

and the landing field no longer simulates an aircraft carrier, not to mention the unbearable noise. And so the Navy is correct in its decision to construct an outlying landing field, but it needs to be in a different location. Our Navy pilots need and deserve a suitable landing field to practice their landings, but the decision to place this field in the middle of a wildlife refuge is ill conceived.

Mr. Speaker, the citizens of Washington County have challenged the Navy in the Federal courts, and they have won. The District Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit decided that environmental impact statements submitted by the Navy are flawed. They do not fully disclose the environmental or safety concerns about the 31,000 annual aircraft landings amid the 20,000 tundra swans and the 65,000 snow geese which winter nearby at the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge.

The citizens of Washington County are determined to prevent this landing field from being constructed in their community. This site puts our navy pilots and our navy aircraft and the community at risk. There are better and safer alternatives, and it is the duty of the Navy to fully explore these possibilities.

Despite the Federal Court order, and despite the language in the 2006 Military Construction Appropriations bill directing the Navy to look at alternative sites, the Navy's Chief of Naval Operations recently admitted during a House Appropriations Subcommittee hearing that the Navy's focus is to make the preferred site work rather than considering other alternatives.

The Navy has failed to fulfill its obligation to engage in a clear, full, fair and objective process carried out in the light of day. This is a \$186 million taxpayer funded project that seeks to remove about 30,000 acres of farmland from the private hands of about 75 families, and we are determined to continue to persuade the Navy to explore alternatives.

North Carolina, Mr. Speaker, has a long and proud history of supporting the Navy, and I certainly want to be a part of continuing that tradition. Our Governor, the Honorable Mike Easley, has diligently worked with the Navy in an effort to find an alternative site, and other Members of Congress from North Carolina have also offered to find a site. I trust that the U.S. Navy will respect the people of Washington County, respect the environment that we all treasure, and respect the rule of law. That landing field, Mr. Speaker, needs to be constructed at one of the alternative sites in eastern North Carolina and not in Washington County.

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear

hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINONA STATE UNIVERSITY WARRIORS

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the Winona State University Warriors. They won the NCAA Division II Men's Basketball National Championship last weekend.

Winona State is famous for many things, but this historic win is the first major championship for Winona State and a milestone for WSU athletics. On behalf of basketball fans across southern Minnesota, I congratulate the players, coaches, fans and everyone who helped make this season so special.

Permit me to congratulate Coach Mike Leaf and his staff on an outstanding season. His squad finished with a record of 34-2, winning 22 consecutive games to close out the year. Coach Leaf was named the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference's Coach of the Year for his efforts.

The warriors, like all champions, won as a team, but they were led by a couple of outstanding players. David Zellman, a senior from Lewiston, Minnesota, ended his college career in style. He led the team in scoring with 26 points in the championship game, including seven three-point baskets. Sophomore John Smith of Johnsbury, Illinois, led the Warriors defensively and was named the NCAA Division II Elite Eight Tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

I congratulate family, friends, and fans of the team. Two busloads of Warrior supporters made the 22-hour trip to the championship game and cheered the team on to victory. They were joined by hundreds of other Warrior fans, alumni and family members of the Warrior athletes who made their own way to the game. And thousands, like myself and my wife, were watching on TV.

Some succeed, Mr. Speaker, because they are destined to. Most succeed because they are determined to. This team worked hard, played defense, shared the ball, and stuck together. They were rewarded with a well-deserved championship that all of us can be proud of.

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

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

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.)

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND BORDER SECURITY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, you know, as we have heard on this floor tonight, Americans are paying attention to the illegal immigration issue and all of us here have received call after call after call from our constituents. And, you know, they are not asking much. They simply want us to enforce our border security. And, Mr. Speaker, I agree with this. This is not some earth-shattering policy change, it is a matter of enforcing the laws that are on our books.

Republicans passed legislation to strengthen the border late last year, and we did it with very little Democratic support. That has to change. An overwhelming majority of Americans believe the lawlessness and the disregard for our laws inherent in illegal immigration is damaging to our society and a serious, serious risk to our national security.

We have watched some try to equate legal immigration and legal immigrants with those whose first act, their very first act coming into this country is breaking a law.

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It is breaking our law by running across the border. That is an insult to every individual who complied with our policies and followed the appropriate process to get here. For too long we have overlooked or even rewarded those who broke the law, and it is time for that to stop. It has to stop.

I want to share with you something one of my constituents asked me in a meeting while we were on our break. He said "Marsha, I hear that some of the people in Washington want to provide amnesty to those who are breaking our immigration laws, to those who are illegally entering our country." He said, if you are going to let people pick and choose and decide which laws they want to have amnesty from, then I

want amnesty from the IRS. And he said that I have a friend who runs a small manufacturing plant, he wants to have amnesty from OSHA.

You know, you cannot disagree with comments like that.

Mr. Speaker, this debate is that simple. We are either going to be a nation of laws or we are not. Border security is a necessity. The Republican Party is the party pushing to strengthen those borders. Americans need to let those opposed to our efforts hear their voices. And I thank all of my constituents who are speaking out loud and clear on this issue.

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

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

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

(Ms. FOXX addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICA NEEDS TO GET TOUGH ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House at this time.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to alert my colleagues to a tremendously destructive attack being carried out upon our country. This attack is gravely damaging working Americans, especially those in the middle and lower incomes; perhaps as many as 50 percent of America's population has suffered or is being injured by this attack.

My colleagues need to be alerted to the horrendous situation that many Americans are finding themselves in as their standard of living begins to decline and our way of life and the prosperity we all enjoyed as young people seems now a distant goal. They need to be alerted, my colleagues need to be alerted because the suffering that is affecting many Americans is disproportionate. Yes, those in the lower incomes are suffering, but in fact many upper-income Americans have actually benefited from the malady that now has been damaging so many of the less affluent Americans.

Of course, what I am referring to is the mind-boggling, out-of-control flow of illegal immigrants into our country in these last two decades. Throughout

our country, but especially in the Southwest, America's education, health care, housing, and criminal justice infrastructure is breaking down. It is breaking down under the weight of 11 to 20 million illegal immigrants who have flooded into our country in these past two decades.

These 11 to 20 million illegals are by and large good and decent people, people who have come here to better their lives. But our job is not to watch out for all of the good and decent people who can come here from throughout the world in violation of our laws. Our job is supposed to be watching out for the interest of the American people.

These 11 to 20 million illegals are good people, but they have been bidding down the wages of lower-income Americans, thus hurting these Americans and their potential for having a decent living. They are destroying the social infrastructure that our fellow Americans of lower income depend upon. Whether it is health or education, their children are losing out because the limited money we have for education is being spent on people who are not here legally and their children that they bring with them in order to enjoy this benefit. And we would bring our children if we were foreigners as well because we care about our families.

It is not their fault; it is the fault of the policymakers in Washington that permit people to come here and consume the limited resources that should be going to our own people.

It is time for a tough, anti-illegal immigration bill that would deny all benefits to those who are in this country illegally. Just beefing up the borders is not enough. No, border security is not the goal. What we are talking about is dealing with a real issue, and it is called illegal immigration as well as the 11 to 20 million illegals that are already here.

It is a bit disturbing to hear the ongoing debate in Washington. What they must ask themselves is: Who is watching out for the American people? Well, they need to watch and listen very closely to their Representatives. In the next few weeks, they should be very aware of what their Representatives are doing. And if their Representatives are not watching out for their interest and the interest of their families, the interest of the American people, then the American voters should vote in a way to express their anger or how they feel about that.

Illegal immigrants may be good people. And, in fact, the kids on the streets of L.A., I come from southern California; there are tens of thousands of them out on the streets. They are basically good kids. Yes, they were waving Mexican flags, and I did not like that, but they are basically good and decent kids. But I will tell you it is not the job of the Government of the United States to spend our limited education dollars on people who are here illegally from Mexico or anywhere else.

Our limited education dollars should be spent on our own young people to try to maximize their value so when they get older they can earn a decent living, and especially a living where their wages are not bid down by tens of millions of illegals who will do the job cheaper.

Our limited resources should go to America's seniors. Yes, there may be good and decent people who have come here illegally. I do not care if they are good people, we need to spend our limited resources on our own seniors and our own young people.

This is not a hateful or a malicious type of approach to the problem. You can have love in your hearts, Christian love for other people, or any other kind of love for that matter, and care for other people, but know that you are taking care of your family and your neighbors and other Americans first.

America is a land of every race and religion. In California, we are especially proud of our Mexican American heritage. But we are talking about Americans, people who are tied together. If we do not consider that American citizenship or legal residency in our country means anything, we are degrading that very issue of citizenship and legal procedures that one goes through with respect to the law by giving benefits to millions of people who have come here in total disregard for America's law.

What we need to do is make sure that any law that passes is a strong anti-illegal immigration law and not just a border control law. And do not let anyone tell you, oh, we need these people because there is work that Americans won't do. Americans will do any job as long as the price is high enough, and they have been bidding down the amount paid to laborers by having millions of illegals coming into this country willing to work for less money. Do not let the agricultural business or any other business tell you that they cannot find people to do that work.

Yes, we would have to be creative. For example, there is no reason why the millions of young Americans who are in their 20s and early 30s, who occupy our prisons throughout the United States, should not earn some money, earning their own way, perhaps giving restitution to their victims and perhaps having some money when they get out of prison to start a new life by picking fruits and vegetables. This can and should be done. Everybody is brushing that argument off.

If we do not have illegals in this country, we might have to accept creative approaches. That is why we need strong illegal immigration legislation to get down to the business of helping the American people.

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

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