

able to use this money to hire new employees to better serve their customers. Instead, they lose it because they are complying with excessive regulation.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for this body to take a strong stand in support of our small businesses in the Hudson Valley and throughout the country. By passing my legislation, we can improve the transparency of regulatory decisions from our Federal agencies.

Congress and the GAO must fully evaluate unfair costs and impacts on small businesses before new rules are implemented. Please help our small businesses and keep regulations fair by cosponsoring H.R. 1167.

REPUBLICANS NOT CREATING JOBS

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, job creation under the Bush administration remains disappointing, despite 3 years of economic recovery. Last month the economy created only 78,000 jobs. There are fewer private sector jobs in the United States today than there were in January 2001 when President Bush took office. In fact, the economy must still create an additional 24,000 jobs just to get back to where we were in 2001. In the Clinton years we created 23 million new jobs. We did not lose private sector jobs.

Also on this President's watch, our economy has lost 2.8 million manufacturing jobs, including 7,000 more last month. The weakness of the job market is also showing up in the continued stagnation of workers' earnings. Today, on average, workers' hourly wages are down 1 percent from last year if you factor in inflation. That means workers are taking home less, at a time when their health care, education and gas bills are skyrocketing.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans had their chance to jump-start the economy. For 4 years they have been cutting taxes for the wealthiest few in the hopes that jobs and higher salaries would trickle down to the middle class. It has not happened.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for a new approach.

SOCIAL SECURITY PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, talk of bipartisanship in legislating real solutions for the American people must have been just that; talk. The 109th Congress commenced just 6 months ago, and some Members on the other side of the aisle are still scheming on how to derail practical solutions for reforming Social Security.

One promising proposal, the creation of personal retirement accounts, has already been taken off the table by the Democrats before genuine debate has even begun. I believe that younger workers should have the opportunity to plan for a higher retirement income than that which the current system would allow. Workers retiring after about 2042 can only expect to receive about 73 percent or less of what they are being promised today.

I hear from my constituents daily about broken promises by our government. Personal accounts are a perfect example of a way we can give the American public control of their hard-earned income and avoid broken promises to its people.

Mr. Speaker, it is only fair to working Americans that we have true debate on Social Security reform before tossing out so-called partisan ideas.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE STAFF SERGEANT JUSTIN LEE VASQUEZ

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

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to pay tribute to and recognize Army Staff Sergeant Justin Lee Vasquez. Sgt. Vasquez was killed in the line of duty while serving his country in Iraq. Justin Vasquez was proud of his service in the Army and willingly wore his country's uniform. We should honor his dedication, courage and leadership.

Each day men and women in the Armed Forces willingly face unknown dangers in the hope to bring peace and prosperity to those in need. We must not forget the individual stories of these soldiers who have served our country with courage and honor.

Justin Vasquez was from Manzanola, Colorado. He played football in high school and loved to hunt and fish with his family. He was known throughout his squadron as being a dedicated leader who always wanted to help other people.

Justin Vasquez was serving his second tour of duty. He was given the option not to return to Iraq. Instead, he returned, because he did not want to leave his men alone.

On Sunday, June 5, 2005, Staff Sergeant Justin Lee Vasquez was killed when his military convoy was attacked.

Justin Vasquez made the ultimate sacrifice by courageously and honorably serving his country. To him it was everything to be a soldier.

My heart goes out to Justin's parents Vicki and Tino, his wife Riley, and his son Justin. The Vasquez family has demonstrated exceptional selflessness and courage in such trying times.

Mr. Speaker, I submit this recognition to the United States House of Representatives in honor of their sacrifice, so that Justin Lee Vasquez may live on in memory.

RECOGNIZING THE SACRIFICE MADE BY LANCE CORPORAL AARON MANKIN

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the sacrifice made by Lance Corporal Aaron Mankin of Rogers, Arkansas. I grew up with Aaron's father Steve, and my children grew up with Aaron. They are a wonderful family.

Last month Aaron, a photographer and writer for the Public Affairs Office at Camp Fallujah, was badly wounded while serving in Iraq. He suffered intense burns and major lung damage when the armored vehicle he was traveling in ran over a land mine in Northern Iraq.

I had been in Fallujah several weeks before, and by chance Aaron saw I was there. He actually showed us around, and I cannot tell you how proud I was of him and how proud he was of being a marine serving his country in Iraq.

Aaron was sent to Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio and placed in the ICU. The damage to his lungs was so extensive that he was placed on a ventilator. He had third-degree burns on his arms and had to have his thumb and two-thirds of his index finger on his right hand amputated.

Aaron's will to persevere is strong though, Mr. Speaker. He is off the ventilator, and he recently took his first steps since the accident. He has told his parents that he is looking forward to rejoining his fellow marines after rehab, and because of the Lord and His blessing, the doctors at Brook Army Medical Center feel positive about his chances of doing that.

Mr. Speaker, at the young age of 23, Aaron has made a tremendous sacrifice for his country. He is a true American hero. I ask my colleagues to keep Aaron and his family in their thoughts and prayers as he continues down the path of recovery.

HOUSE MUST TAKE UP CHEMICAL SECURITY IMMEDIATELY

(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, today the Committee on Homeland Security will hold a hearing on chemical security, something that has been put off for far too long.

It has almost been 4 years since the attacks of September 11 showed us just how determined terrorists are to attack us. In that time the House has taken action to deal with nuclear security, cybersecurity, port security, border security and airline security, just to name a few. But we have yet to deal with chemical security, something that Richard Falkenrath, a former Bush administration official working on homeland security, called "uniquely deadly,

pervasive, and susceptible to terrorist attack.”

Imagine a terrorist blowing up a chemical storage facility and releasing a cloud of toxic gas, threatening the lives of millions of Americans.

The time to act is now, and that is why I have introduced the Chemical Security Act. I am glad the Committee on Homeland Security has started this process, but it cannot stop there. My own committee, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, which has jurisdiction over chemical security, must now follow suit, because the consequences of inaction are just too great.

SUPPORT THE HYDE U.N. REFORM ACT OF 2005

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House will consider a very important bill that aims to institute long overdue United Nations reform. It is tragic that at a time of numerous scandals that have characterized the U.N. over the past decade, we can see that they have been no accidents. Rather, they have been the result of a flawed structure that gives rise to passing the buck at best, and corruption, profiteering and collusion at worst.

The litany of scandals reads like a rogues gallery, everything from sexual misconduct, rape and sex trafficking to embezzlement, fraud and general mismanagement. Other examples include the notorious oil-for-food scandal or the U.N.'s egregious record of the mistreatment of the State of Israel.

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It is clear that at a time when the international landscape is polluted by enemies of freedom who have no interest in world order, the U.N. must seek to distinguish itself by its integrity and leadership, rather than by its misdeeds.

We must save the United Nations from itself. Let us render our strong support for the Henry Hyde United Nations Reform Act of 2005 before us tomorrow.

STRENGTHEN OUR SCHOOLS

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, many of the children with the greatest capacity to learn will not be finishing their school year because they did not have a school year. I am talking about children under 5 who are often left behind because too few States offer universal, voluntary, State-funded, pre-K programs.

Democrats believe every parent who wants to send a young child to pre-K

should have that opportunity, regardless of their income. Democrats are committed, as part of our “Democrats’ New Partnership for America’s Future,” to working with States to establish, expand, or improve high-quality, pre-K programs.

The bottom line is: pre-K works. Children who participate are more likely to excel academically, go to college, and hold a secure job, and less likely to require special education, to have delinquency problems, or slip into welfare dependency.

This is the educational equivalent of preventive health care. As childhood immunizations allow us to avoid debilitating illness, similarly, high-quality pre-K reduces the need for remedial efforts and produces more successful adults.

Like all educational issues, this is fundamentally an economic issue. High-quality pre-K is a desperately needed investment in our children, their future, and our Nation’s economic strength.

Mr. Speaker, our global competitors do not wait until children turn 5 to begin their formal education. Why should we?

AMBASSADOR EVANS DESERVES THE AWARD

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, John Evans, recently received an award from the American Foreign Service Association for constructive dissent that is intended to “foster creativity and intellectual courage within the State Department bureaucracy.”

Last year, the winner was critical of the Iraq war.

Ambassador Evans’ constructive dissent was calling the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians at the hands of the Ottomans in 1915 genocide. Our national policy towards the 1915 events calls it a tragedy, but not genocide.

So Turkey was very upset, as were a number of “very serious people” at the State Department. And this award, intended to encourage dissent, was revoked.

Obviously, the State Department was concerned about upsetting our ally, Turkey, though the facts seem to support the ambassador here. The sad thing is that an award intended to encourage dissent has now reinforced the powers that be. It seems the State Department is okay with dissent from the policy of a Republican President in Iraq, but it opposes dissent from a policy that denies the truth.

So much for intellectual courage.

DEMOCRATS’ EDUCATION AGENDA

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the House Democrats’ positive education agenda, which includes specific steps to promote opportunity by strengthening our schools.

In my home State of California, nearly half of Latino and African American high school students failed to graduate in the year 2002. In Los Angeles, California, the situation is even worse. Just 39 percent of Latinos and 47 percent of African American students graduated from high school.

It is frustrating to see these staggering statistics, while Republicans insist on giving tax cuts to the very wealthy while shortchanging vital education programs. Republicans have failed American students.

The Democratic plan calls for boosting college opportunity, affordability, improving teacher quality, fully funding No Child Left Behind, and expanding pre-school opportunities for our children.

For these reasons, I support the Democratic agenda for a strong and equitable education system for all Americans. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the need to secure our borders has never been greater. Thousands of illegal immigrants are crossing our borders on a daily basis, and every public service is taking a financial hit from illegal immigration. Whether it is education, health care, or law enforcement, our State and local governments are being stretched to the limit.

That is not even the worst of it. Illegal Mexican immigrants are given a 32-page guidebook, paid for and contributed by the Mexican Government, providing tips on how to obtain benefits, avoid arrest, and blend into our society once they have crossed our border.

Recently, a Denver area police officer was shot and killed by an illegal immigrant. That illegal alien had been pulled over and ticketed three times in the previous 7 months by officers who never asked him about his immigration status, even though he had only a Mexican driver’s license and no insurance. The sad thing is that the officers did everything correctly, according to the police manual.

Mr. Speaker, our immigration policies are badly broken. When they get in the way of justice being served, it is time for strong enforcement of our laws and to secure our borders.

TIME TO TAKE STEPS TO BEGIN WITHDRAWING U.S. TROOPS FROM IRAQ

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