

about the impact that this war is having on the civilians in Iraq. Their lives are being destroyed. Their families are being wiped out.

House Joint Resolution 55 sets the stage for bringing our troops home and ending this tragedy in Iraq.

#### EFFECTIVELY FIGHTING TERRORISM

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, though the two parties may disagree on aspects of the war in Iraq, I believe that terrorism is not a partisan issue. Yet minority party Members choose to align themselves solely with political rhetoric and hollow accusations. Instead of joining efforts to enhance America's security, Democrats continue to bring sensationalistic banter to this floor.

Republicans are pushing legislation forward that will improve the effectiveness of and bring more accountability to U.S. foreign assistance around the world and bring democracy even further into the light. It is no secret that terrorist groups continue to recruit and train at a rapid pace. This legislation assists in cutting off the outlets and supplies of terrorist organizations and helps sever their operational channels. We are vigorously closing their doors.

The foreign relations authorization addresses the pressing issues of our day such as U.N. reform, human rights and nuclear proliferation. This legislation authorizes assistance to America's allies and contains measures that continues breaking down elements of repressive foreign governments. As terrorists seek to debase the vision of peace and tear down hope, America will steadfastly provide a beacon of promise and allegiance.

#### CAFTA

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I just heard a quote on the floor of the House of Representatives to send product to Central America or send troops. I have never heard anything more absurd or simplistic in my 9 years here in the House of Representatives. The people of these six countries oppose CAFTA. They say it is unfair. And it really is a corporate-inspired trade deal that hurts working people both in the United States and Central America.

Stop the hemorrhaging of American jobs. Protect American sovereignty. Put some backbone into both sides of the aisle on the independence of the legislative body. CAFTA is not only a spear into the heart of American independence but a heavy blow to the integrity of this House under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

Do we have the backbone to stand for the common good, the basis for the

Judeo-Christian foundation of this Nation? Or do we just invoke these principles when convenient?

#### CAFTA

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

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, the United States is a leader in today's global economy. As countries around the world work and trade together at a rapidly growing pace, we must stay competitive to remain a contender. The Central American Free Trade Agreement will help us do just that.

My home State of Washington is the most trade dependent State in the country. One in three jobs in Washington depends on trade. We must embrace CAFTA and see it as an opportunity to stimulate our economy and be actively involved in a world market. The United States cannot afford to shrink from international trade and establish itself as an isolationist. The absence of our participation will only be seen as an opportunity by competing nations like China. Whether we are prepared to acknowledge it or not, we are in a global economy.

Mr. Speaker, this trade agreement builds America. In establishing an open exchange with the Central American countries, we build our foreign relations. By increasing circulation of goods, we build our economy. And in taking this step forward, we build on the future and the possibility that the entire Western hemisphere will one day be open to free trade. CAFTA looks to the future of our country. I urge my colleagues to support this agreement.

#### SERVICE IN IRAQ

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

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, over the last few days I had the privilege of visiting in the home of John Bocerri. John Bocerri is a young Ohio State representative. He is the husband of Stacy, the father of two young daughters and just 3 days ago brought to his home from the hospital his third child, born 8 pounds, 8 ounces, young Matthew Bocerri.

I was in that home as John gave that young infant into the arms of his young daughters for the very first time. John is a pilot in the Air Reserves flying out of the Youngstown Air Base. He flies the large C-130 transport planes.

On Thursday of this week, tomorrow morning, at 10 o'clock, John Bocerri leaves his wife, leaves his two daughters and his new infant son to go to Iraq for the fourth time. For the fourth time. John Bocerri represents the hundreds, yea, the thousands of young Americans who are serving this country with honor and distinction. It is sad that John Bocerri's children will pay for the cost of this war.

#### DR-CAFTA IMPLEMENTATION LEGISLATION

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement, also known as CAFTA. While CAFTA countries also enjoy duty-free access to U.S. markets for the majority of their products through U.S. trade preference programs, these countries often have high tariff and nontariff barriers for U.S. exports.

Under CAFTA, barriers to U.S. exports in these countries would be drastically reduced. More than 80 percent of U.S. consumer and industrial exports and over half of U.S. farm exports to Central America would become duty-free immediately with the agreement's enactment, and the rest would be phased out over time. CAFTA would also benefit the State of Georgia, which I represent, by providing new market access for our State's products.

CAFTA will also help the U.S. and CAFTA countries compete with China, a growing economic force in the world market. Seventy-one percent of apparel from CAFTA countries currently enters the United States using U.S. yarns and fabrics, while only one-tenth of 1 percent of apparel from China enters the United States using U.S. yarn or fabric.

Mr. Speaker, this body must pass CAFTA and give the United States the same access to the markets in South America that they have to ours.

#### IRAQ AND SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my colleague just before me indicated the crisis that we have in America where a young man is sent off four times to Iraq and not able to see his family.

Well, maybe the young soldier that I buried the other day, Nathaniel Parker, who got liver disease in Iraq and died languishing in one of our military hospitals, or maybe the tragedy of 70 who died after a suicide explosion there are crises that we should be focusing on. Then, of course, our friends on the other side of the aisle want to insist that Americans change their basic infrastructure pension, that is, Social Security. We know that whatever plan they have is going to cut America's benefits. In fact, middle-class Americans will have their benefits cut 40 percent.

Social Security should not be privatized. It can be fixed. It can be extended. Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill did it in 1983.

Women most of all will be hurt. More than 24 million women receive Social

Security. So I say to my colleagues here in the House, the Democrats realize that a faulty plan is no plan on Social Security. A faulty plan on the war is no plan. Let us get together and solve America's problems.

#### EMINENT DOMAIN AND SUPREME COURT

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation I have introduced to protect ordinary American citizens from tax abuse at the hands of our government. I was shocked when the United States Supreme Court ruled last month that governments could take private homes, businesses and churches and turn them over to land developers in the name of tax revenue.

My bill, the Eminent Domain Tax Relief Act, would prevent the government from adding insult to this injury. It would eliminate the capital gains tax that an individual has to pay on the money he receives for his condemned property. Eminent domain abuse on its own is intolerable. But taxing those who lose their property is even more deplorable. There is no excuse for making a person pay capital gains tax on something she did not want to sell in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation says this: No taxation on government condemnation. I ask all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this bill.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY AND CAFTA

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

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, the rhetoric we are hearing from the other side on Social Security and CAFTA is unbelievable. It is unbelievable because it is not factual. What we are proposing to do with Social Security is to stop the raid of the Social Security surplus and give that money to the worker to go toward their Social Security retirement benefit. If it does not stop the raid, then how come the CBO, the Congressional Budget Office, tells us that the deficit goes up by an equal amount? How can they tell us, Congress, you are either going to have to raise taxes, cut spending or borrow somewhere else because they will not get the Social Security benefit because it is going to workers?

On CAFTA, it is a one-way trade agreement we have today. This makes it two-way. They already have free access to the American markets. We do not have equal access to their markets. They already have lower standards on worker rights, on environment. This raises those standards. If we do not pass CAFTA, they get a free deal. We get no deal. They have low labor

rights. If we do pass CAFTA, we not only improve their labor conditions, we improve the enforcement of their labor rights and we give the American worker and the American economy a fair trade deal like we are now giving them.

#### PATRIOT ACT REAUTHORIZATION

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, after 9/11, my fellow lawmakers wanted to make sure that the PATRIOT Act would protect Americans without trampling the civil rights that we cherish in this Nation. Mr. Speaker, today, 4 years later, the verdict is in. The PATRIOT Act works and is helping defeat terrorism. Those of us who thought the threat of terrorism receded can only look at Great Britain to know that this is not the case. Complacency allows waves of terror to come crashing over free nations. The attacks on London show that the war on terror is not over nor is it confined to a specific location. Securing our homeland is only one facet of the war. Spreading democracy in the savage lands where terrorism propagates is another.

The PATRIOT Act gives us enforcement tools that keep America safe. The PATRIOT Act has removed major legal barriers that prevented law enforcement agencies from coordinating their work. It has also allowed law enforcement to use surveillance against terror-related activities and allowed the issuance of nationwide search warrants. The PATRIOT Act is doing exactly what it is supposed to do. We cannot allow these terrorists to gain momentum in this fight.

#### DR-CAFTA

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

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage our colleagues to pass the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement, or DR-CAFTA, when it comes before the House. DR-CAFTA is vital to our Nation's economic competitiveness in today's global marketplace and will serve as an economic engine for driving growth and economic opportunity in the United States and Central America.

In Florida, the Nation's gateway for trade with Central America, we recognize the importance of this regional bloc. The DR-CAFTA countries represent our State's largest export market and the second largest United States market in Latin America. By lowering trade barriers, we can expand this market even further. That is good news for Florida businesses, good news for Florida agricultural products, and good news for Florida workers. The American Farm Bureau estimates that United States exports for agricultural

goods could increase by \$1.5 billion each year.

This agreement has generated thoughtful bipartisan support from various agricultural, textile, business and political groups. Former United States President Carter as well as several key Clinton administration officials support DR-CAFTA. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this crucial trade agreement that will help promote economic growth, political stability and regional security.

#### DR-CAFTA

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by congratulating all of my colleagues who have stood up this morning in strong support of the Central American Free Trade Agreement. We have seen a very long and growing list of individuals here in the House, Democrats and Republicans, and organizations as well, U.S. businesses, large and small, conservatives and liberals, academia, foreign policy experts and prominent Central Americans.

But sometimes it is more telling to look at the opponents of a particular measure. One of the fiercest opponents of DR-CAFTA is Daniel Ortega, the former Nicaraguan Communist dictator responsible for years of violence and oppression. Today he is trying, as he has been for years, to stage a comeback. He is banking a great deal on the effort to defeat DR-CAFTA. Daniel Ortega knows full well that the economic opportunities that DR-CAFTA will bring would improve the quality of life for Nicaraguans, fight corruption through greater transparency, and solidify Nicaragua's commitment to economic and political freedom. For a dictator whose support stems from civil unrest and ability to manipulate Nicaragua's judicial and legislative systems, implementation of DR-CAFTA would be extremely bad news. I urge my colleagues to oppose the Ortega agenda and support DR-CAFTA.

□ 1045

#### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, point of privilege.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The gentleman may state an inquiry.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to respond to the last 1-minute. My request is that the words of the former speaker at the podium, to associate those of us who have been on the front lines of civil rights, both parties, both sides, with Ortega, this character in Central America, is the most ruthless thing I have heard in a long time. I have no association with that character. He belongs in jail, but simply because he has spoken on this, sir, do not associate me or anybody else with him.