

to amend it or change it. The President secretly negotiated it, and it will be brought to this floor for an up-or-down vote, no amendments allowed. Congress has given up all its rights as a legislative body and its constitutional rights as relate to trade agreements between the U.S. and foreign countries.

If this were in the best interests of the United States or an urgent priority, it might make sense; but what it does is perpetuate a failed and failing trade policy. The United States of America, the Bush administration, is setting a record every month this year. Congratulations to the Bush administration. They have us on track for beating last year's trade deficit of \$620 billion to \$720 billion, \$2 billion a day borrowed from foreign interests representing tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of U.S. jobs that have moved to China, India, Central America, Latin America, Mexico and other countries chasing the cheapest labor they can find, the most exploited labor they can find, the most environmental deprecations they can find around the world.

They think that this is just working great. The President thinks that it just shows our economy is really strong. That is why we are running these huge trade deficits. So they want to replicate it closer to home so U.S. companies do not have to go all the way to China to exploit cheap labor; they could move a little closer to home in Central America.

When they offered NAFTA, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce predicted it would create 170,000 jobs in the United States. Many on that side of the aisle are still talking about all the great jobs that will come from NAFTA. Of course, and now CAFTA, it actually cost the United States 880,000 jobs. So they were off by a million jobs. That is a pretty big miss. CAFTA is likely to accelerate that trend.

They tell us, Oh, it's just that we want to sell things to Central America. Think of the massive buying power of those people in Central America. They earn \$2 a day. If they devoted all of the economies to all of the countries that would be included in CAFTA, if every penny in those countries was spent on buying U.S. goods, it would equal 5 days' production in the United States of America.

No, it is not about selling U.S. goods there any more than it was about selling goods to Mexico or selling goods to China. It is creating an export platform for U.S. companies who want to move overseas and have cheaper labor and avoid environmental laws and protections in this country.

The only problem with this theory is what happens to the middle class? What happens to the working people of this country? We are larding them down with a huge foreign debt, \$2 billion a day, and they are losing their jobs. How is this model sustainable? It also undermines our sovereignty. As we borrow more and more money from

overseas, China, Japan and other countries, they get more and more capable of squeezing our country economically.

And it will hurt farmers. For the first time in our history, the United States of America is going to run a trade deficit in agriculture. That was going to be one of the big winners under the WTO, CAFTA, NAFTA. Oh, it's going to be great for ag. I remember having all these farmers come in, Oh, this is going to help us so much, the wheat farmers in Oregon. They were back the next year saying, You were right. The Chinese bought one shipload and that was it.

Now, they are talking about shipping wheat to the United States of America. We are going to run a trade deficit in agriculture. We are going to become not only dependent upon foreign countries to borrow money and build things that we use every day but to feed us, and we are going to ask them to lend us the money to buy the food to feed ourselves.

This is not a policy that is sustainable and in the national economic interest or the national economic security or defense interest. We need a new model for trade, not replicating the old failed model. I am pleased to see that more and more and more of my colleagues are coming around to this conclusion.

Defeat CAFTA.

IN SUPPORT OF LIEUTENANT 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, Saturday was the final day of the article 32 hearing for a Marine facing murder charges for actions he took against Iraqi insurgents in self-defense. A year ago in Iraq, Second Lieutenant Ilario Pantano made a split-second 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 by Pantano for his lack of leadership abilities, accused him of murder. Now the case is in the hands of a hearing officer who must determine whether Lieutenant Pantano will face a court-martial.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today, as I have many other nights, in support of this bright young lieutenant. I have always maintained the innocence of Lieutenant Pantano, and I believe last week's hearing produced information that will ultimately prove his innocence.

During the hearing, it became clear that the sergeant who accused Lieutenant Pantano, Sergeant Coburn, disobeyed orders to not grant interviews to the media on this case. At one point he left the stand after the hearing officer read him his rights and explained

he could face charges for disobeying orders. When he finally did return to testify on Saturday, he is reported to have said "I don't know" or "I can't remember" over 50 times. His story simply could not hold up under cross-examination.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that this man's testimony cannot be considered credible. How can these charges move forward when the primary witness is someone who did not actually see the shooting and who cannot definitively stick to one recollection of the series of events that took place? If that is not enough evidence, let me also quote briefly from Navy Medal Corpsman George Gobles, the only other person present at the time of the shooting and the prosecution's other main witness who took the stand. He called Pantano, and I quote, "a damn good leader." He testified, "I felt the safest with, you know, this platoon, because more than anything because of Lieutenant Pantano, his leadership."

Likewise, Major Brian Neil, the operations officer for Pantano's battalion, testified that Lieutenant Pantano was one of the finest second lieutenants he has ever known during his 17-year career in the corps. He recalled the day of the shooting, testifying: "To me, it was a good day. We killed two obvious insurgents."

Mr. Speaker, as I have said many times before, Lieutenant Pantano is by all accounts an exceptional Marine. I hope that last week's proceedings will finally bring out the truth in this case. I pray that the end is near so that the Pantano family can move forward with their lives. Hopefully, the facts can bring closure to this serious and sad mistake in the history of the Marine Corps.

In conclusion, I continue to ask my colleagues to research the case and consider supporting House Resolution 167, my bill to help support Lieutenant Pantano as he faces this battle. I encourage them to visit his mother's Web site at www.defendthedefenders.org and learn more about this fine young Marine. I would be proud to call him my son or my son-in-law.

I ask as I close today, Mr. Speaker, that God please bless Lieutenant Pantano's family, to please bless our men and women in uniform and their families, and I ask God to continue to bless America.

□ 1630

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss ways we can work together to create an immigration system that better reflects the enormous contributions immigrants make every day, respects our Nation's proud history of

welcoming men and women to seek a better life, and better protects our homeland by bringing people out of the shadows. And today I thought we could continue our discussion of mending borders with a quote.

The late Senator Robert F. Kennedy once said, "Our attitude toward immigration reflects our faith in the American ideal. We have always believed it possible for men and women who start at the bottom to rise as far as their talent and energy allow. Neither race nor place of birth should affect their chances."

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, our current immigration system is falling far short of those ideals. But it is my hope that we can work in a bipartisan fashion to ensure that our Nation's immigration policies and the practices better embody Senator KENNEDY's eloquent words.

Because the struggling farm worker in Washington State who endures brutal working conditions and little pay to support his family deserves the right to be treated with dignity and to have a clear path to permanency for his sacrifice. Because the restaurant worker in Chicago who each day faces endless hours of washing dishes in the dank basements of our swankiest eateries to support her children has earned the right to keep her family together without fear of deportation. And because the factory worker in North Carolina who tolerates grueling days so his loved ones may one day realize the American Dream should be protected from exploitation and discrimination.

These hard-working immigrants are part of the fabric of our Nation as surely and completely as those who came before them. And from coast to coast in big cities and small farm towns, they are serving as America's economic backbone and as a source of pride and progress for the future.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation depends on immigrants' labor, and I hope we can create an immigration system as dependable as they are.

So tonight, rather than focusing on divisive words of people like Lou Dobbs, let us focus on the words of Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, who recently stated at a Committee on Financial Services hearing that: "As I've said before, I'm always supportive of expanding our immigration policies. I think that immigration has been very important to the success of this country. And I fully support it." Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan.

Rather than unfairly attacking immigrants for filling jobs Americans will not do, let us focus on the words of President Theodore Roosevelt, who said, "This country will not be a permanently good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a reasonably good place for all of us to live in." President Roosevelt's words are why in cities across the country today, workers and advocates, religious and business leaders are standing together to

strongly support comprehensive immigration reform.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is Cinco de Mayo, and I can assure the Members that this town is gearing up for another party. And while the immigrants appreciate the mariachis and marching bands, the speeches and the songs, what they really want is an immigration system that works and keeps their families united. A system that allows them to be full and productive members of our society. Because, Mr. Speaker, we cannot simply just take their labor, their sweat and their toil and then subjugate them into the shadows of a second class citizenry. We need a system that allows people to come to our country in a safe, orderly, and legal manner.

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

(Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

VIRGIL POE, CHARTER MEMBER OF THE GREATEST GENERATION

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, born in the 1920s, he grew up in the Depression of the 1930s poor, like most rural American children. Fresh vegetables were grown in the family garden behind the small frame house. His mother made sandwiches for school out of homemade bread. Store-bought bread was for the rich. He grew up belonging to the Boy Scouts, playing the trumpet in the high school band, and he went to church on most Sundays.

In 1944, this 18-year-old country boy that had never been more than 50 miles from home finally found himself going through basic training in the United States Army at Camp Walters in Camp Walters, Texas. After that he rode the train with hundreds of other young teenagers, American males to New York City for the ocean trip on a cramped Liberty ship to fight in the great World War II.

As a soldier in the 7th Army, he went from France on to survive the Battle of the Bulge and through the cities of Aachen, Stuttgart, Cologne, and Bonn. As a teenager, he saw the concentration camps and the victims of the Nazis. He saw incredible numbers of other teenage Americans buried in

graves throughout France. A monument to those soldiers is at Normandy.

After Germany surrendered, he went back to Fort Hood, Texas, expecting to be re-equipped for the land invasion of Japan. It was there he met Mom at a Wednesday night "prayer meeting" church service.

Until a few years ago, this GI, my dad, would never talk about World War II. He still will not say much except he does say the heroes, they are the ones buried in Europe today.

After the war he opened a DX service station where he pumped gas, sold tires, fixed cars, and began a family. Deciding he needed to go to college, he moved to West Texas and enrolled in a small Christian college called Abilene Christian College. He and his wife and his two small children lived in an old converted army barracks with other such families. He supported us by working nights at KRBC radio and climbing telephone poles for "Ma Bell," later called Southwestern Bell.

He finished college, became an engineer and worked 40-plus years for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in Houston, Texas. He turned down a promotion and a transfer to New York City because it was not Texas and he said "no place to raise a family."

Dad instilled in my sister and me the values of being a neighbor to all, loving our country, loving our heritage, and always just doing the right thing to all people.

He still gets mad at the Eastern Media. He flies the flag on holidays. He goes to church on Sunday, and he takes Mom out to eat almost every Friday night. He stands in the front yard and talks to his neighbors. He can fix anything. He still mows his own grass even though he is 80 years of age. And he has a strong opinion on politics and world events. He gives plenty of advice to all people, including me. He has two computers in his home office. He sends e-mails to hundreds of his buddies all over the world. Dad and Mom still live in Houston, Texas, close to where I grew up.

So today, Mr. Speaker, as we on this 60th anniversary honor those who fought in the great World War II and the victory in Europe, we honor not only my dad, but all of those American heroes. My dad was one of those individuals. He is the best man I ever met. One of the charter members of the Greatest Generation. And I hope I turn out like him, the man I admire the most.

Virgil Poe, good man, good father. That is plenty for one life.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)