

want to live in peace. We believe that they have the desire, and hopefully the courage, to reject violence and hatred as means to attain national independence.

The Bible tells us that as Joshua stood on the verge of the Promised Land, he was given one exhortation: "Chazak Ve'ematz." "Be strong and of good courage."

Strength, without courage, will lead only to brutality. Courage, without strength, will lead only to futility. Only genuine courage and commitment to our values, backed by the will and the power to defend them, will lead us forward in the service of humanity.

To the Congress of the United States and to the great people of America, on behalf of the people of Israel, I want to say today: chazak ve'ematz, be strong and of good courage; and we, and all peoples who cherish freedom, will be with you.

God bless you.

And God bless America.

Thank you.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

At noon, His Excellency Ehud Olmert, Prime Minister of Israel, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The Members of the President's Cabinet;

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 12 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m., the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess until 12:30 p.m.

□ 1245

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN) at 12 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

PRINT OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2803. An act to amend the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 to improve the safety of mines and mining.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 1-minutes on each side.

A MARINE—A MEMORIAL DAY

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Harlon Block and his high school teammates took their friendship, bravery and boldness off the football field and on to the battlefield.

Twenty-two-year-old Corporal Block, from the small border town of Weslaco, Texas, would end his journey as a Marine atop an extinct volcano on Iwo Jima. February 23, 1945. The single most patriotic photographic scene in American history would erupt.

Six men vowed to raise a large American flag atop Mt. Suribachi, as they said, "so that every Marine on this cruddy island can see it."

That picture would be the last for three of those heroes, including Harlon Block. Admiral Chester Nimitz said, "Among the men who fought on Iwo Jima, uncommon valor was a common virtue."

Harlon Block's desire to fight for freedom was a common trait for those warriors who thought the American flag was worth dying for.

This Memorial Day we will remember men like Harlon Block, the other 400,000 of the Greatest Generation who died in the great World War II and all those who died in America and for America's service.

We shall never flinch, never flee, never fear, because we will never forget the Americans.

And that's just the way it is.

KENTUCKY MINERS

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

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Amon Brock, Jimmy D. Lee, George Petra, Paris Thomas, Jr., Roy Middleton and Steve Bryant. These are the names of Kentucky miners who have died in the last week.

As we just heard this morning, the other body acted on behalf of our miners, and it is critical that the House take immediate action and pass H.R. 5389, a comprehensive mining bill that will not only crack down on negligent

operators but save lives. This body should not risk another miner's life by failing to act.

I call on all of my colleagues to reach across party lines for the sake of our miners who are simply trying to go to work and provide for their families.

DEMOCRATS OPPOSE SECURING THE BORDER

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are committed to securing our Nation's borders in order to ensure that our citizens remain safe and secure. One of my Republican colleagues from Virginia recently introduced an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that would permit members of our Armed Forces to assist with border protection under certain circumstances.

The Democrats like to say they are working to keep our country secure, but they voted "no" on this common-sense amendment, and this is not the first time they voted against important border security and national security measures.

Republicans voted to pass a major border security bill this past December, but Democrats voted "no" on the bill.

Republicans voted to pass the REAL ID Act to make sure that people who receive driver's licenses are here legally, but Democrats voted "no" on the bill.

Mr. Speaker, House Democrats have had ample opportunity to show that they are serious about border security. Yet every time they get a chance to prove it, they vote "no."

IN HONOR OF GILLETT, ARKANSAS' CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

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

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my hometown of Gillett, Arkansas, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year. This is a significant milestone for our community and for all those who shaped our town's history.

Gillett was incorporated in 1906, several decades after the first settlers migrated there from Fulton County, Illinois, in 1881. These early settlers purchased land; built modest homes; farmed crops of oats, corn and cotton; and developed orchards; and raised cattle. They worked hard to establish a town, building the first school and the first church in 1886, the first store in 1888, and lobbying for the completion of the railroad from Stuttgart, Arkansas, to the new town in 1892.

The name Gillett first appeared in 1892 after community leaders designated the town's first U.S. post office in honor of Francis M. Gillett, president of the railroad company. The

name stuck, and by November 21, 1906, the County Court of Arkansas County approved a petition to incorporate the town of Gillett. The town was busy in those early years, establishing the Bank of Gillett, constructing the first sidewalks, building a modern two-story high school on Champion Avenue, and dedicating the first flagpole in honor of the men from Gillett serving in World War I. By the early 1920s, Gillett recorded its highest population ever of 1,175 citizens.

Gillett hit difficult times, however, in the late 1920s when the flood of 1927 and the Great Depression came. Residents lost their homes and farms, the local bank closed its doors, and businesses went bankrupt. It was not until the 1930s when jobs started to reappear as sawmills, stave mills, and handle factories relocated to our city.

Gillett sent many men into World War II in the 1940s. Some were captured as prisoners of war in the Pacific. Others lost their life fighting for their country. While the town prayed for its war heroes, community leaders continued working to improve the economic conditions in Gillett. In 1946, all the one-room schools in the area moved to Gillett District 66, and the town held its first Coon Supper to raise money for local school and youth activities. This event evolved over the years into one of Arkansas' most popular political events and now receives national and worldwide attention.

The town continued to grow during the 1950s and 1960s, with Gillett High School attaining North Central Accreditation, the construction of the Arkansas River Navigation Project, integration of the schools, and the establishment of the Planters and Merchants Bank of Gillett. Farmers and businesses continued to turn a profit, and by the 1970s area farmers reported all-time highs for commodities. Farms were paid off, new machinery purchased, and new homes constructed.

The town itself also underwent a number of improvements thanks to the Federal Revenue Sharing period. A new city hall was constructed, and street improvements were made. A library was built, water and sewer improvements received attention, and many beautification projects took place.

Despite the booming times of the 1960s and 1970s, the depressed farm economy of the 1980s and 1990s proved to be a challenging time for our citizens. Many businesses closed, and construction of new homes came to a halt. Population figures declined from the highs of the 1920s and 1960s, and the schools continued to lose enrollment. This declining enrollment posed a serious threat during the 1980s, when a consolidation proposal almost cost the town its schools.

It was during this time, in 1996, when the citizens of Gillett helped elect me to represent Arkansas's 1st Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. As a resident of Gillett, Arkansas, I am honored to

serve my friends in Congress and have spent the past decade working to restore prosperity to the region. We continue to fight for our farmers who struggle with high fuel and fertilizer costs, and we are working to diversify our energy supply so places like Gillett can benefit from new opportunities.

Gillett has always been a town of citizens who pull together during tough times to improve our schools, help our businesses grow, and attract new development to the region. On May 27, 2006, our community will gather to celebrate 100 years as a corporate community. We will hold a parade down Main Street, reflect on our history, and place a time capsule in front of city hall to preserve our story for generations to come.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating my hometown of Gillett, Arkansas, on this significant milestone. We send our appreciation to the town's citizens for years of hard work and dedication to their community and wish Gillett many more years as a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

HEALTH IT

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Health Information Technology, one of the most important and immediate ways we can increase patient safety and help more Americans access quality health care.

Health Information Technology, like electronic medical records and e-prescribing, can help doctors save money, time and, most importantly, save lives. But as I speak to practicing physicians across America, I am hearing the same thing time and time again, Mr. Speaker: I would love to invest in this new technology, but the costs are simply prohibitive.

This is why I have introduced H.R. 4641, legislation to increase tax deductions for physicians who invest in Health Information Technology. If more physicians can afford Health IT, more Americans can benefit from these systems.

Mr. Speaker, a recent RAND study reveals that a widely adopted Health IT system could save the United States more than \$126 billion each and every year. We have a unique opportunity then to help doctors, patients and the American taxpayer in one fell swoop.

It is absolutely crucial that we encourage the adoption of HIT, Health Information Technology. Congress must act, and we must act now. H.R. 4641 is the right approach to lower the cost barriers to Health IT for our physicians.

STEM CELL RESEARCH

(Ms. BALDWIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I am fortunate to represent the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where Dr. Jamie Thompson and his team of scientists were the first to derive and culture human embryonic stem cells in a lab.

Embryonic stem cells open up the possibility of dramatic new medical treatments, transplantation therapies and cures. But on August 9, 2001, the hope and promise of this research was greatly curtailed by this administration's severe restrictions on Federal research dollars.

Last year, I was proud to fight for the passage of H.R. 810, a bill that opens up Federal research dollars to stem cells derived from donated embryos. One year has gone by since the House passed that bill. It is time for the Senate to act. We can no longer tie the hands of our scientists. We need to unlock the promise that this research holds.

U.S. MOX PROGRAM

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in 2000, the U.S. and Russia agreed to dispose of 34 metric tons of surplus weapons-grade plutonium by turning it into a mixed oxide fuel for existing commercial nuclear reactors. Recently, the future of this program, which is vital to our national security, has been in doubt.

I acknowledge, sure, there have been delays, but I am confident that language previously agreed to by the House will allow the U.S. MOX program to move forward regardless of the pace of the Russian program. Moving forward in this unilateral fashion makes good sense.

I am proud that the Savannah River Site in my district has been selected for this important project. Eliminating the MOX program in the Energy and Water Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2007 is wrong not only for my State but the Nation and the world.

The chairman has made his thoughts clear, but I respectfully disagree with his conclusions and will not be able to support any legislation that effectively turns South Carolina into a dumping ground. That is why I will not be able to support H.R. 5427 when it comes to a vote later today.

□ 1300

VETERANS AND CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE CARE

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to urge my colleagues to provide greater funding for our Nation's veterans. More than 24 million veterans and their families have sacrificed for this country, yet the majority continues to underfund vital mental health and bereavement counseling.