

area at an airport is declared a security zone, it is off-limits to illegal aliens.

Once an area at an airport is declared a "special security zone" only the airport's Federal Security Director can issue security badges to these zones.

This legislation also states that only U.S. Nationals who have been cleared by Basic Pilot Program verification system can be given security access badges to these zones.

We must be tough when it comes to airport security because it is our first line in defense here at home against terrorists who want to kill more Americans.

I ask my fellow colleague in the House to join me in securing our airports and cosponsor this vital piece of legislation.

OUR IMMIGRATION POLICY

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, more than 21,000 foreign-born men and women currently serve on active duty, willing to die in defense of our Nation. U.S. Navy Second Class Petty Officer Eduardo Gonzalez is one of these brave men, a naturalized U.S. citizen who has served two tours in the gulf region. Despite his valiant service, Eduardo Gonzalez faces the deportation of his wife Mildred. At age 5, she was brought here from Guatemala. Now, in addition to confronting enemies from abroad, Gonzalez must confront a threat at home, losing the wife and mother of their 2-year-old child.

In his testimony before the Immigration Subcommittee, Gonzalez stated: As a citizen of the United States of America, it makes me wonder, if I can die for my country, then why am I not allowed to just be with my family?

Like Petty Officer Gonzalez, immigrant soldiers fight with vigor and valor to protect the American Dream. All of those who serve, regardless of country of origin, are recognized as American heroes. As heroes, they deserve an immigration policy worthy of their sacrifices and nothing less.

KNOW WHO WORKS AT O'HARE

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

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, you do not need a valid Social Security number to get a job at America's busiest airport. Recently, Federal inspectors reported that screeners at O'Hare Airport also missed 60 percent of all bomb test kits designed to test the screeners. The Justice Department then found three dozen illegal aliens using expired airport security badges. Authorities had no idea who the real identity was of workers with direct access to civil aircraft. This is not the way to run America's busiest airport.

Later today, Representatives ROSKAM, BIGGERT, and I will introduce legislation creating Federal security

zones where only badged and approved United States citizens can work next to an aircraft. Everyone at the airport Federal security zone will have a background check and have a valid, real Social Security number.

You would think the Transportation Security Agency would know who is working at American airports. Our bill would help implement that common-sense solution.

IN HONOR OF PFC MATTHEW T. SPAULDING

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a brave American who is serving our country with distinction. Private First Class Matthew T. Spaulding of Bluffton, South Carolina, was a recent recipient of the Army's Bronze Star with Valor for his heroic actions in Afghanistan. The former Bluffton High School quarterback has been deployed since January as an Army medic.

On June 9th, PFC Spaulding was on patrol with his unit when their vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. Suffering several wounds himself, Spaulding was able to come to the aid of one of his comrades who was severely injured. Through his quick and selfless action in the face of danger, Spaulding was able to save his fellow soldier's life.

The Bronze Star with Valor is awarded to a soldier who has performed an act of heroism in combat. It is the fourth highest combat medal awarded to members of the armed services.

I am grateful for PFC Spaulding's service, and for all the brave men and women who are fighting to protect our freedoms around the world.

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

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SCHIP AND CITIZENSHIP DOCUMENTATION

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

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to urge my colleagues to support a strong reauthorization of the SCHIP program that prevents additional loss of health care access to U.S. citizen children.

Medicaid citizenship documentation created by the Deficit Reduction Act has caused citizen children to lose access to health care. Low-income white and black U.S. citizen children, not Latino citizens, are disproportionately affected. Documentation requirements are extremely burdensome to low-income families who often lack the resources to pay for that documentation.

In Alabama, Kansas and Virginia, Medicaid enrollment declined by a larger percentage among white and black children than among Latino children who were U.S. citizens.

The Inspector General at the Department of Health and Human Services and the past administrator of CMS concurred that there is no substantial evidence that undocumented immigrants are committing fraud in order to receive Medicaid.

Citizenship documentation, as implemented, is a flawed policy based on inaccurate assumptions that adversely affect our children's health.

I urge my colleagues to allow that we enforce a good SCHIP program. Take care of those 10 million children.

FREE TO MOVE ABOUT THE COUNTRY-ILLEGALLY

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it is illegal to drive a vehicle without a legal driver's license. Illegals, who aren't even supposed to be here, broke the law to get here, and they break it every day by staying here.

Some States pander to illegals and encourage them to stay. Seven States: Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Oregon, New Mexico, Utah and Washington, issue legal driver's licenses to illegals. These illegals then can use the driver's license to travel to other States, set up credit, obtain free social services, and in some States that don't verify citizenship, use these licenses to vote. Thus, these States encourage illegals to stay here. This is an absurd policy that gives the same recognition status to illegals that should be reserved only to citizens and legal immigrants.

We need stricter requirements for driver's licenses, not more lax enforcement. The 9/11 terrorists used fake driver's licenses to "move about the country freely." So States that promote violation of Federal immigration policy by issuing these driver's licenses to illegals should lose Federal transportation highway funds.

Millions for border security, not one cent to highways for illegals.

And that's just the way it is.

DEACON BOB LITTLE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I'm honored that Deacon Bob Little, from my home parish and hometown of St. Helena, is serving as today's guest chaplain.

Deacon Little has had a lifetime of exemplary service to our country. He's a 26-year veteran of the Air Force, achieved the rank of major, and served in Vietnam, Panama and eastern Saudi Arabia.

He's also served the community in Napa County. He was a deputy sheriff

for 12 years and an elementary school science and physical education teacher.

He later came to work at the St. Helena Catholic Church. After 5 years of training, he was ordained as deacon.

Among the many services he provides the residents of our community, he also travels throughout Northern California as a military bugler for the funerals of fallen soldiers.

Deacon Little is a distinguished American citizen and important community leader, and I thank him for his service to our country and for the prayer that he led today.

FUNDING OUR VETERANS

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

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, this is day 45, that is, 45 days so far that our veterans have not had the use of the increased funding for their benefits and health care. That's \$18.5 million a day not able to be used.

This bill has been done for months and the President has already agreed to sign it. Now Veterans Day has come and gone, and the Democrat leadership continues to delay this bill.

I am calling on the Speaker to not adjourn for Thanksgiving until this bill has been sent to the President. And I call on all Americans to contact their Representatives and tell the Democratic leadership to send a clean Veterans appropriation bill to the President now.

How can we celebrate a holiday with our families, knowing that there are benefits our veterans don't have access to simply because of our inaction.

LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS BILL

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill passed by Congress reinvests in our Nation's future in a fiscally responsible way, and it is fully paid for with no deficit spending.

The President vetoed this bill because he apparently believes that a better course of action would be to deliver massive cuts in critical domestic priorities, such as funding community health centers and medical research grants through the National Institutes of Health.

The Labor-HHS-Education bill vetoed by the President strengthens education by training 51,000 more teachers, and helps 173,000 more dislocated workers with job training and employment.

And again, unlike the budget-busting funding bills that were passed by previous Congresses and signed by this President, this bill is fully paid for and does not add one penny to the Federal deficit.

Madam Speaker, we must override the President's veto and pass this fiscally responsible bill.

DENIAL, RETREAT AND DEFEAT IN IRAQ

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, the tide is turning in Iraq. As The Washington Post noted just last week, the number of attacks against U.S. soldiers has fallen to levels not seen since before February of 2006, the bombing of a Shia shrine in Samara that touched off waves of sectarian killing.

The death toll of American troops in October fell to 39, the lowest level since March of 2006. Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki announced this last Sunday that Sunni-Shia violence in Baghdad was down more than 75 percent in the last year.

But sadly, today the House of Representatives will bring an Iraq supplemental bridge fund that once again brings the same tired language mandating withdrawal from Iraq.

It seems, Madam Speaker, the Democrats are adding denial to their agenda of retreat and defeat in Iraq. Now is not the time to micromanage a widening success in Iraq. Let's give the American soldiers the resources they need to get the job done, see freedom win, and come home safe.

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. And SCHIP is prevention, as well as an important investment in our children and the future of our country.

If we don't make an adequate investment now to provide access to health care for our children, we will pay for it later. When is the White House going to get it?

And it must include all children. So let's not agree with the Republicans to put up barriers to doing that. Democrats opposed citizen documentation in Medicaid and we must oppose it now. It will hurt poor children and children who are racial and ethnic minorities, the children who need it most.

The anti-immigrant rhetoric that is raising its ugly head in this body is hurting our country. We must not let it hurt our children.

Not covering all poor legal immigrant children and requiring excess documentation is un-American. Let's end this today with SCHIP, and let's pass a bill that moves us closer to full coverage and to being the better country we ought to be.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR LES BRAUNNS, ARKANSAS STATE POLICE

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to one of my constituents who's dedicated his adult life toward protecting the men and women of Arkansas.

I rise to congratulate Les Braunns of Springdale on his promotion to the rank of major in the Arkansas State Police. A 28-year veteran trooper, Major Braunns was most recently the commanding officer of Troop L, where he earned the respect and friendship of the men he commanded.

According to the men of Troop L, Major Braunns always led his men by example, and led his men from the front, never asking a trooper to perform a task he was unwilling to perform himself.

His men pointed to the most recent example of his leadership from an incident in July when the Hell's Angels descended on my district for their annual get-together. Then Captain Braunns marched into a group of 300 and told them, "You can police yourselves, or we can do it for you." The State police kept their word and so did the Hell's Angels.

I congratulate Major Braunns on his promotion, and I thank him and appreciate all that he's done for the State of Arkansas.

VETERANS GUARANTEED BONUS

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

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, this weekend, communities throughout our Nation honored the brave men and women who have defended our Nation in previous wars, as well as those who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. While parades, speeches and ceremonies are important, I believe it is more important for the U.S. Government to properly care for and honor our veterans.

Recently, the Department of Defense has instituted a new policy on bonuses, which does not provide servicemembers with their full enlistment bonus, reenlistment or other bonuses if they are wounded while in combat and cannot return to duty. This means that combat wounded veterans who are discharged from the military because of their serious injuries will not receive their full bonus. This policy is unacceptable and disgraceful. It is unbelievable that the men and women who have sacrificed so much for our Nation are being shortchanged and denied the bonuses they were promised by their government.

Congressman JASON ALTMIRE has legislation to correct this inequity, but we should not have to rely on legislation. I call upon the Commander in Chief, President Bush, to reverse this policy immediately. We have a letter going to the President asking him to terminate this policy and ensure all outstanding bonuses be paid promptly.