

even build levees that can withstand a category 3 hurricane; we do not have new energy efficient forms of transportation which puts us in enthralled to the Saudis and other enemies of the United States, and the President wants to borrow \$1 trillion to go to Mars; and NASA, which was mentioned just previously, is going to spend \$100 billion to go back to the moon. They want to get some more dust and rocks.

Well, how about we cut those programs and devote that money, the \$100 billion to go back to the moon. That would pay for Katrina, according to the numbers previously given, and the \$1 trillion would pay for that and a lot of other things in America if we did not go to Mars. I do not think we can afford that now. Until maybe we can build levees that can withstand a category 4 and maybe even a category 5 hurricane, and we do a few things about the areas in the Pacific northwest that are not earthquake proof, and other preventive measures around the country. But, hey, maybe people do not want to cut NASA because it is based in Texas.

So, okay. How about then the redundant, useless Cold War fighter called the F-22, which is now 5 times over its original cost estimates and is not needed. That would pay for Katrina relief 3½ times over, and we could depend upon the F-16 until the joint strike fighter, a little more economical version of a fighter plane, is developed for future enemies and wars, but I am sure they would not want to do that. Well, okay. We cannot cut that.

Well, let us talk about something else. How about subsidies to farms where farmers earn over \$100,000 a year. I really do not have very many farmers in my State who earn over \$100,000 and, guess what, most of the farmers in my State could not get subsidies. But those farmers in the midwest who earn over \$100,000 a year in the northern Midwest get very substantial subsidies under the Freedom to Farm Act. If we limited farm subsidies to farmers and families on family farms who earn less than \$100,000 a year, in 10 years, we could pay for 1½ Katrinas.

So, instead of cutting the medicaid program, putting the burden on the States and depriving poor people of health care, instead of cutting food stamps, instead of cutting education programs that are important to average Americans, instead of stupid, across-the-board cuts that cut abysmally wasteful programs the same as essential programs, that is how we got in trouble with FEMA, they are cutting an essential program, we could do a few different things. But that would mean maybe a little rethinking on that side of the aisle. Ask the wealthy to carry their fair share of the burden, eliminate the redundant return to the moon, put off the mission to Mars, cancel a Cold War-era fighter designed to have air superiority versus the Soviet Union in Europe, and/or, maybe just cut back on subsidies for farmers who

earn over \$100,000 a year. That would more than pay for Katrina.

If we do all of those things, that would be 15 times what we need to pay for Katrina, and then we could begin to reinvest in FEMA, education and health care, and things that are essential to all Americans, and maybe even veterans' benefits too.

MADD CELEBRATES SILVER ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, William Murphy had everything going for him. He had a beautiful bride, three young children, and he was about to embark on a new chapter in his life. On June 16, 2005, all his dreams came to a crashing halt on a hot, humid, summer night in Dayton, Texas.

Mr. Murphy had spent the evening celebrating with his family. He was scheduled to graduate as a medical assistant from the Texas School of Business the next day. On his way home from his mother's house in Baytown, Texas 10 miles away, his car stalled on a darkened stretch of rural State highway 146. He and his sister pushed the car to the shoulder and turned on the flashers. His 9-month-old twin daughters, Mariah and Miranda, remained strapped in the car seats and his wife Amanda cared for the 19-month-old William, Jr. They then waited for assistance.

Soon after, Murphy saw a set of bright headlights heading toward the family. He was relieved because he assumed his mother, whom he had just called when the car stalled, was on her way. But this pickup truck barreling toward his family was not his mother and it was not stopping. Seconds before the impact he attempted to warn his family, but it was too late. He witnessed the destruction of his family that night. The truck never stopped, never slowed down, and crashed into the back of Murphy's vehicle.

Murphy's vehicle was pushed a quarter of a mile down the road. When he got to his vehicle, the trunk was smashed into the back seat. He struggled to get his twin daughters from the wreckage. He found his wife laying in the grass unconscious and his son's barely breathing body 5 feet away.

The driver of the truck stumbled out of the vehicle and it was clear he had been drinking. He failed a sobriety test and he was charged with three counts of intoxication manslaughter. Murphy's twin daughters were killed that night. So was his son. His wife and sister were badly injured. Mr. MURPHY is still struggling with the assault on his family and the death of all of his children.

Unfortunately, this story is all too familiar to the many families that have been affected by drunk drivers. Mothers Against Drunk Driving, or

MADD as we know them, is working to prevent this sort of senseless crime. MADD's mission is to find effective solutions to drunk driving and underage drinking problems, while supporting and helping those who have been affected by the pain of these senseless crimes. Founded by a small group of California women in 1980 after a 13-year-old girl was killed by a hit-and-run repeat offender, MADD has saved more than 300,000 lives through their outreach and education programs.

Mr. Speaker, as founder of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, I have worked closely with many members of MADD this year in the effort to protect the rights of crime victims and protect money in the Victims of Crime Act.

The National Conference of MADD is here in D.C. this week celebrating their silver anniversary and continuing their fight against drunk driving and their mission to hold drunk drivers accountable for their crimes. There are hundreds of MADD staff, volunteers, board members, and past presidents coming from all across the Nation and as far away as Guam to take part in this conference. These people coming to town are kids, mothers, daughters, fathers, victims, and survivors who have been affected by drunk driving.

I would like to commend them for their work on behalf of victims and their cause-driven efforts to stop drunk driving and the drunk driving epidemic. Thanks to the support of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, our roads and highways and children, friends, and family are safer today. Due to their efforts, alcohol-related traffic deaths have declined.

Mr. Speaker, in the 1950s, when I was a little kid, my grandfather worked for the Texas Highway Department. In the middle of the day while laying asphalt on what is now interstate 35 between Dallas and Austin, Texas, he was struck and killed by a drunk driver. The driver was never punished because he was some big shot from Dallas. My grandmother became a widow and never quite got over the loss of my grandfather. She spent the rest of her life supporting herself by working in a department store selling dresses until she was required to quit at the age of 75. My grandmother died only a couple of years ago in her robust 90s, but she often mentioned until her death how she missed my grandfather.

In those days there was no MADD organization. But thanks to MADD, the public attitude and the acceptance of drinking and driving has changed dramatically.

Mr. Speaker, there are few tragedies that bring as much pain to families and communities as these violent crimes caused by drunk drivers. This pain is made even worse when our community's young people are injured and involved. As a criminal court judge in Texas, I saw firsthand what the effects of drunk driving do to a family and to our communities. This is one of the

many reasons I support the efforts of MADD and I encourage MADD to continue their good fight. I admire the women who started MADD and those countless women who are still working.

It reminds me of one of the statements my grandmother made many years ago. She said, "There is nothing more powerful than a woman who has made up her mind." Mr. Speaker, that is just the way it is.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-238) on the resolution (H. Res. 468) waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. J. Res. 68, CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-239) on the resolution (H. Res. 469) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H. J. Res. 68) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes; for consideration of motions to suspend the rules; and addressing a motion to proceed under section 2908 of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3824, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY ACT OF 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-240) on the resolution (H. Res. 470) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3824) to amend and reauthorize the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide greater results conserving and recovering listed species, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio 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 gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

IRAQ AND THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S GREED

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, for the last 2 years, Halliburton and subsidiaries such as Kellogg, Brown, and Root, have received billions of dollars in contracts to rebuild Iraq. Despite the handsome profits, Halliburton, which used to be run by the Vice President, DICK CHENEY, has not had to offer competitive bids on the vast majority of these projects. Earlier this week a Halliburton subsidiary received yet another no-bid contract for reconstruction efforts.

This should not come as a surprise to anyone, anyone who has monitored the greed, the selfishness, the sheer corruption with which the Bush administration has administered Iraq's reconstruction. Only this time, the contract was not for Iraq, it was for hurricane relief and reconstruction efforts here in the United States. Finally, the chickens have come to roost.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues might recall that Halliburton is the company that overcharged the United States Government for meals served to soldiers serving in Iraq. It is also the company that made the United States Government pay a ridiculous markup on gasoline purchased from nearby Kuwait. Unfortunately, the Bush administration did not seem to mind. Halliburton's corruption certainly did not stop the White House from turning to them yet again as its primary source for no-bid government contracts in the Gulf.

But the sad truth is, these examples of corruption and incompetence are not just isolated to Halliburton. They are emblematic of the Bush administration itself.

This is the administration that promised over \$9 billion in missing funds that was supposed to pay for Iraq's reconstruction. This is the administration that, for over a year, neglected to provide the lifesaving protective body armor that our troops needed to survive. These examples are not isolated. No, they are indicative of how the Bush administration has approached both the war in Iraq and the recent hurricane devastation in the gulf coast.

The sheer ineptitude surrounding the war in Iraq has been the most staggering of all. The Bush administration had no plan for how to conduct the war, they had no plan for securing the country once Saddam was deposed, and

now they have no plan for ending the war.

It is clear that the military situation in Iraq is not improving. In fact, it is the very presence of nearly 150,000 U.S. soldiers who appear as occupiers that so enrages Iraq's insurgency.

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By bringing our troops home, we can save both American and Iraqi lives, and we can reunite thousands of American families in the process. That is why I have called on the House Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on International Relations to hold hearings to address how best to achieve a military disengagement. Since they will not address this issue, we will.

Two weeks ago, I held an informal bipartisan hearing to address how to end the war in Iraq. Not when, but how. We heard from an expert panel of witnesses who each testified that the need for a change in U.S. policy is absolute in Iraq. This is not about finding the one right approach. It is about getting the conversation started. It is about putting all the ideas on the table.

Mr. Speaker, my hope is that last week's hearing will help begin a discussion that we desperately need, one that is long overdue, one that will help save lives, how to end the war in Iraq, and how to bring our troops home.

CALL FOR PEACE IN ETHIOPIA

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss democracy and elections in Ethiopia. As this country has been a close ally of the United States in the war on terror, it is critical that we encourage their evolution from monarchy to communism to democracy.

I used to live in Ethiopia as a child, and I lived there when Haile Selassie was the emperor. And even under a monarchy, Ethiopia had a lot of good things going for it. And as they have always been an ally of ours, strangely, we often forget them.

Ethiopia is divided into nine states along linguistic and ethnic lines. It is a 3,000-year-old civilization which until the 1970s was under a monarchy, and then a brutal Marxist junta through him over. Civil war and famines racked the country in the 1980s. Calm finally began to return in 1991 when Meles Zenawi, who assisted in the overthrow of the junta, became president and finally prime minister 4 years later.

Since that time, Ethiopia has participated in a total of three elections. That is three elections in a 3,000-year history.

This past spring, Ethiopia held their second election since the introduction of multiparty politics and the first under international scrutiny. Thirty-five political parties vied for seats in