let us embrace you now as you embraced us. Let us comfort you now as you comforted us. Let us grieve with you for your losses. And let us also pledge our loyalty to you and our commitment to bring those responsible for this atrocity to justice.

In the end, the terrorist will never win because their methods of brutality and their goals are contrary to civilization, contrary to decency, and contrary to the highest aspirations and realizations of human beings. They will never win, but until they are defeated once and for all, they will exact a heavy, heavy toll. Now, tragically, as so often before, they have taken that toll from innocents on their way to work and school. There could be no greater evidence of the fallacy of their aims and beliefs than this heinous act of cruelty. That is why we stand united against them, united with our friends and allies, united with the people of Spain.

When I lived in Spain and was taught this beautiful language by my dear friends, I was struck by the fact that the translation of the English phrase "I am sorry" is lo siento, literally, I feel it. Lo siento, I feel it. Let me say to my friends in Spain that we feel your losses. We know something of the feeling, we know the pain, we know the sadness, we know the rage at such pointless, unjust slaughter. We have felt these things ourselves and now we feel it once again with you and for you.

No words can take that pain away, but please know in this dark time that you are not alone. Together, we will prevail. We will bring those responsible to justice and, more importantly still, we will show through the examples of our two great lands and peoples that there is a better path, a better way. Let us never lose sight of that higher vision and let the ways we respond to these tragedies show our true strength and or love for freedom and for one another.

Courage my friends. Courage, strength, and compassion. We are with you and always will be.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ETHNIC CLASHES IN KOSOVO

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I must say a couple of things before I begin. I want to commend my colleague, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) for his meticulous Spanish, and I want to also take note of the fact that the Manhattan College Jaspers, in my district, just won the opening round of the basketball NCAA against Florida. They were the underdogs. So I am very proud of them and the 17th District of New York. Go Jaspers.

I want to address a very serious subject, though, Mr. Speaker, and that is the violence which took place yesterday; ethnic clashes in Kosovo in the