

walking into her room lets you know that this is not a regular classroom, but a learning environment specifically arranged to get young minds thinking. By using many hands-on activities, she brings life to books and dusty old facts.

Floyd Holt, a physics teachers at Franklin D. Roosevelt High School in Hyde Park, New York, loves knowledge and conveys this to his students through his dedication to teaching. Floyd strives to make education interesting and create unique learning activities such as Spaceship Classroom of the Future. He has won the 1994 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Math in the USA and today also the 2000 USA Today Award.

According to a former student, what sets Harlan Kredit apart is that as well as he teaches biology, he teaches life even better. At Lynden Christian High in Lynden, Washington, Mr. Kredit believes kids need to connect to the world outside of their school for education to be meaningful and productive. He embodies this philosophy through his work as a ranger naturalist at Yellowstone National Park and through teaching environmental education to teachers at the American Wilderness Leadership School.

He is a recipient of the 1994 Washington State Conservation Teacher of the Year Award and the 2004 Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching Science.

Pat Graff, a journalism, humanities and social studies teacher at La Cueva High in Albuquerque, New Mexico, is a bridge builder between different organizations, the media and business. She has had numerous students return to her school to give credit for her help and expertise and putting them on their current career path. Her additional accomplishments include being named the New Mexico English Teacher of the Year and also winning the 2004 Governors Award for Outstanding New Mexico Woman.

Lynn Kaye White of Haycock Elementary in Falls Church, Virginia, has shared her love of music and education around the world. She has traveled to Japan in 2003 with the Fulbright Memorial Fund and also to New Zealand to participate in the 2002 Fulbright Hays Seminar. She is able to seamlessly take the resources she has gathered from around the world and turn them into meaningful, substantive learning opportunities for her students.

Peggy, Floyd, Harlan, Pat and Linda exemplify what it means to be a teacher, what it means to make a difference. I commend the National Teachers Hall of Fame for their efforts to recognize great teachers. These five inductees collectively have 134 years of teaching experience. I salute these men and women for their dedication to the students of this country. It is my hope that they will find satisfaction in knowing the positive difference they have made in the lives of their students. It is my honor to recognize these

teachers here in the United States House of Representatives.

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

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

#### CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL REPORT

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Permission to speak out of turn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, last week the Centers for Disease Control released a report on the economic burden of injuries in the United States. The results were astonishing.

Every year injuries cost our economy \$406 billion in health care, lost wages and lost productivity. The report goes as far as to list specifics on many different injuries; however, there is no listing on the costs of gun violence.

The public might ask how could the CDC avoid gun violence when listing the causes of serious injury in this country? The answer is simple: Congress won't let them.

That is right. Congress, in 1996, following the lead of their benefactors in the gun industry, refused to allow the CDC to report on the economic impact of gun violence. Independent studies show the cost to be nearly \$100 million a year, but we can never be for sure because our government is prohibited from researching this public health issue.

In fact, the report on the CDC's Web page has a section dedicated to fireworks injuries, but no space dedicated specifically to firearms injuries or deaths. So the CDC can release information on a cause of injury that kills an average of four people per year, but not on the cause of thousands that are killed by gun violence every year.

However, the CDC cannot completely avoid the topic in its report. The report lists the top 10 causes of death among certain age groups, and, of course, homicide is prevalent, and of homicides of Americans more than 44 years of age, more than 10,000 were attributed to gun violence in 2003. In 1 year there were at least 10,000 people murdered with guns, and Congress won't allow the CDC to study how much these murders cost our economy.

Again, this defies common sense. The CDC isn't allowed to reveal how many Americans survive shootings, like my son did, each year, which adds an additional billions in cost to our economy as well. Gun violence is an epidemic in this country, and Congress is trying to stop us from learning the true impact of this public health crisis. This is a case of our government controlling the

flow of information to protect the special interest group. What are they afraid of?

Is the congressional leadership afraid that if people know how much gun violence costs our economy, they would call for commonsense gun legislation? If people knew this information, would congressional leadership be forced to pass laws to keep military assault weapons out of the hands of criminals and terrorists? Would they be forced to stop passing legislation that protects the 1 percent of gun dealers who are responsible for selling 50 percent of the guns used in crimes?

Mr. Speaker, the American people have the right to know this information, and let the record show that the release of this information will have no affect on the right of law-abiding citizens to be able to own a gun. But the release of this information might help pass commonsense legislation that will make sure criminals and terrorists cannot legally buy guns, or allow for law enforcement agencies to share information of ballistic evidence.

Mr. Speaker, let's give the CDC the go-ahead to study this issue. The release of this information will make our Nation a safer, better place, and won't place a burden on the right of law-abiding American citizens to exercise their second amendment rights.

This past week it has been 5 years since Columbine. In the last 48 hours, we have seen many schools come under attack. They were prevented because our police got the information. We should allow also the CDC to be able to study why our young people are going to violence to commit and murder, 14, 17, 20 of their friends in school.

Mr. Speaker, gun violence is a health care crisis in this Nation, and until this Congress wakes up, until this country wakes up to be able to do something to reduce gun violence in this country, there are better ways that we could spend the money, certainly helping Medicare, certainly helping the poor get the health care that they need, looking at wellness centers instead of waiting too late until people are sick.

We can do something about this, but the American people need to know the facts and figures. It is only right that we do that.

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#### TRIBUTE TO ONE OF IOWA'S OLDEST CITIZENS

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Iowa's oldest citizens. At 110 years old, Letitia Lawson is the fourth-oldest Iowan and the oldest resident of Iowa's Fifth Congressional District. On April 10, 1896, Letitia was born on a small farm west of Milford, Iowa, to godly parents who,

she says, "never knew anything but church on Sunday and school on weekdays."

Having learned the importance of education early in her life, Letitia became a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse in Excelsior Township. Though she left this post to marry, farm, and raise three children, she never gave up her passion for teaching. Since retiring from the farm in 1970, Letitia has continued to pursue her love of teaching. As late as last year, Letitia spoke to students of the Okoboji Elementary School on two different occasions and offers weekly lessons to the students who deliver meals to her in her home.

A reliable champion of family, togetherness, and love, Letitia represents all that is good about the traditional American values that we in Iowa hold dear. On the occasion of Letitia Lawson's 110th birthday, I offer my congratulations and the best wishes from Congress.

#### AMERICA MUST RESIST TEMPTATION TO START A WAR WITH IRAN

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I know it is an election year, and I know President Bush's ratings are at an all-time low, and I know gas prices are very high and the people are restless. Nevertheless, I call upon my colleagues and the President to resist the temptation to start yet another war.

There is an old saying: "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me." Well, friends, if we fall for the case being made to go to war against Iran, it will be "shame on us." And I define bombing from 40,000 feet as war.

Just as we did in the months leading up to the invasion of Iraq, a country which had no connection to 9/11 and no weapons of mass destruction, this administration intentionally confused us with regard to Iraq. It is doing the same with Iran. The administration says they want compliance with nuclear treaties but makes it clear that they really will settle for nothing less than regime change.

When I said before the Iraq war that I believed the President would be willing to mislead us into the war if he believed misleading us was necessary to fulfill his plans, I was excoriated, but I was right. I do not characterize the President's motives. I assume he took us into war in Iraq because he sincerely believed it was the right thing to do. We know now that he was wrong about that. The world is less safe. The Iraqis are in turmoil. More Americans have died in the President's plan in Iraq than died in New York City and at the Pentagon.

What the President did with our Iraq policy is being replicated with our Iran

policy. There was much to criticize about Saddam Hussein, and there is much to criticize about the ayatollahs and their front men in Iran. We have every right to demand that Iran adhere to its obligations under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and to pursue sanctions and other penalties. What we do not have the right to do is to make it impossible for Iran to satisfy our demands without regime change.

When we started demanding regime change in Iraq instead of demanding compliance with U.N. inspectors, we put ourselves on the path to war in Iraq. We are on the same plan and the same path in Iran. We will not talk with the Iranian government, and we will not stop talking about overthrowing it. It is impossible for the Iranian government to satisfy this administration and remain a government, although this administration will immediately deny that.

Every time it appears something is going to work out with the Soviet Union, or whatever, we pull the rug out from the negotiators. Because we don't want negotiation. We don't want to solve the problem. We want regime change. Somehow this administration has got it in its head that it has the right to tell other governments to step aside for people we like better. That is wrong.

We tried it with Mosaddegh and put in the Shah and we are back at it again. What we should do instead is to call their bluff and let them save face at the same time. If they say they want nuclear energy, we should say, okay, if it is nuclear energy you want, you won't mind having wall-to-wall U.N. inspectors watching every move you make to keep people from getting the wrong idea.

We make sure that they can't build bombs and let them have what they are entitled to under the NPT: civilian energy. We must quit making the leaders more popular. And we are doing it by making them the guys who stand up to the U.S. We must quit acting like we are going to invade any country that has the wrong regime.

If we attack Iran, as I fear we are on a course to do, we will unleash a hell unlike anything this region has seen. Iran is not Iraq. It has not been under sanctions for 10 years. It has not been bombed flat by the Gulf War. It is a strong nation with weapons. We will make ourselves once again less safe if we attack them.

Mr. Speaker, this administration has now been told on this floor, in public, on the record. The President will come here in about 6 or 8 or 9 months and give us a State of the Union. If he has taken us into a war in Iran, he will deserve what happens.

This country does not need another war. We have already proven the failure of that in Iraq; and because they won't change their mind, they keep doing the same thing over and over again. And now there is an election coming up. The 2006 election is coming

and they want to distract us. That is why they are leading us towards Iran.

#### IRAN IS A TERRORIST STATE

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, Iran, as my colleague leaves the floor, is a terrorist state. They are trying to develop nuclear weapons, and the world and the United States cannot tolerate that. We will rue the day if we allow them to go forward with their nuclear weapons program. We will try diplomatic means, we will try economic sanctions, we will try anything to stop them; but we cannot allow them to build a nuclear capability, because they are a known terrorist state, period.

And I want to say one more thing about my colleague's comments about weapons of mass destruction not being found in Iraq. Many people thought that Iraq sent those weapons out of the country. Well, one of our special ops organizations in the last two or three days found 800 canisters, 800 canisters, of chemical weapons, the type that was used to kill the Kurds, 10,000 women and children, Kurdish children, during the regime of Saddam Hussein, and also the kinds of weapons that were used in the Iran-Iraq war.

So saying there were no weapons of mass destruction, when we have actually found 800 canisters in just the last few days, proves that that is not correct.

#### TIME FOR THE IRAQI PEOPLE TO ASSERT CONTROL OVER THEIR POLITICAL DESTINY

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, the Iraq war is now in its 4th year, and I, like many of my colleagues and millions of my fellow citizens, are troubled about the direction the conflict is taking.

I have been to Iraq three times to visit our troops there, and I have spent time with our wounded here and in Germany. They have done everything we have asked of them, and they have done it magnificently. While we have a moral obligation to do whatever we can to avoid having Iraq spiral into an all-out civil war, now is the time for the Iraqis themselves to decide if they wish to be one country. And, Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to take steps that will ensure that 2006 is a year of significant transition to full sovereignty for the people of Iraq.

This is a conflict that has come to grief in many ways. In the fall of 2002, I voted to authorize the use of force against Iraq because of the threat that Saddam Hussein had stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons, and because I was concerned that he had an