

He has put his education to work for the citizens of east Texas as a professor of management, business and economics at his beloved Trinity Valley Community College. Today he serves there as Dean of Occupational Instruction; and thanks to his work, young people from all over east Texas have been enlightened about business and economics, and thusly they have been empowered. They have been empowered by a great teacher that they respect and admire to go out and create the next generation of inventory software, to help found the next community bank next door.

As the Congressman for the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, I am pleased today to recognize my good friend Jerry King for his many years of public service as mayor and for the outstanding contributions he has made to the city of Athens. I also want to thank his wonderful and patient wife, Doshia, for the sacrifice she too has made on behalf of the people of Athens.

Although he is stepping down as mayor, Jerry King has truly made his community and country a better place. I know he will continue to do so, be it as public servant, leader, volunteer, or educator.

Mr. Speaker, the greatest compliment I can pay my friend Jerry King tonight is that when I think about my 19-month-old son, Travis, I can be proud if one day he would grow up to be just like Mayor Jerry King of Athens, Texas.

#### NO TO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last week more than 150 Republicans and Democrats, Senators and House Members, business groups and labor organizations gathered on Capitol Hill to speak out against the Central American Free Trade Agreement. This group of unlikely bedfellows, if you will, spoke with one voice to deliver a unified message, no to CAFTA.

CAFTA, the Central American Free Trade Agreement, expands the failed trade policies of the North American Free Trade Agreement to Central America. When I ran for Congress in 1992, the United States had a \$38 billion trade deficit. Last year, a dozen years later, the United States had a \$618 billion trade deficit: from \$38 billion to \$618 billion trade deficit.

The more you look at the face of CAFTA, the better you can see who will benefit and who will pay the price if Congress passes one more trade agreement. Trade pacts like NAFTA and CAFTA enable companies to go overseas, exploit cheap labor in the developing world, and then import their products back into the United States. That is why we have a \$618 billion trade deficit.

The Central American Free Trade Agreement should actually be called the Central American Free Labor Agreement.

Now, we know in the United States our economy over the last several decades has been a tremendous success because workers share in the wealth they create. If you work for General Motors, if you work for a hardware store, you help your employer by your labor make money, and your employer in turn allows you to share in the wealth you create. That is why the American economy is such a success story.

But throughout the developing world, workers simply do not share in the wealth they create. Workers in Costa Rica cannot afford to buy the toys they make for Disney for their children. Workers in Vietnam at a Nike plant cannot afford to buy the shoes they make. Motorola workers in Malaysia cannot afford to buy the cell phones they make. Ford and GM workers in Mexico cannot afford to buy the cars they manufacture.

The Central American Free Labor Agreement is about access to cheap labor. The numbers do not lie. The combined purchasing power of the CAFTA nations, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, the combined purchasing power of those six countries is equal to that of Columbus, Ohio, or Orlando, Florida, or Memphis, Tennessee, or the entire State of Kansas.

CAFTA supporters attempt to argue that this trade agreement will open markets for U.S. exports. They paint a picture of American workers manufacturing products for this hugely growing consumer market in Central America. But the math does not lie. The average salary of a Nicaraguan worker is \$2,300 a year, \$191 a month. Nicaraguan workers cannot afford to buy a car made in Ohio. They cannot afford to buy shoes made in Maine. They cannot afford to buy textiles or apparel made in North Carolina or Georgia. They cannot afford to buy software made in Seattle in the district of the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT).

The fact is, I ask CAFTA supporters, what American-made product can a Central American worker purchase who is earning less than \$200 a month? CAFTA supporters will not answer these questions. They cannot.

The truth is that CAFTA is not about selling them American products. CAFTA is about exploiting foreign workers, about taking American jobs to Central America. It is about exploiting those foreign workers, and it means fewer jobs here.

NAFTA promised job growth in the U.S. and a thriving middle class in Mexico; but 10 years later our Nation has lost 1 million jobs, and Mexican workers' wages have remained stagnant.

CAFTA, the dysfunctional cousin of NAFTA, is more of the same: another trade agreement that ships jobs overseas, another trade agreement that ne-

glects the essential environmental standards, another trade agreement that weakens food safety standards in both countries, another trade agreement that keeps foreign workers in poverty.

The definition of madness, Mr. Speaker, is repeating the same action over and over again and expecting a different result. That is what happened: 12 years of trade agreements, 12 years of promises, 12 years of failed trade policy. Yet the insanity of it is we keep doing the same thing. We keep passing more trade agreements.

CAFTA simply does not make sense. The President signed CAFTA almost 1 year ago. Since 2001, typically when the President signs an agreement, we vote on it within 60 days. This week, on Thursday, will be the 11-month anniversary of the signing of CAFTA. House leaders said they are going to vote on it by the end of May.

Mr. Speaker, I would close by saying when the world's poorest workers can buy American products, rather than make them, then we will know that our trade policies are finally succeeding. CAFTA will not. Vote "no" on CAFTA.

#### IN SUPPORT OF LT. ILARIO PANTANO

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today is the Article 32 hearing for Second Lieutenant Ilario Pantano, a Marine who I have talked about at great length and who has served our Nation bravely in both gulf wars.

In an action of self-defense a year ago in Iraq, Lt. Pantano made a split-second, battlefield decision to shoot two Iraqi insurgents who refused to follow his orders to stop their movement towards him. Two-and-a-half months later, a sergeant under his command who never even saw the shooting and who was earlier demoted for his lack of leadership abilities, accused him of murder. Because of that, Lt. Pantano today faces an Article 32 hearing where a hearing officer will determine whether he will face a court marshal for two counts of premeditated murder.

Mr. Speaker, what is happening to this young man is unfair and an injustice. Lt. Pantano has served this Nation with great honor. My personal experiences with him and his family convince me that he is a dedicated family man who loves his corps and his country.

Mona Charen, a well-known journalist, puts it best when she writes: "Pantano was in the middle of a war zone, not a vacation on the Riviera. He had been dodging ambushes and booby traps for weeks. He had seen his comrades killed and maimed. Perhaps he acted too hastily in shooting those Iraqis. But a murder charge? Has the

Marine Corps gone PC," politically correct?

I have received letters and e-mails from Vietnam veterans who sympathize with him and ask that I do something to help him. They know what it is like to be in a battle with an unconventional enemy. One second can make the difference between life and death.

I have also read excerpts from his combat fitness report in which superiors praise his leadership and talent and even call for his promotion.

Mr. Speaker, Lt. Pantano was by all accounts an exceptional Marine. I hope that in the next day or two, as these hearings end, the hearing officer comes to the same conclusion that I and many like myself have come to, that Lt. Pantano should never have been charged in the first place and that all charges against him are dropped.

Mr. Speaker, I put in a resolution, H. Res. 167, to support Lt. Pantano as he faces trial. I hope that my colleagues in the House will take some time to read my resolution and look into this situation for themselves. But, most of all, I hope it is not necessary for us to discuss this further after this week.

I close with another quote from Mona Charen that I believe summarizes this situation: "Obviously, the United States cannot turn a blind eye to war crimes. If a soldier lines up civilians in front of a pit, My Lai style, and massacres them, he would richly deserve, and every self-respecting American would demand, a court marshal. But good Lord, by what possible standards can this be called murder?"

Mr. Speaker, as I close, I ask God to please bless Lt. Pantano and his family, and I ask the good Lord to please bless all of our men and women in uniform.

I close by asking God to please continue to bless America.

#### SOLVING AMERICA'S ENERGY CRISIS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, President Bush invited the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Prince Abdullah, to his ranch in Crawford, Texas, and met with him yesterday. Here is a photo that has been on the White House Web site and in many newspapers around the country showing the President and the Prince holding hands. That is a sign of friendship over there in that part of the world.

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But I was struck by the fact that the focus, of course, was the subject of oil.

As we watch what the President said, or at least what was reported, our President is in a position of begging. America begging. America begging a dictatorship to ease up on oil prices.

My colleagues might recall the President asked the Saudi prince to take it

easy before the election in November, kind of keep prices down a bit, but since the election, they have just skyrocketed. In California, people are paying over \$3 a gallon. In Ohio I can tell my colleagues I have paid \$2.50, \$2.57. The average price they tell us is about \$2.24 nationally, with a 43 percent increase since a year ago, and crude oil prices were up Monday about \$54 a barrel, up \$37 from a year ago.

Now, the United States consumes about \$7.1 billion worth of petroleum, and two-thirds of it is being imported, Saudi Arabia being the largest supplier. In essence, America is totally dependent. People have to understand this, because until the American people really understand this, we will not change. Every time we buy a tankful of gas, two-thirds of the money we spend goes somewhere else, and it goes to places that are undemocratic.

The New York Times reports today, and it has this picture in the paper, about the President's meeting, and it also has an article about Venezuela, which I will submit to the RECORD. Venezuela provides about 15 percent of the oil that we consume. In fact, I have a chart here that shows from the Middle East where we get about 30 percent of the total supply, with Saudi Arabia being the largest supplier, along with Kuwait, Iraq, United Arab Emirates, and then Venezuela about 15 percent; nearly half of what we consume comes from those regions of the world. America has to understand this, because until the people of the United States understand, this place will not change.

If we look at the sad energy bill that passed this Chamber last week, without my support, it lives in the past. It lives in the 20th century, not the 21st century. There is a theory: If you just put more holes in the ground, all problems will be solved. Well, that is not going to happen. We have to think in a different way.

Now, Venezuela, as the article in The New York Times today confirms, has become a bit antagonistic toward the United States because we have an administration who is trying to get rid of the President of that country's government. Now, whether you like Venezuela or not, the facts are we get 15 percent of our oil from there, and without that 15 percent, we have to get it from somewhere else, and the prices are going to go up. Now, the President of Venezuela believes that the United States is planning an invasion of his country, and he has threatened to cut these oil sales. It is not a very pretty picture when we look around the world, whether you look at Colombia, Nigeria, Venezuela, the Middle East. So it is not surprising that the President is holding hands with the prince.

What is truly dangerous and tragic about this trend is America is not independent. We had a Declaration of Independence at the beginning of the Republic to cut our umbilical cord to Britain for political and economic reasons. But imagine an America that was

energy independent; again, where we put all of this money, that is making others rich, in the pockets of producers in this country, starting with the farmers of America who today, within 5 years, could displace 25 percent of our imported petroleum with the use of clean, burning biofuels based in biomass, in ethanol, in biodiesel, soy diesel, fuels that we can produce today on the fields that are lying fallow across this country. Imagine what biogenetics can do to produce greater BTUs per ton of what we can produce. We do not need a new hydrogen age right now; we can use what we have today to displace these purchases. We are not doing it.

Imagine, imagine an America that was energy independent; again, where when you went to the gas pump, you enriched your own community, the farmers that live around the communities that you live in, and that the gas pump that you drove up to, you could buy ethanol at E85, or you could buy 100 percent soy diesel. Do my colleagues know, in Ohio you cannot do that. Minnesota has seen the future, Iowa has seen the future. There are some places in this country who have seen the future, but the majority of our people have not seen the future.

Renewable biofuels, domestically produced, could directly displace imported petroleum, and our energy bill last week should have done that. Some of us want to live in the 21st and 22nd century; we do not want our President to be holding hands with the crown prince and begging.

[From the New York Times, Apr. 26, 2005]

BUSH AND SAUDI PRINCE DISCUSS HIGH OIL PRICES IN RANCH MEETING  
(By Richard W. Stevenson)

CRAWFORD, TX, April 25.—President Bush discussed the surge in oil prices with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia on Monday, but focused on a plan by the Saudis to increase their oil-pumping capacity over the next decade rather than on any short-term efforts to bring prices down.

The two leaders talked for three hours here at Mr. Bush's ranch, trying to restore some normality to a relationship that has been tense since the emergence of the role of terrorists from Saudi Arabia in the Sept. 11 attacks. They discussed a variety of issues, including the Arab-Israeli conflict, terrorism, trade and Mr. Bush's call for more democracy in the Middle East, and the men made every effort to portray the relationship as back on track.

Mr. Bush even held the crown prince's hand, a traditional Saudi sign of friendship, as he guided Abdullah up the steps through a bed of bluebonnets to his office, the very picture of Saudi-American interdependence.

But the focus was on oil prices. Officials from both sides emerged from the meeting to say there was agreement on the value of Saudi Arabia's signaling to global markets that it would push down prices over the long run as demand for energy increased. American officials said they hoped the Saudi policy might put immediate downward pressure on oil prices, even though the expansion plan has been public for weeks.

"A high oil price will damage markets, and he knows that," Mr. Bush said as he waited for his guest to arrive.

Officials said there was no explicit request by Mr. Bush for short-term steps to bring