

what we had heard and read about. While there may have been some inappropriate interrogation efforts in the past, they are not ongoing, and closing the prison is not one of the things we should pursue."

A Democratic Representative agreed, saying that "the Guantanamo we saw today is not the Guantanamo we heard about a few years ago."

Another Democratic Senator noted the care taken to respect the prisoners' religious beliefs, "they are given Muslim prayer rugs and Korans. There are arrows everywhere pointing them to Mecca. We even witnessed a prayer call announcing to the terrorists that it was time for them to turn to Mecca and pray."

Mr. Speaker, these praises for the Guantanamo Bay facility do not come from its supporters. They all come from Democrats.

It is unacceptable for anyone who has not visited this facility to condemn it and attempt to defame the military personnel who serve there. Comparing the staff with murderers and criminals is worse than hyperbole—it is uninformed, hurtful nonsense!

As one Democratic Senator who visited the camp asked, "Did the Nazis respect the Jewish faith? Did Stalin and Pol Pot practice religious tolerance?" The answer: Absolutely not!

INCREASE THE FUNDING FOR THE VA BUDGET

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

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans started off their 1 minutes today, as the President did last night, by saying it is time to show the troops how much we care. Show them how much we care, except when they come home!

How do we show how much we care?

We have cut the VA budget. The VA budget that was just announced is \$1 billion short this year, \$2.5 billion short next year.

Our troops come back with post-traumatic stress disorder, and can get no services. They come back with dental problems, and have to wait a year for an appointment. That is how much we show how much we support our troops!

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats tried through this whole appropriations process to raise the amount of money for our veterans. I asked for \$3 billion, which would have made up for this shortfall. I was ruled out of order.

Do my colleagues know what is out of order, Mr. Speaker? This administration is out of order. This Congress is out of order.

We have to show that we do support our troops by giving them the support they need when they come home to the veterans health system. We are not doing that today. Let us hope that we can add this money as the appropriations process proceeds.

HONORING THE LITHUANIAN KAIMAS FUND PROJECT

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the co-chair of the Baltic Caucus to commend the work of the Lithuanian Kaimas Fund Project. The project provides children in rural areas of Lithuania with educational opportunities.

In just its third year, the project is having a positive impact on the lives of more than 2,000 young people in more than 60 rural villages across Lithuania. The Kaimas, which stands for countryside, Fund is a private-public partnership between the American Lithuanian Economic Development Council, the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, D.C., and local non-governmental organizations who provide services to young people in Lithuania.

During a 2-week summer program, community centers throughout Lithuania will provide opportunities for youth to participate in educational and athletic activities, including computer training. Because the project is supported by contributions from American donors, the project also demonstrates the generosity of Americans and all the shared values between our two countries.

Most importantly, I would like to encourage the young people and leaders of the community centers who are participating in this program in Lithuania this summer; they are helping to strengthen the special friendship between Lithuania and America. They are also a vital part of the future of the special relationship that our two countries share.

BIG BIRD IS NOT A BILLIONAIRE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last week, we were told that Big Bird was a billionaire and did not need Federal support. Not true on either account.

The Sesame Street Workshop, the nonprofit educational organization, supports children's activities in 120 countries around the world for less than \$100 million a year. Yet, Sesame Street, now in its 36th season, gets only \$17.5 million, about 10 percent of that, from Federal sources.

The Federal money helped make it possible for stations to operate and to buy the programming.

The bottom line is, Big Bird is not a billionaire, and taking away the Federal money, he would still be here, but it would diminish the program and make it harder or impossible for kids to watch him on local, free, non-commercial public television, especially in small cities and rural communities.

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I urge my colleagues to visit their local stations during the summer break and find out the truth about Big Bird.

TEN EUROS FOR THE IRAQI RESISTANCE

(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, extremist groups in Europe are providing financial support to the insurgents in Iraq, and they will be openly gathering later this year on Italian soil to continue their plotting.

Shortly after the commencement of Operation Iraqi Freedom, they began a fund-raising campaign, asking people to donate "ten euros to the Iraq insurgency." The revolting image behind me, dramatizing a violent assault on a U.S. soldier, was taken from the Web site of a group actively supporting the 10-year-old campaign.

It seems to me it conveys accurately the murderous intentions behind this fund-raising initiative. When questioned as to whether the campaign would support terrorism in Iraq, a spokesman for the fund-raising effort said, "We support the armed struggle in Iraq. Our money is to help them. It doesn't matter to us if they use it to buy weapons, Kalashnikovs, or medicines for the people."

The group reportedly sent supplies to the Al Anbar province as recently as February of this year. Now they are notifying comrades of a conference this October in Rome to grow support for insurgents throughout the world.

My colleagues, we hold different opinions about our efforts in Iraq, but we should all stand together in fighting those who support the insurgents, killing Americans and innocent Iraqis.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

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

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, this week I and over 60 of my colleagues will introduce a comprehensive reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. VAWA is set to expire on September 30 of this year, so it is vital that this Congress quickly consider and pass the reauthorization.

Since its passage in 1994, VAWA has been a great success. It has provided over \$5.5 billion in Federal funding to improve our criminal and community responses to domestic violence. But the statistics remain alarming. One in every four women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime. Last year, California law enforcement received 198,000 domestic violence calls, with weapons involved in over 136,000 of those cases.

The reauthorization that we are putting forward this week will go a long

way to stop this troubling reality. And I want to acknowledge particularly the hard work of my colleagues who worked on this bill. It is truly a collaborative effort that includes prevention, not just response. And we must, we must approve reauthorization before the expiration on September 1. It needs to be broad, and it needs to be this bill.

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, this week's Supreme Court decisions have been a mixed bag, and I did not like the eminent domain ruling which, in my view, is contrary to America's great tradition and respect for public property.

Why is it that Americans can be born poor and yet realize the American Dream? It is because Americans can dream and create and own and benefit from their labor.

I was glad to see the Court reinforce private property, at least when it comes to intellectual property. It is so important that our digital marketplace not become a place where anything goes and where pirates and robber barons rule the Information Highway.

As a Member of Congress from Tennessee, I have a great number of constituents, small business owners who write music, create television programming, films, radio content, people who write books and publish them and develop software. The creative community is alive and well and working hard in Tennessee.

I can tell my colleagues that illegal downloading has hurt our songwriters and our performers. And I am not talking about millionaires; I am talking about small business people. They are the backbone of the entertainment industry.

As cochairman of the Congressional Songwriters Caucus, I applaud the Grokster decision and hope that they will promote a fair and digital marketplace.

REMEMBERING INNOCENT LOST DURING SREBRENICA GENOCIDE

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to express my deepest sympathy for the thousands who lost their lives on this, the 10th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide. We should remember all the innocent people who were brutally killed by honoring their lives and remembering their struggle for freedom during the 3-year conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In my district, I have the largest Bosnian population outside of Bosnia. Approximately 35,000 Bosnians reside

in the St. Louis, Missouri, region. Of these, upwards of 5,000 are survivors of the Srebrenica massacre.

As a representative of my Bosnian-American friends in St. Louis, I am proud and honored to be a co-sponsor of House Resolution 199 which passed the House this week. It aptly commemorates those who died, seeks to hold accountable those responsible, and honors those who survived.

It is important for us to remember this stark chapter in history and to learn from it for the benefit of our future generations.

MUCH WORK LEFT IN AFGHANISTAN

(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, last week, the minority leader said that the war in Afghanistan is over. That is news to most people, and even more so to our men and women fighting the remnants of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

The comments were just the latest in a series of comments that show some people still do not get it. Her comments, like many others made recently by leaders of the opposition, demoralize American troops and incite our enemies. And, worse, they discount the great progress that our soldiers have made in the war on terror.

Fifty million people have received freedom and are fighting for the future of their nation in Iraq and Afghanistan. Just a few years ago, 50 million people lived in tyranny in Iraq and Afghanistan, and today they live in the dawn of freedom.

Much work is left, but writing off the efforts of our troops today, the sacrifice being made today, the Democratic leader writes off the quest for freedom and the necessity for us to support it. Why is that so hard to understand?

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, since 1935, Social Security has helped millions of our American families. It has helped them enjoy a secure retirement, and it has never been a day late or a dollar short.

Now, the Members of this body and the administration are pushing a plan that will cut benefits for nearly every American under 35. The administration has said in the past that Social Security is a bunch of IOUs. Now we are hearing that we have a surplus, and we are going to take that surplus and finance private accounts.

Where is the common sense in this? Social Security needs a solid source of funding, not a plan that drains trillions of dollars away from our American

families that need it. We must commit to improving, not dismantling, the Social Security programs.

We can and we must do better. And let no one forget that Social Security covers people with disabilities and those women and men who have become widows and widowers.

APPRECIATION OF NATION'S VOLUNTEER HONOR GUARDS

(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 to express my deep appreciation for our Nation's volunteer honor guards. As the Greatest Generation continues to age, a number of our World War II heroes are passing on. Volunteer honor guards serve as ceremonial guards, flag detail, rifle squads, and pallbearer escorts at many of these funerals.

The men of these honor guards receive no pay for their service. They purchase their own uniforms and provide their own transportation. Many of them are over age 70.

I would like to take a moment to personally thank the 23 men of the Bella Vista Honor Guard who served at my brother's funeral earlier this year. The men of the Bella Vista Honor Guard serve at more than 100 funerals in Benton and Washington counties in the Third District of Arkansas. Sometimes they serve at two funerals a day.

They are so representative of the thousands who volunteer nationwide to ensure that our veterans are given the honor and remembrance they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak on behalf of our entire Nation when I express my gratitude for the dedicated men of America's volunteer honor guards.

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH TO THE NATION

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States misled this Nation to justify his invasion of Iraq. There were no weapons of mass destruction; there were no ties to al Qaeda. Our men and women are now engulfed in a violent quagmire and endless war. There is no strategy, only spin. Last night, in his speech to the Nation, the President shamelessly, in my opinion, invoked the terrible tragedy of September 11 to justify our continued occupation.

Mr. Speaker, the fact that Iraq has become a haven for terrorists is due to this President's failed policy in that country. Our continued massive presence fuels the insurgency and is a magnet for foreign fighters.

It takes no courage for a President or a Congressman to stand up and say "stay the course." It is not our lives