

occur along the way. I myself envision a day where the site will be very much like perhaps Travelocity, where you just go in and type in the drug that you need and you will come up with several options on where to purchase it for the lowest price. But, for right now, this provides for the first time a database, a consumer-driven database that consumers may access at no cost to them to find out whether or not this program will be beneficial for their particular prescription drug needs and in their particular area.

Rather than a one-size-fits-all program that almost never works, rather than having the government tell you where and when you can buy your medications, this allows seniors to be in the driver's seat.

#### CELEBRATING THE FORTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY SERVICE FOR PASTOR AND MRS. JOE CHANEY, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARIO DIAZ BALART of Florida). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to recognize a great community leader in my district—Reverend Joe Chaney, Jr., the organizer and founder of the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Long Beach, California. Last week, I was in attendance as the church celebrated its 43rd anniversary.

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church started with five members in 1961, and today has an active congregational membership of over 1600 parishioners.

Reverend Chaney has long been a tireless advocate for social change, inter-denominational understanding and fellowship in Long Beach. He has served as Director of Missions for the Long Beach Harbor Southern Baptist Association and for five years organized and directed the Long Beach Ministerial Alliance, an interdenominational alliance of local ministers.

He has served as the chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital and the Long Beach Police Department, and is currently the chaplain of the Long Beach Fire Department.

Reverend Chaney is committed to not only serving the church and the surrounding community, but to people all over California. He was selected as the first African-American on the Family Services and Child Care Board of Directors of the California Southern Baptist Convention, and has served as the President of the California Southern Baptist African-American Network.

Mr. Speaker, Rev. Joe Chaney and his wife Mrs. Maxine Moss Chaney have served as mentors to many in Long Beach, and have been widely recognized by their peers for touching the lives of many, and have dedicated their lives to improving the community by serving others.

I congratulate Rev. and Mrs. Chaney on 43 years of dedicated service to Long Beach, our State, and our Nation.

Thank you for 43 great years!

#### RECOGNIZING ARMED FORCES ON MEMORIAL DAY

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the many men and women who sacrifice their lives every single day in support of our Nation as members of the armed services, both in times of peace and in war.

In the last 2½ years since our Nation was attacked, the service of America's armed services has been on the front pages and news headlines across the country almost every single day. And this past weekend, we celebrated Memorial Day. We dedicated the World War II Memorial, and in towns across the country we had parades and moments of silence in honor of our armed services.

My district was no different. In the City of West Covina and Monterey Park, I had an opportunity to give special recognition to American Legion Posts 790 and 397, who served this Nation with dignity and honor, as well as recognize the living World War II veterans that still live in the district.

In El Monte, I shared Memorial Day with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10218 and the Patriotic Commission on the Veterans and Homeless Commission.

In Baldwin Park, in the district I represent, my community both celebrated the World War II veterans, those that fought and returned from Iraq, while also mourning the many soldiers that have given their lives over the past several wars.

I was able to speak with Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Veterans from Post 113 during special events in the City of Irwindale and the City of South El Monte.

Each city in my community recognized these men and women who served in many, many wars. With these fine groups, my community recalled with love and gratitude the 16.1 million men and women who served in World War II and remembered the 292,000 service members killed in action. They demonstrate daily why many of them are the Greatest Generation.

Today, 5.7 million World War II veterans live in America. California alone has 475,000 of those World War II veterans that live in our communities.

Just as we celebrate in honor of the greatest generation, we must also remember those fighting today in Iraq and Afghanistan. One hundred and thirty-eight service members were killed during major combat in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and more than 662 since the end of the major combat of May 2003 have been killed.

I am sad to address to mention the names of seven fallen heroes from my own district, two who recently lost their lives just 10 days ago from our area. My heart goes out to the families and friends of Marine Corporal Jorge A. Gonzalez; Army Sergeant Atanasio

Haro Marin; Army Private First Class Jose Casanova; Marine Private First Class Francisco A. Martinez Flores; Army Specialist Leroy Harris-Kelly; Marine Corporal Rudy Salas, who died 10 days ago; and Lance Corporal Benjamin Gonzalez, who died 2 days ago.

Their service to the community I represent and to the Nation will never be forgotten. During both peace and war, the service that these armed service members provide is something that we must all remember.

Just as we send our service members off to battle, we should not forget the many in our communities, families who send their loved ones, who should not be denied any, any, service. We must indeed guarantee them full health care and benefits, adequate burial and bereavement service and support for the military families.

I had several of the family members of the soldiers that I just mentioned who were not able to access services as easily as others of us who would have, because they have language barriers. They did not provide immediate interpretive services to immigrant soldiers and their families. Why is that? Why is there a double standard here? You can send your young ones to be killed to defend our country, and yet you cannot provide them the adequate attention that they so deserve.

In addition, we were lucky this past year that the President signed into law an expedited citizenship process. It now takes 2 years to become a full U.S. citizen. You can put on the uniform, but after that it takes a great deal of time for that process to occur. We still do not have the process set up so that they can go ahead and actively begin to apply. We are talking about 50,000 currently eligible military personnel and reservists who would be eligible for this program. What are we doing to help ramp that program up, as we find every single day soldiers are coming back in coffins, and many with surnames like mine.

I ask us to remember, yes, those that have defended our country, but let us keep intact those many young men and women who are currently serving us right now in our country. May God bless them and their families, and let us bring them home soon.

#### GROSS AND OFFENSIVE OUTRAGES REGARDING ENERGY CRISIS OF 2000 AND 2001

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, there are some outrages that are so gross and offensive that even if it takes years to right them, we should do that, and one of those outrages is the energy crisis of 2000 and 2001 on the West Coast of the United States.

But in fact there are two outrages involving the energy crisis in the Western United States. The first outrage is

that Enron and various other traders gouged over hundreds of millions of dollars from consumers in the western United States. But the second and perhaps equal outrage is that the Federal Government, under the Bush administration, has been wholly ineffectual in getting back the money that has been stolen from consumers in the Western United States. These are two outrages.

Today and the last few days we have now discovered over 2,000 hours of taped conversations between Enron traders and others that clearly show the way that they stole hundreds of millions of dollars from consumers in the Western United States.

Those were discovered because of the great work of a small public utility district, the Snohomish PUD in Snohomish, Washington, that finally let us know, to get a window of the horrendous theft that went on, and I just want to quote a couple of things that the Enron traders talked about as they were stealing from the consumers of the West Coast.

Here is one trader, Tim Beldon, who since pleaded guilty to criminal fraud charges, who said, "Grandmothers were taken at the tune of a million bucks or two a day." Taken. They were taken due to the outright fraud of Enron.

Another quote from an employee who can be heard asking, "Do you know when you started overscheduling and making buckets of money on that?" Well, the buckets of money that they made came right out of the pockets of consumers.

The last quote, we heard traders of Enron saying basically, "Isn't it great that we jammed grandmothers for millions of dollars?"

Well, it is not great that they "jammed" grandmothers on the West Coast of the United States, and that needs to be fixed by the Federal Government.

But the second outrage is that our Federal Government and this administration has acted essentially like the Keystone Cops in doing nothing effective to get back these millions of dollars from our consumers. In Snohomish County, Washington, we have had 50 percent increases in electrical rates as a result of this gouging, and yet the FERC, the Federal Electric Regulatory Commission, and the Bush administration has done nothing to get this money back for the consumers.

Next week, when the energy bill is on the floor of the House, I will be offering an amendment to compel FERC, to compel the Bush administration to get off the dime and get this money back that has been stolen. They have acted with all the energy of Barney Fife on this, and it is time for them to do the job and get this money back for ratepayers.

Now, why has this not happened? Why has the Bush administration sat on their hands while this theft occurred? Well, I have to tell you that we have done everything humanly possible to get the administration, the Presi-

dent and the Vice President, to act on this.

In fact, during this crisis in 2000 and 2001, we asked the Vice President to personally intercede. Do you know what he did? On April 17, 2001, he met with Ken Lay of Enron; and they apparently talked about the energy crisis. And what after that conversation did they do? Two days later, the Vice President came out, Mr. CHENEY came out on April 19 and said, "We think price caps simply don't work." And they did nothing effectual to solve this problem.

In fact, we had a meeting with the Vice President when this was going on, and we told the Vice President of this, at the very time there were brownouts in California, we told the Vice President of the United States that over 30 percent of the generating capacity in America was turned off. Obviously, to anyone who knew anything about energy, people were gaming this system. And we pleaded with the Vice President to help us.

After we laid out all of these facts and circumstances, these are several Members of Congress and myself to the Vice President, he looked at us in our eyes and simply said, "You know what is wrong with you? You just don't understand economics."

Well, we do understand economics. We just do not understand Enronics. We just do not understand a Vice President who wants to talk to Ken Lay but will not lift a finger to help American consumers to get these hundreds of millions of dollars back that were stolen. We do not understand a Vice President who says let those grandmothers be jammed, and we are not going to help.

We are going to have an amendment next week to solve this problem.

#### PROBLEMS WITH MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNT CARDS

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

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, today, the seniors of this country are told that they can take advantage of the so-called Medicare discount cards which are available to them. They are being told that these cards will offer them between 10 and 25 percent savings. But there are some things that the seniors need to know as they contemplate the potential use of these cards.

First of all, it is the sponsoring company that offers the discounts or determines the size of the discounts, and that sponsoring company can change the level of discount available to the senior frequently. In fact, they can do that every 7 days, if they so choose.

The senior also needs to know that these cards only cover some drugs and not others. So if a senior takes four or six or eight prescriptions and they choose a card, and they can only

choose one card, they may have one or two of their medicines included and covered by that discount card and other medications may not be covered by that discount card, and the very medicines that are covered can be changed at the whim of the companies. In fact, those medicines can be changed every 7 days.

Seniors also need to know that once they choose a card and choose to enroll with that particular company, they are locked in for one full year. So although the companies can change the level of discount frequently and they can change the drugs that are included in their discounts frequently, the senior is locked in to a particular card for one full year.

Why is that? Why is all of the advantage being given to the sponsoring companies, rather than to the individual senior citizen?

I think it is important for the seniors of this country to know that this discount card offering falls far short of what could or should be done by this government to make drugs affordable to them.

One of the things we could do would be to simply allow the reimportation of cheaper drugs from Canada. There is probably not a senior in this country that is not aware of the fact that Canada sells drugs for just a fraction of what those drugs would cost the American senior citizen, and yet this government, this administration, this President, opposes the reimportation of cheaper drugs from Canada.

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That is one of the things that could be done, and could be done quickly and easily; and it would reduce the cost of medications that our seniors face.

Well, another thing the administration could do but refuses to do is to allow our Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate discounts for our senior population. Mr. Speaker, our government negotiates discounts for our veterans; and we believe that as a result, those drugs are discounted somewhere between 40 and 60 percent, and this is something that is currently being done on behalf of our veterans. Why would this President and this administration refuse to support such negotiated discounts being made available to our senior citizens? It just simply does not make sense.

Mr. Speaker, we need help, our seniors need help with the cost of prescription drugs, and what we need is a prescription benefit that is a part of traditional Medicare. Seniors like and trust Medicare. It is a program that works. It is easily understood. It is easily administered. In fact, the cost of administering Medicare is just fractional compared to the cost of administering private plans.

So why do we not just offer a prescription drug benefit that is a part of traditional Medicare? But no, that is not what the President or this administration or the leadership in this Congress wants. In fact, we all know that