

city for three generations. He is the eldest of two sons born to Richard and Connie Granillo. His younger brother, Carlo Granillo, is a police detective in the City of Fontana. This is a wonderful family, and I am sure they are proud to serve the Inland Empire communities in their respective ways.

Father Paul attended Cal State University of San Bernardino and graduated with a BA degree in history where my wife, Barbara Baca, Joe Baca, Jr., and his wife, Jennifer Sanchez Baca, also graduated from. He received a Master of Divinity from St. John's Seminary in Camarillo, California and a License in Canon Law from Catholic University here in Washington, DC.

Following his ordination in May of 1997, he served as a parish priest in Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage and Riverside, California.

He is now assigned to Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, and he currently serves as Priest Secretary to Bishop Gerald Barnes and as the Communications Director for the Diocese of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties in California.

Father Paul is very active in the greater San Bernardino communities, providing services and counsel to growing Hispanic communities.

We were recently together at a Catholic charity event. In addition to his church activity, he is an avid golfer where he and Father Howard Paul and Joe Baca, Jr. and I have had the privilege of enjoying a friendly competitive round of golf against one another. And I tell him, Father Paul, the Lord cannot always guide your golf ball in a straight direction because he wants you to know the feeling of the lost sheep that was lost, but found the right path.

I thank Chaplain Coughlin for his kind invitation to Reverend Granillo to offer this morning's prayer. I thank Father Paul for traveling to our Nation's capital today to be with us. God bless him, and God bless his family.

#### A BAD CASE OF AMNESIA

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I am concerned about some Democrats here in Washington. It seems that when it comes to the vote on the Iraq war, they have developed a serious case of amnesia. That is why I am going to give them a little reminder of what they said 3 years ago as they cast the votes they seem to have forgotten.

A leading liberal Senator from New York argued that "If left unchecked, Saddam Hussein will continue to increase his capability to wage biological and chemical warfare and will keep trying to develop nuclear weapons."

The Minority Leader in this House emphatically stated, "Saddam Hussein certainly has chemical and biological

weapons. There is no question about that."

The Minority Leader in the Senate warned that, "Saddam Hussein's near success with developing a nuclear weapon should be an eye-opener for us all."

Now, some Democrats want to act as if these statements of support for the war never happened. We all remember the line, "I voted for the war before I voted against it." It seems like many more Democrats are jumping on that bandwagon.

#### DEPARTMENT OF INJUSTICE

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Robert Kennedy's 80th birthday, the Robert F. Kennedy Justice Department maybe, given what has happened, should be renamed the Department of No Justice, because political operatives in charge have betrayed his legacy and the cause of justice in this country.

As The Washington Post reports this morning, despite objections of the Justice Department's career professionals, President Bush's political appointees "preapproved" a controversial Georgia voter-identification program that has been compared to a modern-day poll tax.

This is just one of a series of incidents that have subverted the purposes for which the Justice Department exists.

Last June, Justice Department political appointees announced that the government would seek \$10 billion instead of the \$130 billion recommended by career lawyers in a case they tried for 6 years against the tobacco industry, and won.

In the voting rights section, political appointees have also overruled career lawyers in approving GOP-backed redistricting maps for Georgia and Texas in recent years.

Now, that is a way to build morale.

In fact, the Civil Rights Division has lost nearly 20 percent of its career lawyers this year alone because they are fed up with political interference. At this point, they might as well drop the word "justice" from the masthead of the Department.

It is time to end the political interference and let the Justice Department professionals do their jobs. Incompetence is not a virtue.

#### ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX

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

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly urge this House to act before the end of the year to protect middle class families from the alternative minimum tax.

When a 1993 tax increase failed to adjust the AMT exemption amounts for

inflation, what was intended to be a tax on high-income taxpayers became a tax that punishes the middle class. If the middle class exemptions are not extended for 2006, the numbers of New Yorkers forced to pay the alternative minimum tax will more than quadruple to 1.6 million families next year.

Make no mistake about it, these are middle class taxpayers that would be apprehended by the AMT because we have not changed the law. Many of them live in the Hudson Valley that I represent.

This is an unfair tax on middle class Hudson Valley residents who would be forced to pay an average of \$4,000 in new taxes next year. This is money middle class families need to pay their own bills and put their own family needs in order. The last thing we should be doing is forcing middle class families in New York to send more of their money to Washington, D.C.

Let us do the right thing for the middle class. Let us extend the AMT exemptions before the end of this year.

#### RECLAIMING AMERICA

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the budget bill attacks students and low-income and middle class families. It targets low and moderate income Americans with \$70 billion in new tax cuts that will be included in the budget, and those tax cuts favor the super rich.

The tax cuts for the rich are placed on the backs of students and their families. Under this bill, student borrowers, already saddled with \$17,500 in debt, could be forced to pay up to an additional \$1,500 for his or her college loans. The bill raises student loan interest rate caps, raises borrower interest rates and fees for consolidation loans, and raises student loan taxes, and puts billions of dollars in student aid at risk by cutting all the critical funds used to carry out and administer student aid programs.

So we have more and more young Americans who will not be getting a college education, but they will be getting a political education. If you do not vote, the politicians in Washington will ignore you, shove you aside, cut your education funds. It is a call to young Americans to get involved, register, vote, and reclaim this country.

#### RECOGNIZING LAURIN GROOVER'S LATEST SUCCESS

(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, President Teddy Roosevelt once said that "The best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

Throughout the past 11 years, Laurin Groover, a native of Florence, South Carolina, has done just that by working to improve the lives of countless citizens of the second district of South Carolina.

After graduating from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, Laurin began work in Washington as a staff assistant with my predecessor, the late Chairman Floyd Spence. Due to her extensive knowledge of military issues and strong work ethic, Laurin has quickly risen through the ranks on Capitol Hill. As Legislative Director in the office, she has been instrumental in protecting America's and South Carolina's military installations and helping American men and women in uniform win the war on Terrorism.

Although I am sad to announce that Laurin is leaving the Hill, I am happy to recognize her opportunity as a consultant with the American Business Development Group.

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

#### VICTIMIZING THE VICTIMS (AGAIN)

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, the Bush Administration's inability to deal with natural disasters was demonstrated once again yesterday when the President's buddies at FEMA sent Thanksgiving greetings to the Katrina victims: "Hit the streets in two weeks." The same "compassionate conservatism" demonstrated during the botched rescue is now being repeated in the aftermath.

In addition to victimizing the victims again, this will leave cities across Texas with a sudden increase in the homeless population; cities like Austin that are still owed over \$2 million in what the Federal Government promised to pay for the Katrina disaster. While giving evacuees only two weeks to leave, FEMA took three weeks to issue the October 24 press announcement.

Mr. President, I understand your desperation for the distraction offered by foreign travel, but is it not time for you to get home and address one of the many failures of this Administration for Americans?

#### HOME OWNERSHIP AND GROWING ECONOMY—GOOD NEWS

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, our economy is continuing its move up, with the housing market in the driver's seat. Since the 1990s, the housing market has been on the rise, and last quarter this increase was even bigger, reaching record-breaking growth. This is good news and something that we all should applaud.

Mr. Speaker, this housing boom should be creating a lot of news, and

there are a few facts that you may not have seen in your morning paper. New homeowners have been able to build hundreds of billions of dollars in equity in ownership. Consumer spending has increased, putting more and more dollars back into our economy. New jobs, that is an increase in jobs, has occurred in each of the last 25 months. And, of course, the increased rate of homeownership to record levels have helped millions of Americans realize the American dream.

With a stronger economy and an increase in jobs, the trend of continuous economic growth should only grow stronger in the months ahead. As we approach Thanksgiving, we should all give thanks for the incredible opportunities we have in our Nation, opportunities that give every American greater hope and optimism about their future.

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#### SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, this year the President of the United States, George W. Bush, raised the issue and started the great debate on Social Security. The American public learned that our Social Security system is in trouble, and they know that if we do not do something, we are going to be facing a crisis.

You can debate when that crisis is going to happen, but no one now will doubt that there is a crisis. I believe we can dream a dream for an America in which everyone can have a living amount of money that they can retire on. Right now, if Social Security is all you have got, you are in trouble. It is time for us to continue this debate.

It is time for us on both sides of the aisle to come to the table and address Social Security and come up with solutions which will increase the amount of available income to our retirees and to our elderly, so that all people in America can live the American Dream, both now and when they reach their golden years. Let us not stop the debate on Social Security. Let us continue to look at this important issue.

#### TORTURE AMENDMENT

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

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, it is said that actions speak louder than words, but our reputation depends on both. Fair or not, for people around the world, the actions of a few Americans at Abu Ghraib have left a stain on America's reputation and have made it harder for us to win the war against global jihadists. Erasing that stain and protecting our soldiers will take both respectable actions and credible words.

I applaud the Senate for twice voting, once by a 90-9 tally and again by voice vote, to set clear guidelines for interrogating prisoners and to prohibit techniques that do not meet Army regulations in the Geneva Conventions. Making that the law will give credibility to our words about our conduct.

If anyone knows about torture, it is the senior Senator from Arizona. What does he say? Senator McCAIN says the idea America could use torture is killing us. He says torture does not work. It yields answers, but not necessarily the truth. That is wrong, because as Senator McCAIN says, our men and women in uniform are always, always Americans and different, better, and stronger than those who would destroy us.

Mr. Speaker, our troops need clear guidelines, and the Senate amendment provides just that. The House should take a stand and pass this important amendment.

#### JEFFREY WADSWORTH

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

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Jeffrey Wadsworth on his induction into the National Academy of Engineering. Election to the academy is among the highest distinctions that the engineering profession can bestow. I can think of no one more deserving of this honor.

Dr. Wadsworth is a world-renowned metallurgist. He became a United States citizen and has had a distinguished career at Lockheed, Lawrence Livermore National Lab, and Battelle Memorial Institute. He has devoted himself to finding ways of using science and technology to improve our Nation, compiling a stellar record of contributions and earning numerous awards.

Since 2003, Dr. Wadsworth has been the director of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Under his leadership, the lab has continued as one of the world's premier research institutions for material sciences and energy research. Dr. Wadsworth was elected to the academy in recognition of his research and leadership in national defense and science programs.

Congratulations to Dr. Jeffrey Wadsworth on his induction into the National Academy of Engineering and his service to Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Jeff, thank you for your many contributions.

#### GOP BUDGET RECONCILIATION

(Mr. MEEKS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to tell my constituents and the American people that the raid is still in progress. The House