

would result in an acceleration of care during the next 15 years.

Dr. Douglas' appeals to the international community were designed to "sustain the harmonized partnership" and expand care and the dissemination of information, he explained.

"By 2010, we are hoping that our health and social system would form the basis of an improved and integrated network of services, from prevention, diagnosis and treatment to care and support," he added. "The main issue is how we can we sustain the services that we have put in place to prevent and manage the disease. That is a concern."

A major hurdle in the Caribbean centers on "the issue of prevention," he pointed out. "We have not been able to scale back the number of new cases that are occurring in the Caribbean region," he said. "While we have been able to manage those who have the disease in terms of providing the necessary anti-retroviral drugs we have not succeeded on the issue of prevention. We believe that if we are to scale back the prevalence we must be able to prevent its spread."

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS FROM WEST PHILADELPHIA HIGH SCHOOL'S ACADEMY OF AUTOMOTIVE AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING FOR THEIR SECOND CONSECUTIVE CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE TOUR DE SOL

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the West Philadelphia High School's Academy for Automotive and Mechanical Engineering for winning their second Tour de Sol Championship.

The National 2006 Tour de Sol, a nationwide competition, allows students and entrepreneurs to showcase their efforts to design vehicles that approach zero climate change emissions and reduce oil use. The Tour de Sol highlights the largest innovations in alternative-energy technology and advanced fuel vehicles, showcasing the future of the clean-energy and transportation industries. The cars are put through rigorous tests to assess emissions, fuel economy, and other technical standards.

The Tour de Sol provides a key platform for vehicle manufacturers, students, and entrepreneurs to demonstrate future designs and current products that aim to reduce oil use and climate change emissions to near zero. This year, over 50 teams from all over the world participated in the Tour de Sol Championship, which began in 1989. The competition aims to inspire students and businesses to design, build, showcase, and use concept vehicles that push the envelope and work toward the ultimate goal of the event.

The winner of the coveted "Student Hybrid and Alternative Fuel Division" was awarded to one of the only high school teams to enter the competition, West Philadelphia High School's Academy for Automotive and Mechanical Engineering, for their Hybrid biodiesel electric car called The Attack. The team beat university and private teams from around the country for developing a vehicle that demonstrates high energy efficiency. The Attack ran the equivalent of 50 miles per gallon of gasoline.

I salute the students, faculty and team sponsors who worked tirelessly over the past 2 years to construct a hybrid vehicle that efficiently uses gas to create a cleaner environment. I applaud their efforts and congratulate them on a winning design that makes all Philadelphians proud.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RENEWABLE FUELS AND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE PROMOTION ACT

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, today, my colleague EARL POMEROY of North Dakota and I are introducing the Renewable Fuels and Energy Independence Promotion Act. We are joined by a bipartisan group of original cosponsors, a complete list of which follows this statement.

Rising fuel prices have again focused the public's attention on our nation's energy situation. Gas is at or near \$3 a gallon across the country. We are importing over 60% of the oil we use, and this number is expected to grow to over 70% by 2025. In addition to our own increased domestic demand for energy, there is instability in oil-producing areas of the world, and demand for petroleum from China and India will continue to apply upward pressures on the price of oil.

Perhaps the one point in the energy debate that garners agreement from both sides of the aisle is that federal policy should strive to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. And though there may be ideological differences about how to achieve this end, there is broad, bipartisan consensus that domestically produced renewable fuels must play an integral role in a plan to promote energy independence.

Consistent with this common sense premise, we are introducing the Renewable Fuels and Energy Independence Promotion Act. This legislation will provide a permanent extension of the Tax Code's primary renewable fuels tax incentives for ethanol and biodiesel. The idea is to provide a single legislative vehicle for members to show their support of renewable tax incentives and to support a policy that sees a public good in reducing our dependence on foreign oil by boosting our energy independence.

If renewable fuels are to displace significant amounts of petroleum as transportation fuel, we must take bold, aggressive steps to achieve this end. History has demonstrated that the federal ethanol tax incentive has accomplished exactly what it is designed to do—promote the production and use of alcohol fuels. The numbers don't lie:

According to the Renewable Fuels Association, the United States produced 175 gallons of alcohol fuels in the year 1980. Today, we have an industry with a 4.817 billion gallon production capacity, and another 2.122 billion gallons of production capacity is currently under construction.

These numbers prove the tax incentive is working. Previous Congresses and Presidents—both Republican and Democrat—have recognized the benefits from replacing petroleum products with domestically produced re-

newable fuels. Long-term, consistent, and bipartisan support of ethanol tax incentives have yielded positive results that are helping reduce our dependence on foreign oil. As production increases and new technologies—such as cellulosic ethanol production—are perfected, renewable fuels will play an even greater role in our economy. History has shown us that the tax incentive works, and a long-term commitment to a federal policy that supports renewable fuels will help provide stability and promote growth for those working to expand the use of ethanol in the United States.

Congress should also strongly support efforts to promote biodiesel. Biodiesel is a clean-burning, renewable fuel that can be produced from a variety of feedstocks, including soybeans. It can be blended with diesel fuel and burned in conventional diesel engines without modification to the engine.

From a policy perspective, biodiesel shares many of the positive characteristics of ethanol. It is environmentally friendly and produced from renewable sources. Its production helps promote economic growth and opportunities in value-added agriculture. And most importantly, expanded use of biodiesel will help make America more energy independent by displacing petroleum products with a renewable fuel source.

Though there are distinct differences between biodiesel and ethanol, the situation facing the biodiesel industry today resembles the challenges facing ethanol industry upon its inception. I think we can replicate ethanol's success with biodiesel. If federal policy can increase demand and spur the development of the infrastructure required to utilize biodiesel, the nation as a whole will reap the benefits.

The current tax incentive took effect in 2005, and is currently set to expire after 2008. And though things are going well for the industry, and the market is beginning to embrace the fuel, there is more work that must be done. Federal policy should create an atmosphere that rewards entrepreneurs for investing their time and resources to build the production facilities and distribution systems needed to bring biodiesel to market. Providing certainty to the markets and to the industry will help further this progress, and federal policy can help provide this certainty through a long-term extension of the biodiesel tax incentive.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting a strong federal commitment to the development of renewable fuels.

Original Cosponsors, Renewable Fuels and Energy Independence Promotion Act: Pomery, Nussle, Peterson, Shimkus, Terry, Boswell, Osborne, Emanuel, Moran (KS), Salazar, Moore (KS), and Herseeth.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on June 19, 2006 on the House floor. I take responsibility to vote very seriously and would like my intentions included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 289 for H.R. 5540, which designates the facility of the United States Postal

Service located at 217 Southeast 2nd Street in Dimmitt, Texas, as the Sergeant Jacob Dan Dones Post Office; "yea" on rollcall 290 for H.R. 5504, which designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6029 Broadmoor Street in Mission, Kansas, as the Larry Winn, Jr. Post Office Building; and "yea" on rollcall 291 for H. Res. 826, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Youth Sports Week should be established.

STAY THE COURSE? WHAT COURSE?

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to enter into the record a column by Eugene Robinson entitled *Stay the Course? What Course?* appearing in *The Washington Post* Friday, June 16, 2006.

Mr. Robinson asks this question more than 3 years after the preemptive invasion of Iraq on false pretenses. I too ask this question as do many of my fellow Americans and my Democratic colleagues in the House of Representatives. The President and House Republican leadership have no answer as the so-called "debate" on the Global War on Terror on June 15th in the House proved.

For 10 long hours, those who listened to the speeches from the Republicans from the floor of the House heard unrelenting propaganda with 1983 bomb attacks, the 1988 bombing over Lockerbie Scotland, the first attack on the World Trade Towers, the bombing of the United States embassies in Africa, and over and over again the about the terror attacks by al-Qaeda on 9/11.

Not only was a plan for an end of the Iraq war not mentioned all cited these attacks which were cited had nothing to do with Iraq. They had not even a de minimus connection with Iraq or even with the present situation in which we find ourselves. These reminders of past acts of al-Qaeda were merely a piling on of the non-existent connection between al-Qaeda and Iraq. So, instead of a plan for bringing our soldiers home from Iraq, the Republicans continued in their unrelenting propaganda answering no genuine questions the American people want answered.

I am tired of hearing about "free democratic elections" in Iraq and the school houses our troops have painted. We did not go to war to set up free elections in Iraq. I am also tired of hearing how grateful our gravely wounded troops are to have had their legs blown off for the freedom of our country. Republicans should be embarrassed to repeat those stories.

Those are not good stories. I wanted to hear the Republican plan to make sure no one else has to lose their legs and their arms and their sight for my "freedom." My freedom is threatened by the PATRIOT Act and a President who believes he can violate the Fourth Amendment at will. My freedom was never threatened by Saddam Hussein.

I am also hearing from the party of the endless war in Iraq that the Democrats have no

plan. The Democrats made it clear yesterday in our statements last week that the House Democrats' plan is the Murtha Resolution. It was also made clear that the Republicans are afraid to hear a Democratic plan by the Republican majority voting for a Rule for the "debate" that did not allow any amendments to the Resolution by the Democrats. The Republican Leadership made this the Rule for the "debate and pushed it through ignoring the democracy they so applaud when the Iraqis show any faint signs of achieving it.

Eugene Robinson wrote in the Post: "Fresh from his triumphal visit to Baghdad—a place so dangerous he had to sneak in without even telling the Iraq prime minister—George W. Bush is full of new resolve to stay the course in his open-ended 'war on terror. That leaves the rest of us to wonder, in sadness and frustration, just what that course might be and where on earth it can possibly lead."

Thirty-seven months since the President declared the "end of major combat" in Iraq he has given the American people platitudes, rhetoric, slogans, or worse, fear of an "evil ideology" and "evil doers." But he has given us no real plan, not even a hint of a plan for the conduct of the war, the reconstruction of the Iraq, the plan to begin the withdrawal of American troops or the metrics by which we can define "victory" in Iraq.

George W. Bush wanted to be a "war president" and whatever acts and whatever lies it took, he became a war president. Now it is apparent he will stay a war president no matter what the American people want. He plainly said the next president would have to find an exit plan so our men and women can finally come home from Iraq.

But Bush's war and his need to be a war president have serious consequences. Some of these are pointed out by Eugene Robinson; "Three desperate suicides at Guantánamo is answered by Rear Adm. Harry Harris's all-about-me lament—"I believe this . . . was an act of asymmetrical warfare waged against us." He wrote: "This is a 'war' in which the United States drops two 500-pound bombs with the express intent of assassinating Abu Musab al Zarqawi the leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq, a group that wouldn't have existed if Bush hadn't decided to invade." If Iraqi civilians are killed in a bomb attack such as the one on the Zarqawi safe house we did not say we were sorry about those civilians. Zarqawi was a "high value target." We said we are sorry that a "few bad apples" did bad things at Abu Ghraib prison. Or pardon us if a few soldiers killed civilians in cold blood, but after all we are at war.

Mr. Robinson wrote that if the Iraqi government does pardon Iraqis who have killed Americans we will have taught them well. "They'll be saying 'pardon me' just like their American tutors."

Mr. Robinson reminds us that the jihadists of today were forged fighting Russians in Afghanistan. The next generation are being forged today fighting Americans in Iraq. He also reminds us that Iraq is just one theater in Bush's war. He writes: "Afghanistan is once again 'ablaze' with counterattacks by Taliban."

Mr. Robinson is right: "American's popularity in the world continues to fall. But George W. Bush forges ahead, trying vainly to kill a poisonous retrograde ideology with bullets and

bombs. His 'war' is self-perpetuating, and no one even knows what victory would look like. Long after he's gone, we'll still be looking for a way to end the mess he began."

EXPLANATION OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 19, I was in California attending my son's graduation from high school. I arranged ahead of time to be granted an official leave of absence from the House on Monday, June 19th. Through a misunderstanding, I was granted a leave for the entire week. I want the House to know that I am present and voting on Tuesday, June 20th and the balance of the week.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on Keeping the Flame of Hope Alive.

Throughout their long and daunting journey from oppression and persecution to asylum and protection, and eventually to a place they can call home, refugees show incredible strength, courage and determination. Their journey is a dangerous and arduous one and every day spent in exile is a day too long.

But in every step of their journey refugees carry with them an unshakable, unrelenting hope. By hanging on to their hopes for basic survival, sustenance and protection, and for the chance to one day rebuild their lives, refugees defy all odds. The U.N. Refugee Agency must continue to be impressed by the tenacious hopefulness of refugees which, in turn, motivates us to leave no stone unturned in the fulfillment of our mandate, to protect them and to find durable solutions to their plight.

On World Refugee Day, we ask you to remember the millions of refugees under U.N. care who are trying to pick up the pieces of once-peaceful lives. As different as they are from each other, one thing connects them all: hope for a better future and a chance to restore lasting peace to their lives.

Help us keep that flame of hope alive!

Latest Statistics: 20.8 million

Latest statistics indicate that of the 20.8 million people of concern:

8.4 million are refugees who have fled their countries due to civil wars and ethnic, tribal and religious violence and who cannot return home

6.6 million are internally displaced persons—people forced to flee their homes, but who have not crossed a border

2.4 million are stateless people

1.6 million are returnees

773,000 are asylum seekers

960,000 are others of concern