

On April 13, 2005, the House acted to permanently repeal the death tax. On June 8, 2006, the Senate fell just three votes short. I urge the Senate to try again to develop a permanent solution to the death tax so we can fix this problem once and for all this year.

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Ms. SOLIS. Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Imagine if you had not received a pay increase since 1997. The price of goods and services you rely on like gasoline and prescription drugs have gone up dramatically over the last few years. But one thing that hasn't been the minimum wage. It has almost been 10 years that we haven't raised the minimum wage, and the reality is that 7 million Americans will not receive a minimum-wage pay increase. And most of those individuals happen to be single head of households, women, with kids, children.

Democrats want to take America in a different direction. We want to expand opportunities to millions of Americans that feel they have been left behind by the Bush economy that has favored the wealthiest few above the middle class. One of the ways we want to expand opportunity is by giving minimum-wage workers a pay raise for the first time in a decade.

Last week, Democrats passed an amendment to the Labor-HHS appropriations bill that would raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 an hour. Democrats were joined by several Republicans in passing this commonsense amendment. We need to have support to bring this up and vote on it. Let's give those 7 million people an increase in the minimum wage.

CHAMPIONSHIP HOCKEY IN NORTH CAROLINA

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, championship hockey on North Carolina's Tobacco Road, unbelievable, as one of my Boston colleagues said last week. Well, very believable this date because the Carolina Hurricanes prevailed over the spirited and talented Edmonton Oilers and now proudly display the revered Stanley Cup.

The Hurricanes formerly played in Greensboro, located in the congressional district I represent, but now call Raleigh, North Carolina, home. And the Raleigh and Carolina fans have been superb this season.

Mr. Speaker, "redneck hockey," as it came to be known, is here to stay.

Congratulations to the Carolina Hurricanes.

LINE-ITEM VETO IS A VEILED ATTEMPT TO ADDRESS RECORD DEFICITS

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, this week House Republicans will attempt to distance themselves from their 5-year record of fiscal irresponsibility when they try to put through a line-item veto.

You may remember that President Bush said that he needed the line-item veto in his State of the Union speech this year. This is nothing but a hoax. President Bush and the Republican-controlled Congress have been partners in creating record deficits since taking control, complete control of our government in 2001. Over that time, more than 1,000 bills have been sent to the President to sign; and he has signed all of them, each and every one.

And now the President wants a line-item veto. If he was really concerned about the way the House Republican Congress is spending American taxpayer money, one would think that the President would have voted some of these bills down which were sent to his desk. But, no. The President and the Republican Congress have turned a \$5 trillion surplus into a \$4 trillion deficit. And they have nobody to blame but themselves.

So if the President really wanted to do something about spending, he should take some action now and veto some of these bills.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS FIGHT AGAINST PORK BARREL SPENDING

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, when Members of Congress propose ways to spend American tax dollars, we should be held publicly accountable for our requests. This week, House Republicans will take another important step to eliminate excessive spending from the Federal budget process.

Congress has a strong leader for fiscal responsibility with Congressman PAUL RYAN of Wisconsin, who has proposed a positive way to bring increased transparency and accountability to our budget process. By granting President Bush the authority to single out individual spending items in the legislation, the Legislative Line Item Veto Act will help target wasteful and unnecessary spending. This legislation would enable the President to strike spending from a piece of legislation and would require Congress to hold an up-or-down vote on the spending within 14 legislative days.

Passing this bill will send a strong statement that the power of the purse does not provide permission for pork barrel spending.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

SENIORS NEED A SIMPLE, AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, American seniors know that the Republican prescription drug plan that took effect earlier this year is deeply flawed. The plan is complex and confusing, unfair and unreliable.

This is not the plan seniors wanted. They didn't ask for a plan that forced them to go outside of Medicare to choose from dozens of private insurance plans, or a plan that creates a giant gap in coverage that leaves them with no benefits but still requires them to pay monthly premiums.

They didn't ask for a plan that slaps those who haven't yet selected a plan with a penalty that stays with them the rest of their lives.

Democrats believe it is time that seniors receive a simple and affordable drug plan. We can make prescription drugs more affordable by giving Medicare the ability to negotiate lower prices with the drug companies just like the Veterans Administration does. We can make the plan simpler and more cost effective, creating a plan within the current Medicare system.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats are not satisfied with the status quo. We will fight to do more to help our seniors afford their prescription drugs.

PREACHER FOX

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, a hypocrite always practices what he preaches against. And while Vicente Fox took a whirlwind tour of the United States acting like an old-fashioned revival preacher preaching open borders, trying to intimidate Americans into allowing the illegal invasion of his people down Mexico City way, the gospel of truth comes out.

Mexico, it seems, wants its southern border locked down. The Mexican Government says too many illegals are sneaking into Mexico, especially those Guatemalans. The Mexican Government says that illegals are taking jobs from Mexican citizens. Sound familiar?

While Mexico is demanding open doors into the rest of North America, they have got their own dead bolt on the door to the rest of the world.

Preacher Fox, practice what you preach. Your immigration laws are even tougher than America's. Why don't you open up your southern border to illegals? And meanwhile, preach to your own people that illegally entering the United States is just wrong. Quit trying to be self-righteous and telling America what to do.

The words of hypocrites are seldom heard, especially the words from preachers.

And that's just the way it is.

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MINIMUM WAGE

(Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, this week the Labor-H appropriations bill was supposed to be on the floor, but at the last minute, the House Republican leadership stripped the bill from the schedule. It appears that the GOP is delaying a vote on this bill solely because it includes an increase in the minimum wage.

The minimum wage is now at its lowest point in half a century. Last week the Appropriations Committee voted to gradually increase the minimum wage. This increase will provide a much-needed boost to 7 million Americans, hard-working people who get up every morning and go to work.

It is unfortunate that for almost a decade the Republican leadership has been forcing working families to make impossible choices, choices between paying the rent and buying groceries or between paying the heating bill and buying much-needed prescription medication.

An increase in the minimum wage is about fairness, and that is why the American people overwhelmingly support an increase. Now that the House Appropriations Committee has acted, it is time for the Republican leadership to bring this bill up for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have had enough of not having enough to get by.

IRAQ

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am here to congratulate the men and women of our Armed Forces who have cornered and captured the leader of al Qaeda in Iraq, al Zarqawi. His death dealt a harmful blow to his followers who practice and preach hate, death, and fear.

Better yet, the raid on the warlord's hideout produced a slew of information: policy, propaganda, and paraphernalia. Even Zarqawi says they are losing.

Just as important is what transpired after they uncovered that intelligence: 452 raids since the killing of al Zarqawi, 104 insurgents killed, and 759 anti-Iraqi elements captured. This morning's news release claims the death of Zarqawi's replacement.

One man said, "We are beating the snot out of them. Why quit now short of complete victory?"

This is big news for democracy and freedom. Our men and women in uniform deserve the utmost respect and thanks, and I would like to honor them for a job well done

THE BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

(Mr. BISHOP of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the over 3 million women living with breast cancer, the leading cause of death among women between 40 and 55, including my sister-in-law, Abby Irwin, who died at only age 41 after an 11-year struggle.

One bill that would achieve a great deal to expand prevention and perhaps one day lead to a cure is H.R. 2231, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. This important legislation would establish multidisciplinary and multi-institutional breast cancer research centers to study the potential links between breast cancer and the environment.

Although this bill enjoys the support of 246 bipartisan cosponsors, and its companion has 64 Senate cosponsors, not a single hearing has been called since it was introduced over 1 year ago.

If we are going to make a serious commitment to preventing and curing breast cancer, we must pass this legislation. Our mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends who are at risk deserve no less than our greatest effort to eradicate this tragic and all too prevalent disease.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to cosponsor the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. I would further urge our leadership to expedite consideration of this bill.

METROATLANTA AMBULANCE: 2006 SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise and ask the House to recognize and congratulate an outstanding Atlanta area small business that has proven to be a model for community leadership and responsibility.

The MetroAtlanta Ambulance Service was recently named the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce 2006 Small Business of the Year. The company provides 9/11 emergency ambulance services and prehospital care for the sick and injured throughout the Atlanta area.

As a medical doctor, I know the importance of reliable and rapid emergency response care, and MetroAtlanta Ambulance provides a service critical to the health and well-being of our community. The company has demonstrated time and again that they are more than just a business. Rather, they have shown an honest, sincere, and re-

peated desire to lend a hand to others. They took a lead role last year in coordinating ambulance services and logistics for the evacuation of victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Their hard work led to the relocation of 1,300 people from the flood-damaged region.

Mr. Speaker, MetroAtlanta Ambulance Service is a great example of what can be accomplished when sound, honest business practices are coupled with a sincere desire to help neighbors in need.

Congratulations to MetroAtlanta Ambulance.

THE ESTATE TAX

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, the median income in America has dropped. What is the Republican Congress trying to do? Increase the minimum wage? Nope. Making sure that everyone in this country has access to affordable health care? Nope. Controlling energy costs? Nope.

It is making sure that the 18 wealthiest families in the Nation do not pay their fair share.

Median income over the last 4 years in America has dropped by 2.8 percent. College costs are up by 38 percent. Health care costs are up by 75 percent. Energy costs are up by over 72 percent. And yet the middle class in America are facing a wageless recovery and an endless occupation.

The heirs to the Wal-Mart, Campbell's Soup, and Gallo Wine fortunes rest easy knowing that this Congress is hard at work on their behalf.

So rather than raise the minimum wage, the GOP Congress is going to cut taxes for the likes of Lee Raymond and his family.

Mr. Speaker, "shame" is defined as a sense of guilt or embarrassment, and it is a condition that seems to be lost here on the Republican Congress.

It is time for a change. It is time for a new direction.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDY WOLPE

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

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to recognize the life of Judy Wolpe. Judy was the wife of former Congressman Howard Wolpe of Michigan, who served in this Chamber from 1978 until 1992. Tragically, Judy was the victim of a drowning accident while on vacation with her husband in Guatemala.

Judy was a distinguished public servant in her own right, serving as board chairwoman of Lansing Community College, and in administrative posts for former Michigan Governor Jim Blanchard and former Indiana Governor and current U.S. Senator EVAN BAYH.

Judy and I shared a hometown, Battle Creek, Michigan. We graduated