

conscience of the Holocaust, who labored heroically for decades to make certain that history will not forget that nightmare nor let its perpetrators escape justice.

He did it, as he said, not just for Holocaust victims like himself, but for his grandchildren, for if one generation's criminals go unpunished, their descendants will conclude that they too can get away with murder.

Simon Wiesenthal was also a personal friend. He inspired my wife, Annette, in her efforts to gain recognition for another giant of righteousness, Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved the lives of tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews during the Nazi era.

Annette and I will miss our visits with Simon Wiesenthal, but he has left us a proud legacy through his vigilance, bravery, and commitment to justice.

REBUILDING THE RIGHT WAY

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

Mr. DELAY. Madam Speaker, last week President Bush spoke to the Nation from Jackson Square, New Orleans about his plans for the relief, recovery, and rebuilding of the gulf coast region and residents.

"There is no way to imagine America without New Orleans," he said. And there is no way to imagine the necessary recovery effort without the leadership and support of the Federal Government. Every dime that has been appropriated and every dime that will be appropriated from the Federal Treasury to the people of the gulf coast has come from the votes of the House of Representatives, and we are honored to have that opportunity.

And with this opportunity, Madam Speaker, comes a great responsibility to make sure that the money comes from and goes to the right places. Committees are already at work developing oversight plans for the Hurricane Katrina relief money, as are inspector general offices across the Federal Government.

Funds will be needed to rescue certain communities in Louisiana and Mississippi and we will have a moral and physical obligation to ensure it gets spent on the right priorities.

But just as important as our duty to ensure the money goes to the right places is our duty to ensure the money comes from the right places. Even before the levees were fixed and the flood waters started to recede, many voices were calling for massive tax increases to pay for the recovery effort.

Of course, most of these voices were calling for massive tax increases long before Katrina ever showed up on the Doppler radar, some since Ronald Reagan first asked Congress to lower them. The so-called Katrina tax hikes are not about Katrina, they are about tax hikes, and will only serve to bal-

loon the oversized, underresponsive energy management system that broke down 3 weeks ago in the wake of the hurricane.

The gulf coast region is today without an economy, without jobs or businesses or investment. Raising taxes will not help create any of those things, but will instead guarantee that the region's economic troubles spread to the rest of the country. We cannot allow that, and the President has already said he will not.

The challenge, then, to both sides of the aisle, is to find a way to pay for the recovery and rebuilding of New Orleans and the rest of the gulf coast without the tax hikes or without wasteful spending that we cannot afford.

WE NEED TO ROLL BACK THE TAX CUTS AND DEVELOP AN EXIT STRATEGY TO GET OUT OF IRAQ

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I want to agree with my good friend from Texas (Mr. DELAY) that we need to do everything we can to avoid any kind of tax hikes.

However, I think all Americans would expect that the top 1 percent of the income earners in this country, who receive most of the benefit from the administration's tax cuts, should have to give up some of their tax cuts in order to relieve the burden on the people in the gulf coast. It is only fair.

America can meet its responsibilities, but we are going to have to roll back those tax breaks that were given to the wealthiest Americans in order to help the least of our brethren.

We can also save money by planning an exit strategy out of Iraq. Wherever I go in my district, people say, get us out of Iraq. Well, it is time for us to have an exit strategy. That is what House Joint Resolution 55 is about, a bipartisan exit strategy.

We can do things to have the resources to take care of people in the gulf. But we first have to get out of the Persian Gulf. And we also have to get out of this thinking that says that tax cuts are somehow the way to economic recovery.

PROGRESS IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, Sunday's elections in Afghanistan are another example of progress in the global war on terrorism.

Millions of Afghans bravely defied terrorists, just as Iraqi voters did in January when they cast their ballots in the first free parliamentary elections in history. They are developing a

civil society which will prevent the spread of terrorism and help protect American families. Due to the strong resolve of President Bush and our troops, a spirit of freedom and democracy are spreading throughout the world.

Libya has terminated its nuclear weapons programs. Lebanon has resumed its democracy with the withdrawal of Syria. Indonesia has had its first free presidential elections. Egypt began multi-candidate elections. Pakistan has strengthened its ability to stop cross-border terrorism, and Kuwait now allows women to vote. Free elections in Ukraine.

Recently, leading terrorists were killed or captured in Algeria, Saudi Arabia, and even here in California. Over 20 years ago, Ronald Reagan advanced the idea of peace through strength. As we now witness the greatest spread of freedom in the history of the world, his vision is reality.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

SUCCESS OF THE TEXAS MEDICAL LIABILITY TRUST

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, just a little over 2 years ago Texas passed a constitutional amendment that allowed for caps on noneconomic damages in medical liability lawsuits. And what has been the experience in Texas over those 2 years?

Well, we have seen insurance and doctors come back to the State. Texas had gone from 17 down to two medical insurance companies, and now they are back up to 12. Not-for-profit hospitals have seen significant increases in the money that they are now able to invest in plants and equipment, money that otherwise would have gone for their self-insurance programs.

And perhaps most importantly, the rates of liability insurance for Texas doctors has come down. Texas Medical Liability Trust has reduced rates three times since the passage of House bill 4 and proposition 12, 12 percent in 2004, 5 percent in 2005, and now a recently announced 5 percent decrease in 2006, and, coupled with that, a 5 percent dividend rebate. So that now there is a total of 27 percent insurance savings for Texas doctors in medical liability.

Speaking to physicians of the Texas Medical Association just last weekend, Dr. Dennis Factor said, "Access to health care and the malpractice environment in Texas has made a healthy recovery since the Texas legislature passed medical liability reform."

I urge this body to take it up and get it done.

AMERICAN SPIRIT

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, heroes come in every shape and form. Some teach in our classrooms, some defend our freedoms overseas, and on 9/11 our heroes were the ones who wore the insignia of the fire and police departments of New York City on their uniforms.

And again today, our heroes in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina are numerous. Some are doctors and nurses who have saved lives, others are National Guardsmen and women who rescued people from rooftops and elsewhere. But most are those that you will not read about in the newspaper: Americans committing random acts of kindness when help is needed.

People are opening their homes, donating clothing, and enrolling evacuated children into schools in their communities. In Georgia we have nearly 10,000 children who have been enrolled in our schools. We have set up shelters, held telethons, and opened megacenters to serve as a one-stop-shop for evacuees, all to help them put their lives back together.

You name it, and the residents of Georgia are stepping up to the challenge and helping out wherever they can.

Madam Speaker, we will overcome this tragedy and we will do it one day at a time and one life at a time. That is truly the American way and the American spirit.

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THE AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, The American Gold Star Mothers Group was incorporated in 1929. On June 23 of 1936, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued a proclamation designating the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mothers Day. To this very day, Madam Speaker, Gold Star Mothers Day is the last Sunday in September. Unfortunately, over the last several years Americans have forgotten about that.

So at the request of some of my constituents, I introduced a resolution. It is being sponsored in the Senate by Senator TOM COBURN from Oklahoma encouraging all Americans to recognize this very important day.

The Gold Star Mothers is a group that no one joins voluntarily. You must have lost a son or a daughter in combat to become a member of the Gold Star Mothers Association.

This resolution is important, and we will vote on it tomorrow. I currently have over 200 co-sponsors, and I would encourage other Members to join. The dedications and triumphs of the Gold Star Mothers stem from a shared bond. As they describe it, and I close: "The success of our organization continues

because of the bond of mutual love, sympathy and support of the many loyal, capable and patriotic mothers who while sharing their grief and their pride have channeled their time, efforts and gifts into lessening the pain of others. We stand tall and proud by honoring our children, assisting our veterans, supporting our Nation and healing with each other."

ACCOUNTABILITY IN FEDERAL DISASTER RELIEF

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, like so many of my constituents, I have been extremely saddened by the devastation inflicted by Hurricane Katrina. To date I have supported the \$10.5 billion in aid and voted for several bills to help ease the strain of this difficult time.

It is understandable that some have questioned my vote against the \$51.8 billion relief supplemental. I believe taxpayer money should be spent wisely. My concern is that huge sums of money are being spent with little assurance the money is really helping those in need. Some estimate the Federal Government will be asked to spend as much as \$200 billion on relief. But my support depends on tight controls and accountability measures. That is why I voted the way I did.

It is also why I have co-sponsored legislation to create a chief financial officer for the Federal Government's Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Without this level of oversight and accountability, we will waste precious tax dollars, and every dollar wasted is a dollar that is not going to assist a displaced family in need. We also need to examine what the role of Federal Government should be in disaster relief. I will continue to support measured, commonsense solutions, but I will not support out-of-control Federal spending without proper oversight. We will not help the people affected by this storm by wasting taxpayers' money.

SONGWRITERS CAUCUS

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, today I am welcoming many of my constituents who are songwriters to the Hill to perform for tonight's Songwriters Caucus event. While they are with us today and tomorrow, they are taking the opportunity to call on Members of Congress to remind them that protecting the intellectual property of our Nation's creative community is the same as protecting the private property of our citizens.

These songwriters are on the front-line in building a knowledge-based economy in our country that is recognized and acknowledged by other na-

tions and trading partners around the world. We salute their commitment to growing and invigorating the free enterprise system and by doing it so pleasantly, always with a song.

THE GOLDEN RULE

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I come today to say to the people of South Carolina, most especially the people of Columbia and the midlands, how much I appreciate the tremendous outpouring of love and respect they have given to the victims of Katrina. I want to say a special thank you to Mayor Bob Coble of Columbia, businessman Sam Tannenbaum of Columbia, and the Columbia chamber president, Ike McLeese.

These three dynamic gentlemen coordinated an effort in Columbia to receive evacuees that I would like to call a practical application of the Golden Rule. They decided that they would not put anyone in shelters. Anyone coming to Columbia would go to a home or to a private motel room. We have just been informed that we can expect more evacuees coming to Columbia tomorrow morning.

I want to say those who have volunteered to man the One Stop Center to please continue to practice the Golden Rule.

HONORING AFGHANI WOMEN

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my solidarity with the courageous women of Afghanistan.

This past weekend, Afghani women once again made history as their country held their second round of free and fair elections to select a national parliament and provincial assemblies.

Despite threats of retaliation and retribution, 580 women stood for election. These 580 women have risen up to be leaders of their land, in a country that just 4 years ago prohibited women from participating in national life.

Just as significant, many men for the first time voted to support female candidates. While skeptics on the left and in the media said it could not be done, this is an unmistakable victory for forces of democracy in our battle against tyranny and oppression.

The Afghan election demonstrates that we have learned the lessons of history: if women are not allowed to participate in the decision-making process, if women are deprived of rights to run for elective office, and if women are barred from determining their own future, then those women will suffer oppression and human rights violations.