

for the average taxpayer in the country.

It also reduces the U.S. trade deficit by roughly \$34 billion, and this is huge, because what is eating our economy alive is a huge trade deficit at the present time. As we remove ourselves from dependence on foreign oil, which is the main cause of the trade deficit, we begin to see things turn around because of ethanol.

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And as I mentioned earlier, it does significantly reduce air pollution. So we think this is a win-win for the American economy, for the American people; and I urge my colleagues to support the higher level of 8 billion gallons of ethanol that is currently in the Senate version of the energy bill.

REMEMBERING GAYLORD NELSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMAN of New York). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to say goodbye to our former Governor and former Senator, Gaylord Nelson, who passed away at the age of 89 last week. Wisconsin will miss the man from Clear Lake, who embodied the best of our great State and its proud, progressive tradition, as well as the best our country can offer.

Throughout his many years of public service, Senator Nelson worked tirelessly on behalf of the people of Wisconsin, this country, and the environment. He was one of the first to recognize that economic development and the protection of our natural resources are not mutually exclusive.

He was also keenly aware that public opinion was far ahead of public policy in this area and that policymakers needed to catch up to where the American people were. Most importantly, he recognized the value in doing a better job of protecting the land, the water, the air we breathe, and the environment of which we are mere stewards for our children and grandchildren.

In addition, Senator Nelson rightly believed that we have an obligation to work together, all of us as citizens of this planet, to better preserve and protect our natural resources so that we leave the world for our children better off than we found it.

It was his vision that led to the creation of Earth Day in 1970 and a new compact between government and its citizens to enhance the protection and quality of our precious natural resources. Earth Day was then followed by the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and then the passage of the Clean Air and the Clean Water acts.

Thirty-five years later we have taken great strides to improve the environmental stewardship across the entire globe. Earth Day today is celebrated

annually by hundreds of millions of people in more than 180 countries. How many other individuals can claim they created a global movement of such magnitude?

Senator Nelson was also someone who recognized that even with all of the progress we had made, our work is far from finished. Until recently, he remained active in the environmental field and provided guidance to others, including myself, on some of the unfinished work still left to do.

There is no other individual that has had a greater impact on shaping the respect and appreciation we have for our environment today. His contributions are invaluable. We owe him a debt of gratitude that we can repay by continuing his work.

Senator, Governor, Father of Earth Day, a veteran of World War II, friend, these are among the many ways Gaylord Nelson will be remembered. He leaves behind a legacy and a lesson that one person with a vision of change and a mountain of determination can have a profound effect on the direction of our country and of the world.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Carrie Lee and the entire Nelson family. I will never forget during our first campaign, when my wife, Tawni, and I were with Senator Nelson and Carrie Lee up in Clear Lake, Wisconsin. They wowed us with their elegance, their grace, their dignity, and they became our role models of what public service should be all about.

Services this week will be held in Madison and in Clear Lake, Wisconsin. We loved him. We will miss him. And we all can honor him by continuing his unfinished work. May the Good Lord bless and keep the great American patriot Gaylord Nelson.

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.)

WOMEN'S ACTION PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity tonight to address the positive effects which American foreign policy has had on the rights of women throughout the world.

As vice-Chair of the Congressional Women's Caucus and as Chair of the House International Relations Subcommittee on Middle East and Central Asia, I have witnessed U.S. efforts to support women across the globe, especially in post-conflict situations.

The progress is historic. Just ask the survivors of Saddam Hussein's regime

and the Taliban. The Saddam Hussein regime in Iraq indiscriminately slaughtered all Iraqis, but the women were among the most vulnerable.

The notorious Fedayeen beheaded women in public and dumped their severed heads at their families' doorsteps. The regime used widespread rape to extract confessions from detainees. Saddam Hussein's legacy of terror knew no boundaries.

In assessing U.S. contributions to Iraqi women, I look to leaders such as Dr. Khuzai, who served as a member of the Iraqi Governing Council and National Council of Women. After being prisoners in their own country for 35 years, she said, for the Iraqi women, the morale is so high that you cannot understand it unless you go and see. We will be grateful forever.

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to visit Iraq as part of a historic all-female congressional delegation. We met with women from all sectors and all educational backgrounds, and the message we heard from all of these women was very clear: They want a say, they want a role, they want to participate, and they want to have the U.S. help them in getting there.

To achieve this end, the United States is helping Iraqi women reintegrate themselves into Iraqi society and indeed to the outside world. The administration embarked on the Iraqi Women's Democracy Initiative to train Iraqi women in the skills and practices of democratic public life.

It also established the U.S. Iraqi Women's Network, helping to mobilize the private sector in the United States and to link important resources here to critical needs on the ground. Recently, we saw the fruits of our efforts as countless Iraqi women went to the polls.

U.S. efforts have contributed to a significant positive change in the lives of women in Afghanistan. In Afghanistan, the Taliban's brutality and blatant disregard for the lives and well being of the Afghan people was perhaps most clearly evident among half of its population, the women of Afghanistan. Made widows and orphans by the will of the Taliban, they were banned from receiving any education past the age of 8, for which the curriculum was limited to the Taliban's corrupted version of the Koran.

In the year 2000, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization estimated that as few as 3 percent of Afghan girls were receiving primary education. Today, it is thrilling to note that thanks to our U.S. efforts, Afghan women are active participants in their political future. More than 8 million Afghans voted in this country's first-ever presidential election, and 41 percent of them were women.

Hamid Karzai was announced as the official winner; and in his new cabinet appointments, he named three women as ministers. We as a Nation provided political and advocacy training for Afghan women and provided the funds to

support voter registration and the election process.

One Afghan woman casting her ballot said, when you see women here lined up to vote, this is something profound. I never dreamed that this day would come. And through the Middle East Partnership Initiative, the United States is also helping to create campaign schools that provide leadership and organizational training for women seeking political office. With MEPI support, the International Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute conducted the first of these political skills training courses for women from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

MEPI and the Government of Jordan hosted a workshop in Oman on Women in the Law in February of this year. Nearly 90 women from 16 countries in the Middle East and North Africa regions gathered to support the key issues affecting women in the legal profession and to develop plans for future collaboration.

At the end of the conference, MEPI announced that it would support two follow-up activities: The establishment of a regional association for women in the legal profession and a public legal education campaign on women's rights and equality. We must continue to strive forward in the pursuit of equality for women and develop on our own success.

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

SMART SECURITY AND THE LONDON BOMBINGS

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, so much for President Bush's claim that we are fighting the terrorists in Iraq so that we do not have to fight them at home.

The recent tragic terrorist attacks in London disproved that flawed theory. On its very face, the notion that we are fighting the terrorists in Iraq so we do not have to fight them at home is absolutely absurd. For one thing, anyone who thinks the threat of terrorism is not a multipronged threat is kidding

himself or herself. That is why it is called global terrorism in the first place. Because the terrorists have the capacity and the will to strike anywhere any time.

As we strive to prevent terrorism in the Western world, we must not forget the terrorism that takes the lives of innocent Iraqis on a daily basis. And we must not forget the terrorism in Iraq is, for the most part, of our very own creation. Despite claims from the White House, there is simply no evidence to support the idea that the Iraq insurgency had ties to international terrorist organizations like al Qaeda before the United States invaded.

Sure, al Qaeda is doing its best to align the Iraq insurgents now, but would that have happened if the U.S. had not invaded Iraq in 2003? It is clear that the President's notion of taking the fight to the terrorists instead of letting them take the fight to the U.S. is yet another example of the Bush administration twisting public perception to portray the war in Iraq as linked to 9/11.

The truth is that no such link exists. Logic such as this damages our credibility with other nations and hampers our ability to address the truth with facts in the first place. It is clear that the war in Iraq hurts our efforts to combat terrorism in several ways: First, by draining personnel and resources and next by engaging in policies that give the Iraqi people a reason, a legitimate reason for anger aimed at the United States. With the United States appearing as an occupier and with our troops blamed for destroying Iraqi communities and harming innocent people, the Iraqi people are becoming our enemy and many are joining the insurgency.

We have already spent over \$200 billion on this war. And with \$9 billion of this lost by the Coalition Provisional Authority, and worse, nearly 2,000 American soldiers have been killed, and dozens more are being killed by insurgent attacks every single week, while another 15,000 soldiers have been gravely injured and thousands and thousands of innocent Iraqis are gone.

What do we have to show for these devastating losses? What has been accomplished? Very little, I am sad to say. Despite the thousands of deaths and injuries, and the billions of dollars spent, the United States has failed to make Iraq secure. We have failed to stabilize the Middle East.

And as the London bombings demonstrated, we have failed to prevent the terrorists from striking Western cities. The London attacks could have just as easily been New York or Washington, D.C. or San Francisco; so it is not just that we failed in Iraq. This failure has corresponded with failures to secure the U.S. right here at home.

It is time for the United States to begin the process to bring our brave men and women home from Iraq. By beginning this process, we will not only give the Iraqi people the opportunity

to move forward; we will also save the lives of countless American soldiers, and we will free up our resources for protecting Americans right here at home, which is in line with the SMART Security approach.

SMART is a security platform that I have introduced in Congress to provide a Sensible Multilateral American Response to Terrorism. SMART emphasizes homeland security, and instead of aggressively throwing our military weight around the globe, SMART depends on diplomacy and good international relations.

It is clear that the war in Iraq has not made the United States safer, but actually less safe. Ending the war and giving Iraq back to the Iraqi people, who went to the polls to take control of their own country, will be a great first step in preventing future terrorism.

Ending the war will help protect our Nation. We are already 2 years behind time in making this happen, 2 years too late. Let U.S. start catching up. Let the U.S. start now.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMAN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.

HONORING SERGEANT JAMES "TRE" PONDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I fully believe that Americans do understand why we are fighting this war on terrorism, and I think that most men and women are like me, and they stand with our men and women in uniform, who know this Nation faces a terrible, evil, evil enemy. All of us realize that to lose is not an option in this war. This is a war that we must win.

While we understand intellectually, while we know in our hearts the reason for this war, our hearts cannot help but ask, "Why," each and every time that we lose a soldier. With each death, a family, a community and a country mourns, and there is nothing we can say or do to make our hearts understand why this has happened. We can only remember the reason that we fight and honor the cause these men and women fought and died for.

Mr. Speaker, we fight for freedom.

As the beneficiaries of these heroes' sacrifices, we have an awesome obligation. We have a responsibility to be sure that this country does not forget our military men and women, our veterans, or forget the cause that they