

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor one of my constituents, someone that many of my colleagues may know, Darrell Waltrip. My colleagues might know him by his 84 racing victories, third best victory in NASCAR circuit or from his newest career in broadcasting. In middle Tennessee, we also know that he is a successful businessman.

But to those suffering with Multiple Sclerosis, he is more; he is a hero.

This year, Darrell is being honored by the Mid South Chapter of the National MS Society with the MS Hope Award for his outstanding dedication to helping end this devastating disease.

Darrell has given of his time and of his heart to educate the public on what we can do to help eradicate MS, and his support of the Mid South Chapter has been to expand the advocacy and research.

Today, I want to join those honoring Darrell Waltrip and thank him for his continuing fight against MS.

REPUBLICAN RHETORIC DOES NOT MATCH REALITY

(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, well, the Republican rhetoric about the economy does not match the reality on this issue either. New figures show U.S. companies announced layoffs of more than 100,000 people last month.

If that is not bad enough, the pace of new job postings plunged in September to a mere 16,000. This is the President's economic equivalent of Mission Accomplished. Over the third quarter, job layoffs topped a quarter of a million workers. That is 20 percent worse than the last quarter, and they call it progress. The September figure for layoffs was the largest number in 8 months, and they call it progress.

They cannot create a job, so they create a sound bite. They do the same thing in Iraq every day. Things are getting better, they explain, while the rest of America looks at the nightly news and wonders what in the world these people are talking about. Every night, they deny what is before their eyes.

They have not done the job. The record is clear, and so is the outcome. In 27 days, the American people will give the President and the Vice President bus fare out of town.

□ 1015

HONORING HAROLD ZINKIN

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

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Harold Zinkin of Fresno, California, post-

humously for his service to his community and generous good will. Mr. Zinkin recently passed away on September 22, 2004.

Harold Zinkin was born in San Francisco, California, in 1922. As the son of Russian immigrants, this first-generation American lived a life that was nothing short of achieving the American Dream.

As a young man, Mr. Zinkin enlisted in the U.S. Navy in response to the attack on Pearl Harbor. Later he became a champion bodybuilder and was one of the patriarchs of California's fitness movement that rose out of the famed Muscle Beach. Mr. Zinkin's vision for the future of health and wellness came to fruition through his creation of revolutionary fitness equipment called the Universal Gym Machine. He was also instrumental in creating one of the most dynamic and successful shopping and entertainment complexes throughout California's Central Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Harold Zinkin for his tremendous service to his community, California's Central Valley and worldwide.

FAILING ECONOMIC HEALTH OF OUR NATION

(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, as Americans head to the polls in 4 weeks, we should ask ourselves, Are we better off now than we were 4 years ago?

The answer lies in the facts, and the facts do not lie. Eight million people are looking for work and 1.4 million people lost their health insurance last year; 4.3 million people have slipped into poverty since President Bush took office, and a projected 10-year \$5.6 trillion budget surplus has turned into a \$422 billion annual deficit.

Families in my district are all too aware of the sad state of our economy. Unemployment they say is at its lowest at 5.4 percent; but unemployment in my district, in East Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley in Los Angeles County, is well above the norm. Just look at the schedule here. East Los Angeles, South El Monte, 9.8 percent, double-digit unemployment and it has been that way for the last 3½ years.

We know in my district that it is time for a change in leadership. We want jobs here. We want investments in America. We want to lift those boats.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

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

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, this year is the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Republican Party. Over a century and a half, from the abolition of

slavery, to the establishments of women's right to vote, to freeing millions of people in the Soviet Union, Afghanistan and Iraq, the Republican Party has been the most effective political organization in the history of the world in advancing the cause of freedom.

The right of American women to vote is a uniquely Republican accomplishment advanced by Republicans, opposed by Democrats. All of the leading suffragists, including Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony were Republican. The first woman elected to this House was Republican.

Today marks the birth of Mary Louise Smith in 1914, elected to be the first woman to chair the Republican National Committee. Each day of the year the Republican Freedom Calendar, prepared by the Republican Policy Committee, records an important achievement, an important milestone in the Republican Party's history of advancing the civil rights of every American. The calendar is available at policy.house.gov on the Internet.

LARGE CIVIL AIRCRAFT AGREEMENT

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

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, this morning the United States filed a World Trade Organization dispute settlement case against the European Union regarding billions of dollars in unfair subsidies provided to Airbus by European governments. The U.S. has also exercised its rights to immediately terminate the 1992 U.S.-EU agreement on large civil aircraft. That agreement placed limits on certain government support, including limiting it to one-third of the costs of developing a new character aircraft.

The time has come for the American Government to recognize the damage that has occurred to our economy and to take firm action to curtail what I believe is both unfair and illegal foreign competition. These subsidies from four European governments, which include aircraft launch assistance, capital injections, debt forgiveness, have enabled Airbus to develop and range market airliners well below cost. Unless this practice is checked, I am afraid it will threaten to drive the Boeing Company, Airbus' only remaining worldwide competitor and our largest net exporter, out of the commercial airline manufacturing business altogether.

Over the last few years Airbus has grown to dominate the large commercial aircraft industry, out-delivering Boeing for the first time in history in 2003. I want to support Ambassador Zellig's action. He has courageously filed this case on behalf of our government.

ARE WE BETTER OFF

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, are we better off today than we were 4 years ago? If you live in Nevada, the answer is no. The number of Nevadans living in poverty has increased by 11,000. The family income in Nevada has dropped by \$1,511; 82,000 Nevadans lost their health insurance. There are now 400,000 Nevadans who live every day without health insurance. They pray they do not get sick. Those who are lucky enough to have health insurance saw their premiums go up by an average of 3,229. What working family can afford that?

Gas prices in Nevada are the highest in the Nation; 26,717 Nevadans filed bankruptcy in 2003. That is a 48 percent increase since Bush became President. Nevada has the strongest economy in the United States. So if people are suffering in the State of Nevada, can you just imagine what is going on in the rest of the country.

After 4 years it is time for new leadership in the White House who will fight for all Nevadans and who will fight for you.

BAD MEMORY

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, last night Vice President CHENEY was let out of his bunker for the night, and it seems all that time in an undisclosed location has confused him a bit about the facts. Last night he said he had never publicly stated that there was a connection between al Qaeda and Iraq. Does he forget his interview with Tim Russert last year in which he said just that? Does he also forget now it is a common statement in his political stump speeches where he tries to invoke fear in Americans?

I think he has determined his record with Bush is so bad that the only thing he can do is strike fear in the American people.

Vice President CHENEY also said last night that he had never met Senator EDWARDS before. That is simply not true. Just turn on any news outlet today and you will see the proof, pictures of CHENEY and EDWARDS standing side by side at a prayer breakfast last year. I suspect as the day goes on we will see more and more of these pictures.

Mr. Speaker, Vice President CHENEY and President Bush cannot lead this country if they continue to mislead the American people.

THE RIGHT THING TO DO

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, last night Vice President CHENEY said he was proud of the record in Iraq, and this is exactly what he said: "We did in Iraq what was exactly the right thing to do, and I recommend it all over again, I would."

And yet in today's Washington Post we learned that the most definitive accounts of Iraq's arms programs will show that Saddam Hussein possessed a diminishing threat at the time the United States invaded and did not possess or have concrete plans to develop nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons.

This investigation found that the state of Hussein's weapon development program and knowledge was less advanced in 2003 when the war began than it was in 1998 when the international inspectors left Iraq. The fact of the matter is over 1,000 Americans have died in this war; thousands and thousands of Americans have been wounded; thousands and thousands of Iraqis have been killed and wounded, and they have been killed or wounded in a war of choice because Iraq was not an imminent threat to the United States. But this administration chose, in spite of all of the evidence to go to war, to put our young people at risk and to lose their lives because they wanted to manipulate the evidence. They wanted to manipulate the war on terror, and they wanted to frighten this Nation.

Mr. Vice President, if you had to do it all over again, I hope you would not.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). The Chair would remind Members that remarks should be addressed to the Chair and not to the Vice President.

AID FOR HAITI

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss very briefly the devastation of Tropical Storm Jeanne on Haiti. The lack of infrastructure and our failed United States policies quite frankly helped contribute to leaving the Haitian people vulnerable to the devastation of Tropical Storm Jeanne which took the lives of over 2,000 Haitians. In Haiti's flood-torn cities, children sleep on tin roofs because flood waters have not subsided; gun shots are heard in darkness as thieves and thugs continue to steal from the people and cheat them of their chance for protection and peace. Men and women dig mass graves scrambling to identify the bodies of lost loved ones. Children are not going to school. Women do not have food for their families.

With so many casualties and so many sick, so many still missing and

much despair, what can we do? What can the greatest superpower, the wealthiest country in the world do for our neighbors next door? We must provide a real commitment to help Haitians. We must provide a way to help with the basic services of food and shelter as well as the restoration of democracy. We must support \$500 million to build the region, to take a more comprehensive and democratic approach to our policies toward Haiti.

FLORIDA VOTER SUPPRESSION

(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 time is nearing, as we have listened to the candidates for office of President and Vice President of the United States, we are reminded that this may be in fact the most important election in our history. It may begin to change the course of history for this Nation and begin to put us on the right course.

So today I rise, Mr. Speaker, to remind Americans that every vote is precious. Why again in the State of Florida has voter suppression risen again as has been raised by my colleagues from Florida, particularly the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK), and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN).

Again we have the State of Florida attacking individuals who are trying to vote and to register to vote. Now we find out in the State of Florida that even after thousands have registered to vote, what do you have but the government suggesting that those registration cards will be deemed illegal and will be deemed where the voters will not be able to vote. Why? Because somebody did not check a box, an unnecessary box, a box that the law does not say that they have to check.

I do not understand, Mr. Speaker, why again we have Florida in the center of the eye of the storm, unfortunately, the eye of the storm of suppressing voters in the United States of America. We are all going to be in Florida. We are all going to make sure that people are able to vote, and we are all going to make sure that this is an election that is fair. Our lives depend on it.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS
WEEK

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, this week is Mental Health Awareness Week and still the mental health parity legislation supported by 249 representatives, 70 Senators and 369 national organizations is bottled up.