

I want to thank them for their dedication and example.

As for the players, Joey Scheurich, Dustin Moehlig, Chance Murski, Stephen Michalek, Tyler Ford, Steven Crawford, Cody Abraham, Ray Cervenka, Randal Grichuk, Christian DeLeon, Matt Daniels and Daniel Homann, well, I am certainly glad these young men are from my district. They did Richmond and Fort Bend County proud this year, and I am honored to represent them and their families in Washington.

It is often said that sports teach kids important lessons about life. Well, Madam Speaker, I think the Lamar All-Stars taught us a thing or two this year. Throughout their season, they modeled the virtues of hard work, persistence, courage and determination. Their amazing performance this summer is a testament to their talent, certainly, but, most of all, a testament to their character.

I offer every player, coach, parent and friend who followed the Lamar All-Stars this year my congratulations for their success, and, more importantly, my thanks for their example.

RISE IN MEDICARE PREMIUMS CATASTROPHIC EVENT FOR SENIORS

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

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I remember in 1995 when the leadership on the other side of the aisle stood before this House and talked about how they wanted to see Medicare and Social Security wither on the vine. It is a matter of public record. It is not speculation; it is not putting words in someone's mouth. Now they have been in power long enough to begin to accomplish that goal.

Part B Medicare premiums have gone up 17 percent, from \$66.60 to \$78.20. We have raised \$10 a year the deductible for part B services, and the story goes on and on. This is a catastrophic event for senior citizens, particularly in rural America, where they get charged four times as much for their prescription medicine as anyone else in the world.

This administration has been working on this issue for 4 years. It gets worse and worse and worse. It is time to make a change.

EXPRESSING OUTRAGE AT INCREASE IN MEDICARE PREMIUMS

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I also rise, like the previous speaker, to express my outrage at the recent announcement that Medicare premiums will go up by 17 percent in 2005. This will eat up half of a senior's Social Se-

curity cost-of-living adjustment. At the same time, Medicare itself is shoveling an additional \$46 billion to managed-care companies so that they can push seniors into HMOs.

This is just another example of how the Bush administration puts the interests of the drug and insurance companies over our seniors' interests. They passed a bill, written by the drug companies, that prevented Medicare from negotiating lower drug prices for seniors and blocking reimportation from Canada. The bill pushes seniors out of traditional Medicare and puts them at the tender mercies of the HMOs.

To sum up this President's Medicare policy: seniors pay higher premiums and higher drug costs so Medicare can give more money to HMOs and the drug companies.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, on September 11, 2001, some 3,000 innocent men, women and children were killed in an act of war, including 30 from my home State of Pennsylvania. This weekend we will honor the memory and rededicate ourselves to defeating the evil that killed them.

We should never forget why they died, for no other reason but that they were Americans, because the agents of evil believe that they can bully us and change our policies by murdering innocent people. And they continue to believe this. We saw it in Russia last week; we saw it in Spain this summer.

Madam Speaker, it is our duty to use every element of national power to defeat them and the conditions under which they thrive. Three years after 9/11 we have made progress. I am proud of the way our country has responded. I am proud of our troops. I am proud of our Commander in Chief, who has led us in the war on terror with a steady hand. Most of all, I am proud of the American people, who have joined together to renew our commitment to what makes America great.

Let us keep praying that the world will be rid of terrorism.

EXTEND THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

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

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call on the House Republican leadership to allow us to vote on H.R. 2038 and H.R. 3831, which would allow us to decide whether we should let the assault weapons ban stay in effect or disappear from America.

This Monday, September 13, the assault weapons ban will expire, unless the House Republican leadership allows us to vote on whether to keep it in effect or let it expire.

Madam Speaker, the second amendment to the United States Constitution allows individuals to own firearms. The question is, where do we draw the line? Should people be allowed to have shoulder-fired rocket launchers that down airplanes? Of course not. Well, you do not need a 20-round-a-minute assault weapon to take down a deer.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House Republican leadership to allow this Congress to allow us to vote on whether we should extend the assault weapons ban or should we just, because they will not let us vote, have it expire. The assault weapons ban works. Since it went into effect, these crimes have gone down 66 percent.

GUARANTEEING A BRIGHTER FUTURE BY PREVAILING IN THE WAR ON TERROR

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

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Madam Speaker, on September 11, 2001, America rallied around the Stars and Stripes as we have never before seen. From downtown Manhattan to the streets of my hometown in Colorado, Americans shared their pain and support by raising the flag. And in our flag we found our strength and resolve.

Today, America is safer than ever before, in large part because we did not yield to those terrorists who lacked humanity and virtue.

Our selfless soldiers continue to fight and prevail in a war on terror all over the world. These young men and women engage in battle, so that their children and grandchildren will not have to.

As terrorist organizations are dismantled, we guarantee our young ones a brighter future. With every dictator we put away, we help ensure that our sons and daughters and their families will never have to carry a loved one out of rubble.

Madam Speaker, our Nation has always been an extraordinary Nation, but today we rise up once again for those phenomenal firefighters, police officers, doctors and, yes, today's soldiers, who by their actions say we will not give in.

God bless them, and God bless America.

REMEMBERING 9/11

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

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in remembering the victims of September 11, 2001. There are still no words that any of us can speak that will truly ease the pain and the profound sense of loss that families of victims feel, so many in my own district.

I continue to marvel at the courage and determination of the surviving

families, a courage and determination that made the 9/11 Commission possible, overcoming opposition here and across town.

We have an obligation to keep faith with those who perished and with the families they left behind. The best way we can do that is to take the 9/11 Commission recommendations seriously and act on them with dispatch.

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For a new generation of Americans, the phrase "Remember Pearl Harbor" has been replaced by "Remember 9/11."

Madam Speaker, let us honor those that we lost and the loved ones they left behind by acting expeditiously and in a bipartisan fashion to bring the 9/11 Commission recommendations to reality.

INTRODUCING H.R. 5038, THE AMERICAN HEROES ACT

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

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, we will soon double the size of this Capitol, adding a new Visitors Center. As the first thing visitors see, this space must reflect the values of our Nation and the way it inspires young Americans to public service.

Today I am leading a bipartisan group of Members to introduce the American Heroes Act, H.R. 5038. The act authorizes a statue honoring the people of United Flight 93 who fought the first battle in the war on terror over the skies of Pennsylvania. But for their sacrifice, the Capitol might have been destroyed.

We also authorize each State to add one new hero after essay contests in America's high schools. In this way, the new entrance to our temple of democracy will have new heroes adding to the pantheon in the Capitol.

As we approach the third anniversary of September 11, let us honor the heroes of Flight 93 who gave their lives to protect Washington, and let us also make sure that when this Capitol expands, it is filled with men and women who inspire us, especially young Americans, to public service.

MISSING CLASSMATES

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, as children across the country begin a new school year, some do so with missing classmates. The problem with child abduction goes on.

Seven months ago Monday, Carlie Brucia's remains were found after a stranger took her at a gas station. Now the seventh-graders at McIntosh Middle School in Florida are missing their classmate.

Three weeks ago, 7-year-old Patricia Miles was found suffocated after going

on a bike ride in Arkansas. Children at Turrell Elementary School are also missing a classmate today.

Missing children from every walk of life, in many circumstances: stranger abduction, parental abduction, international abduction, all need our attention. Next Friday I will host a child safety forum for southeast Texans, and I call on members of the caucus and on all of my colleagues to hold similar events across the country. We must empower Carlie and Patricia's classmates and all children to know and use safety rules.

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO EXPIRE

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

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to express urgency and remind the House that the existing ban on semiautomatic assault weapons will expire in only a few days, this coming Monday, September 13.

Reports continue to show that 70 percent of Americans believe that the ban should be maintained. In fact, the law enforcement community, the health care community, and the administration all agree that this ban should be allowed to continue to protect our communities from our increased vulnerability associated with allowing semiautomatic weapons back on our streets.

Some say that we do not have the votes to extend this ban, but Americans deserve a full debate and a House vote before we allow the expiration date to pass.

There is no reason not to go forward at this point; we have only 5 days left.

Do people need an assault weapon to protect their home? No. Do people need an assault weapon to hunt? No. Do people need an assault weapon to target shoot? No. But criminals use assault weapons to kill.

The ban should not be allowed to expire. I implore leadership to let us vote on continuing the ban.

RIISING HEALTH CARE COSTS

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the rising health care costs facing our seniors.

This last week the administration announced that American seniors will face the largest premium increase in Medicare's history. Instead of roughly \$67, now it is going to go up to \$78 a month for their Medicare Part B premiums.

The difference amounts to a huge increase, far exceeding inflation or any potential cost-of-living adjustment that our seniors receive under Social Security. This adds to the Government

Accounting Office just last week asking for part of the salary back from the person who withheld information from this Congress when we passed the Medicare reform bill last year.

We should not force our seniors to bear the brunt of the increased cost of Medicare. The administration's actions will force them to come up with an extra \$132 a year just to cover the increased premium. For the average senior receiving Social Security, this represents 10 percent of their monthly budget. Unfortunately, if precedent is any indicator, seniors will continue to see double-digit Medicare premium increases under a second Bush administration.

It is downright shameful to saddle our seniors with the cost of the administration's failed health policies. America's seniors deserve better.

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT IRAQ

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

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, the war in Iraq is one that we all understand is not easily won. The enemy does not play by our rules of engagement. They have no conscience, they have no decency, they have no moral compass.

Yet the same anger, arrogance, and ignorance that fuels these terrorists who have lashed out at citizens across the globe is now, according to JOHN KERRY, a sign of the Iraqi people's "frustration" with the Bush administration.

Yes, there are pockets of resistance within Iraq, but KERRY's assertion that the Iraqis are acting out in political dissension with the Bush administration's military strategy is ludicrous.

Madam Speaker, Iraqis are not lashing out through political activism, they are shooting American soldiers. They are killing the very same people who have come to help them. Mr. KERRY should be more focused on reality and less on political rhetoric. Our soldiers have risked it all to liberate Iraq and the Iraqi people.

SO-CALLED ECONOMIC RECOVERY

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

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss our so-called "economic recovery."

Last week I visited a woman in my district named Carol Jones. Nine months ago Carol had a job at an investment firm, a steady income, a health care plan, and a pension. But she had something more. She had security.

Then, like so many others struggling to get by, Carol was laid off, went on for months on end without a job, supporting herself on unemployment benefits and, when those ran out, her savings, which are now all but depleted.