

the Red Cross and others over ill-treatment of detainees in custody.”

Now, this is not about privates and corporals. And, by the way, the woman in charge of the camp said that she was put under pressure.

AL QAEDA CONNECTION, ZARQAWI, CONTINUES TO HARM AMERICA

(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, yesterday the world was shocked by a video depicting the savage beheading of an American civilian by Iraq's al Qaeda connection, Abu Musab al Zarqawi.

It is time to put an end to the intentional denial that al Qaeda had no connection with Saddam Hussein. Secretary of State Colin Powell warned the U.N. in February 2003 that after the victory in Afghanistan, al Qaeda operatives set up new camps in Iraq, led by Osama bin Laden's lieutenant, Zarqawi, who was allowed free operation in Baghdad by Saddam Hussein.

Since then, Zarqawi has led al Qaeda within Iraq to bomb the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad and to attempt the killing last month of 80,000 in Jordan with chemical weapons. Additionally, in his letter to al Qaeda leadership, Zarqawi admitted to masterminding the daily attacks in Iraq.

We are fighting al Qaeda terrorists in Iraq as part of the global war on terror. Yet, despite our enemy's savagery, our brave troops will fight and win this war to protect American families.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the goals of Cover the Uninsured Week. In California, 1 out of every 5 of our uninsured population is a child under the age of 18.

This week, the House leadership has scheduled votes that would help big insurance companies. Instead, Congress should be taking action to ensure that no child has to skip needed health care checkups and is not left behind.

We should pass the Family Care Act to provide working families and children with health insurance. The bill could cover approximately 7.5 million low-income parents and improve health care coverage.

We should also pass the Health Care Equality and Accountability Act, H.R. 3459, which would both provide expanded health coverage and eliminate racial and ethnic health care disparities. More than one-third of Latinos and 19 percent of Asian Pacific islanders lack health insurance.

We must come together to combat our uninsured crisis. Together, we can make sure that every family has access to high quality and affordable health care.

PROVIDING THE SECURITY OF AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, in response to the gentlewoman that just spoke, there is another alternative that we can talk about as well, because throughout the country, small business owners face a problem, because they cannot afford to offer their employees health insurance.

The Small Business Health Fairness Act, H.R. 4281, which we are going to debate this week, helps to resolve health care benefit concerns for small businesses and their employees. Through Association Health Plans, small businesses will have the ability to secure affordable health care contracts. Uninsured employees will receive the security of affordable health insurance.

Here is something that I think is significant: Out of the 44 million uninsured Americans, so called, about 25 million of them are people in small businesses, either the dependents or the employees themselves.

The price of health care benefits has risen by 12 percent this year alone. Escalating health care premiums makes it nearly impossible for small business owners to afford to offer health care benefits to their employees.

H.R. 4281 will make health insurance a reality for small businesses. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PROVIDING HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, every American should be confident that whether they lose their job, change jobs, get sick or just grow old, they should be able to find affordable, reliable health care.

We know how to do this. I agree with the gentleman on the other side of the aisle. We have the ultimate association health plan available. We could make every American eligible for the Federal Employees Benefit Plan at their own expense. That would be the ultimate in the association health care plan. We can also make people over 55 eligible for Medicare. We can make low-income working families eligible for Medicaid.

We know how to provide health care coverage for the American people. If we are going to do this, we also know that we have to provide a fair, reasonably priced pharmaceutical product to these

same people. We cannot continue to allow the drug manufacturers to rob the American people.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

(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, next Monday, May 17, 2004, marks the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in Brown versus the Board of Education. On this historic day, the Supreme Court issued a definitive interpretation of the 14th amendment to the Constitution, stating that the discriminatory nature of racial segregation is a violation of the 14th amendment.

Although 50 years have come and gone, this decision continues to have a profound effect upon our society. It has permanently altered the conventional social structure in traditionally segregated areas and has outlawed discrimination.

Although the celebration next Monday bears the name of Reverend Oliver Brown, it will be a celebration of all those who fought to rid our society of the practice of separate and unequal public schooling.

I would like to thank the Members of Congress who voted for the legislation which established the commission to commemorate the 50th anniversary of this historic decision, and I would also like to thank especially Cheryl Brown Henderson, the granddaughter of plaintiff Oliver Brown, along with the members of the Brown Commission, for the work in making this celebration a reality.

I am grateful for the small part I played. I encourage our colleagues to join us in celebration on this day.

CONGRESS SHIRKING ITS RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this last month has been a hard month: Hard for our soldiers in Iraq as we lost more lives than any previous month; it was hard on the people of that troubled country; and it was hard on the American public as citizens of conscience and people who are footing the bill. It has also been hard on Congress.

I personally believe the Speaker and the chair of the key committees to be people of conscience, and they must be terribly embarrassed as the world sees what happens when Congress shirks its responsibility to set policy, control spending and provide oversight.

It is as sad as it is outrageous that Congress and the President of the United States find out at the same time as millions of people around the

world about the unconscionable abuses in Iraqi prisons.

Now, the President will have to settle with Donald Rumsfeld as to why he has been kept out of the loop, but we in Congress have only ourselves to blame if we continue to avoid being a constructive partner, making sure that these abuses stop.

ENCOURAGING THE RELEASE OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF IRAQI PRISONER ABUSE

(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, despite the horrendous acts of a few American soldiers at Abu Ghraib prison, we are winning the war in Iraq. We are investigating and punishing those among our own engaged in wrongdoing. And as the brutality and desperation of yesterday's beheading of an American attest, our enemies know they are losing.

While I support freedom for the good people of Iraq, I support President Bush and Secretary Rumsfeld, I respectfully encourage the administration to bring an end to the lurid parade of photographs leaking their way into the national media by immediately releasing all photographic records of abuse of prisoners by American personnel.

Abraham Lincoln said it best: "Give the people the facts, and the Republic will be saved." In this case, Mr. Speaker, the republic that we save may be that free and democratic republic of Iraq in the 21st century.

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ASK QUESTIONS OR STUPID THINGS HAPPEN

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, since April 1, 42 days, the House has been in session 12 of those 42 days; and in that period of time, we have lost 171 of our fellow citizens, bringing the total to 772.

While that was happening, what has Congress done? We have named eight post offices, recognized the Garden Club of America, recognized the importance of music education, and authorized the use of the Capitol grounds for the Soap Box Derby. That is what Congress has done in the last 42 days, 12 days working; that is what we have done while we have lost loved ones in this country.

Our constituents are asking the whys and the hows of this war. They want us to get the answers. We have a constitutional responsibility, the checks and balances, to ask those questions. It is imperative that we do that.

President Kennedy once said, "To govern is to choose." We can name post

offices, or we can ask the hard questions about the direction of our Nation. We may even be able to do both.

MURDER OF NICK BERG

(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, yesterday we were reminded of who the real enemies are in Iraq. A video was released showing the brutal murder of a young man from Pennsylvania, 26 years old, a small businessman who was there to help rebuild Iraq. I offer my deepest condolences to his family and friends, and I join with my colleagues to call for bringing these terrorists to justice.

The fact is, Nick Berg's murder comes from the same terrorist extremists as the September 11 attacks. It was not about revenge; it was about intimidation. They brutally murdered an innocent civilian on camera so that the world could see it and tremble. These terrorists will use any convenient excuse to take innocent life if they believe it will advance their agenda.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday's murder should not shake us. It should steel our resolve to do the right thing in Iraq, and it should remind us that there can be no negotiating with an enemy who hates freedom, despises human rights, and uses any excuse to brutally murder innocent civilians.

SUPPORT SALES TAX DEDUCTIBILITY

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, once again, the House appears to be in an all-tax-cuts-all-the-time mode all over again.

By listening to the talk coming from this body, one would want to believe that we really want tax fairness for all Americans. Last week we had the opportunity to amend a part of the Tax Code which unfairly penalizes residents of States with no local or State income tax, and we did not. Unfortunately, we did not get it right last week, but luckily we have another chance to fix the problem today.

I hope that my colleagues will support allowing sales-tax deductibility for residents of States with no sales or State or local income taxes so that the hard-working residents, like people in my State of Texas and many others, get the same benefits given to almost all other Americans. Should we not be looking for ways to create equity and fairness for all of our citizens and not always seemingly helping just a few?

Let us pass this sales-tax deductibility amendment and take a true step toward equity.

MEDICARE AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG CARDS

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, when Senator CHUCK HAGEL and I drafted the drug discount card 3 years ago, we realized at the time that it would be a very important tool for seniors to save money on their prescription drugs. It is the reason so many people join Costco, or Price Club, and so many millions of America's seniors have joined AARP, for discounts, because they save money. It is simple, it is effective, and last Monday, on May 3, when we rolled out the drug discount card as part of the Medicare legislation, over 400,000 seniors called the 1-800 Medicare number to inquire about the plan.

Interestingly enough, almost every national chain, be they a grocery store or a pharmacy, advertised that they would be offering a drug discount card. It is simple. It is easy. It is convenient. And it allows seniors the choices that they deserve: to buy from their local pharmacist, their drugstore, their Costco, their Price Club, you name it.

Medicare should be simple. Seniors 65 and older deserve discounts on their drug cards, their drug and pharmaceutical usage. They are receiving it under this legislation.

SEND THE PRESIDENT BACK TO TEXAS

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, with everything going wrong for our war President in Iraq, it would be easy to overlook another tragedy confronting the United States.

Almost 44 million people are uninsured in this country; they go without health care and hope they do not get sick. The vast majority of these people come from families where one person works full-time.

By our actions, we are forcing Americans to choose between food and health care. That is not a choice. That is a cruel reality perpetuated by this administration.

The administration pretends every American has health care because there are emergency rooms, and we have a cabinet Secretary who says so, knowingly misleading the American people, and we wonder why the world questions our moral leadership.

Almost 44 million Americans do not have health care, and we can change that. Bills have been brought before the Congress for years, but the administration ignores them. We are going to deal with two useless ones today.

Every other industrialized country offers affordable health care except us. We could change it today, but we will not under this administration. We are going to have to have an election and send the President back to Texas.