

soon in its recovery with more tax increases, we have damaged our children's future. If we keep the economy going and focus on wasteful spending where in Washington on average every Federal program duplicates five others, every Federal program duplicates five others. At a time of war and a time of deficits, we cannot afford that type of waste. And rather than raising taxes on families and small businesses, I think the right way to do it for our children's future and their parents who desire good jobs today is to not raise those taxes.

□ 1945

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for time to close.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the tenor of this debate and the sincere comments by my friend from Texas. I really do appreciate that sincerely. I think we have had a good debate here, and I do not think for a minute that the gentleman is insincere in the statements he made here tonight.

But I just think it is so important that, again, we lived, we thrived under these PAYGO rules until 2002, when they expired, and we should bring those PAYGO rules back across the board to apply to new spending as well as new tax cuts.

I believe the gentleman is correct: When the economy is slowed down, it is very appropriate to stimulate the economy through certain targeted tax cuts. I have voted for those before and I will vote for those again. But what we cannot do is have across-the-board tax cuts on everything, to tax cuts for middle-class taxpayers, as we have talked about here tonight, to total elimination of the estate tax and others.

We cannot afford all those tax cuts, because, again, Mr. Speaker, it is not we that pay for them; it is future generations in our country, and we are doing untold damage to our country and to the future of our kids and grandkids if we persist as we are here.

I invite the gentleman, I implore the gentleman and our colleagues across the aisle, to sit down with us to pass this motion, number one, and sit down with us and identify waste and fraud and abuse, where we can eliminate wasteful spending and continue to have the tax cuts that we have. That is the right recipe for our country, for the future. It is the right thing to do for our children and grandchildren and future generations in this great country that we all appreciate and love.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct

offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PRESIDENT PERVEZ MUSHARRAF OF PAKISTAN TO VISIT CONGRESS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the co-chair of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus, I would like to invite all Members of Congress tonight to meet with President Pervez Musharraf. I, along with my co-chair, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), will be hosting President Musharraf at a dinner reception at 6:30 tonight at the Committee on International Relations hearing room in the Rayburn building where President Musharraf will officially inaugurate the United States Congressional Pakistan Caucus.

The Congressional Pakistan Caucus was created in an effort to foster mutual respect and cooperation between the United States and Pakistan. We are also looking forward to improving and further developing long-term political and security relations between the United States and Pakistan and also within the South Asia region.

It is because of Pakistan's promise for the future that I encourage all Members to join the Pakistan caucus. President Musharraf has been one of America's staunchest allies in the war on terror. His leadership has led to the capture of nearly 500 terrorist suspects who have been handed over to the United States.

President Musharraf has coined the term "enlightened moderation" to describe his reforms in Pakistan, including his efforts to advance the educational system so that every boy and girl in Pakistan can receive a proper education that does not teach hatred of the West.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join us because we want peace. Let us have peace by exchange, involvement and, of course, interaction.

As the Co-Chair of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus I would like to invite all Members of Congress tonight to meet with President Pervez Musharraf. I along with my esteemed Co-Chair Congressman DAN BURTON will be hosting President Musharraf at a dinner reception at 6:30 tonight at the International Relations Committee Hearing Room at room 2172 of Rayburn, in which President Musharraf will officially inaugurate the Pakistan Caucus.

The Congressional Pakistan Caucus was created in an effort to foster mutual respect

and cooperation between the United States and the nation of Pakistan. The Caucus is also focused towards improving and further developing long-term political and security relations between the United States and Pakistan and also within the South Asia region. It is because of Pakistan's promise for the future that I encourage all Members to join the Pakistan Caucus.

As you know, President Musharraf has been one of America's staunchest allies in the War on Terror. His leadership has led to the capture of nearly 500 terrorist suspects, who have been handed over to the United States. As well, he has coined the term "enlightened moderation" to describe his reforms in Pakistan including his efforts to advance the educational system so that every boy and girl in Pakistan can receive a proper education that does not teach hatred of the West. He has also made great strides towards making peace with India by engaging in a dialogue that has produced a number of positive developments. His leadership is helping to move Pakistan towards being the moderate Islamic nation it was intended to be at its creation.

Again, I encourage all Members to come tonight at 6:30 to meet with President Musharraf at the House International Relations Committee. His visit to Washington promises to be historic in nature and is not to be missed.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

DUST CLOUDS; NO RAIN

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, much of the central and western United States has been suffering from a grinding, unending drought that continues to harm farmers and ranchers and the rural communities in which they live. Compounding these losses is every disaster imaginable: hail, frost, tornado damage, and, yes, even flooding.

For nearly half of the 8 years that I have had the opportunity to represent Kansans in Congress, much of our State has been in a severe drought. It gives me no joy to speak before my colleagues tonight and describe the difficulties that Kansas farmers and ranchers are enduring. With a resolve that finds itself in the roots of a previous generation of hardy pioneers, they are struggling to survive.

The destruction from three hurricanes on homes, farms, businesses, schools, local economies, and, most importantly, the loss of life in Florida and other Gulf Coast States cannot be overstated. The people of Kansas mourn the deaths and support the rebuilding of lives and the reconstruction of those communities.

Adverse weather conditions have no respect for State lines and, unfortunately, Kansas and other central and

western areas of the United States have been greatly affected by weather as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would much rather be standing here before you with the news that the drought has broken and that the rains have returned. I would love to describe the positive effects of crop revenues working their way through the local economy. This economic activity would energize struggling small businesses and, more importantly, restore hope in the faces and the lives of farmers and ranchers. But that is not the case.

It is difficult for many to understand the severity of this continuing drought and its effect on rural America. Beside me is a picture reminiscent of the 1930's dust bowl, where producers were uprooted from their farms while their precious topsoil blew away. But this picture was not taken in the "dirty '30s," but rather in the drought of 2004.

The severity of these dust storms is evident in this picture, but there are tremendous costs elsewhere as well. Each year I travel through the counties of my district, 69 of them, and I meet with Kansans. There are many issues that threaten our way of life, including rising health care costs, the aging population and the general outmigration of farm families. The average age of a Kansas farmer is 58½ years old, and in many communities no young people are returning to farming because no money can be made.

Despite this, Kansas and other residents of the plains are resilient people who believe that hard work and persistence can overcome almost any obstacle. The people of my State take pride in being self-reliant and overcoming adversity on their own. However, assistance is needed today. By no means will these producers realize profits, but at least this assistance may allow some to stay in farming long enough to experience a good harvest. In the words of one of my farmers who contacted me, "I just need to hold on that long. It can't stay dry forever."

Talking about weather is not just polite conversation in Kansas, it is our way of life. Our farmers and ranchers risk their entire operations hoping for timely moisture. Unfortunately, many areas have not received these rains or have received them at the wrong time.

By looking at the U.S. drought monitor map we can see that much of the central plains and western region of our country have been in a severe drought. While conditions could be improving for our fall crops, the damage of multiyear drought has been done.

According to Kansas State University research, Kansas alone lost \$1.1 billion to its economy in 2001 and 2002. In 2003, it is estimated that \$275 million was lost by our producers; and in 2004, wheat producers lost another \$150 million. The majority of those losses, \$82 million, occurred in northwest Kansas, which has had a drought for a solid 5 years.

These losses do not even begin to cover the cost to local business and

other community organizations. Agriculture is the foundation of each rural community, and a bad harvest affects everyone from the car dealer to the home builder to Main Street grocery stores.

This drought has not gone unnoticed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. By the end of 2003 and for most of 2004, every county in Kansas was designated either as a primary or secondary disaster county.

During my tenure on the Committee on Agriculture, we have worked to see that farmers and ranchers are treated fairly and that the U.S. can continue to provide enough food and fiber to be self-reliant.

As the chairman of the Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, I have worked to approve the availability and benefits of crop insurance, and I will continue this effort. But as of now, there is no insurance solution for multiyear losses.

I urge my colleagues in the House to support some form of disaster assistance. This funding will assist producers who have suffered yet another year of drought or other weather-related disasters. The timing of this assistance is crucial. Many producers simply will not survive one more crop disaster.

Rural America is the backbone of our country and provides many of the essential components to the economy. We have the opportunity to keep their dreams from being carried away by the Kansas winds.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF JUAN CALDERON, JR., TOMAS GARCES AND MARK ANTHONY ZAPATA

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to come before the House of Representatives to pay tribute to fallen heroes. My south Texas district is again mourning the loss of three more such heroes, Sergeant Juan Calderon, Jr., Specialist Tomas Garces, and Specialist Mark Anthony Zapata.

My district has now lost six brave men. The Rio Grande Valley of south Texas as a whole has lost one soldier in Afghanistan and 10 in Iraq. This represents more than 1 percent of the total lives lost in the war in Iraq.

Sergeant Juan Calderon, Jr., was a 26-year-old rifleman in the 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, based in Camp Pendleton, California. Although he was born and raised in Weslaco, Texas, many of his family live in the Minnesota district of my good friend, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT), who is joining me tonight.

Juan had been a Marine for more than 3 years and had received numerous awards and medals. An avid football player, he and his wife, Ana Maria,

were anxiously awaiting the birth of their first child this month.

Juan was killed on August 2 conducting security and stability operations in Anbar Province in Iraq. He will never see his son, who will bear his name, Juan Andres Calderon.

Red, white and blue streamers still decorate the Garces family home, where only a few weeks ago Army Specialist Tomas Garces had come from Iraq for a brief visit. Tomas was a recent graduate of Weslaco High School, where he was a star wrestler.

He joined the 1836th Transportation Company of the Texas National Guard not just to serve his country, but also to help his family financially. He dreamed of one day becoming a wrestling coach to train others in the sport he loved. But, instead, on a road south of Baghdad, his convoy was ambushed by enemy forces, and Tomas became the first member of the Texas National Guard to die in combat since World War II.

This past Saturday, I joined the community of Weslaco at his funeral. Tomas has been recommended for a posthumous Bronze Star for his bravery during the ambush.

Army Specialist Mark Zapata came from a family with a strong military tradition. His father Daniel is a retired Army sergeant, and Mark lived on military bases as a child. The 27-year-old was a graduate of Edinburg North High School and loved music. He was the third soldier from this small community to lose his life in Iraq. He was a musician who liked to DJ and play the trumpet and keyboard. He was also proud to be a volunteer firefighter and loved nothing more than visiting local schools to teach children about fire safety. He even trained his dog Rollie to be a search and rescue dog.

Mark joined the Army 6 years ago and was a tank gunner stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. He was killed on August 15 in Najaf, Iraq.

When you hear the stories that friends and families tell about Juan, Tomas and Mark, you understand just how special all three of these young men were. They were role models to their peers, devoted sons, loving husbands, loyal friends and active in their communities.

□ 2000

All could have chosen to use their talents in other career paths, yet they chose the path of military service.

South Texas has sent generations of its sons and daughters into military service and, in this most recent conflict, has lost a disproportionate number of its young people and its future leaders.

Yes, Juan, Tomas and Mark volunteered to defend this country and protect our freedom, all the while knowing it might cost them their lives. They are true heroes, and we owe them more than we can ever repay.

For their friends and families left behind, we offer our prayers and the comfort of knowing that the sacrifices of