

Women have become a pawn in the hands of right-wing conservatives.

On my Web site, I keep a listing of all the ways this administration has chipped away at a woman's right to choose, but yesterday they used a sledgehammer. By upholding this ban and disregarding years of precedent, the Roberts court has shown not only its belief that women are second-class citizens, but also its potential to completely overturn Roe.

We need to stand up to right-wing, conservative, extremist efforts and protect the basic human rights of women.

DANGEROUS WAR SUPPLEMENTAL

(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, for weeks the House has debated our strategy in Iraq and continued funding for the war. In the midst of this debate, the Democratic leadership adjourned for a 2-week spring break.

Even today, we appear no closer to a solution that will support our mission and our troops and sustain an effective foreign policy. The Democrat leadership of both Chambers has indicated its desire to move their message of defeat. Fortunately, President Bush is standing by his commitment to veto the bill and promote our mission for victory in Iraq, to protect American families.

Al Qaeda has stated Iraq is the central front in the war on terrorism. Osama bin Laden has characterized Iraq as the "third world war." Withdrawing from Iraq will not end the global war on terrorism.

I have confidence in our military leaders, who should not be micromanaged by Congress. Yesterday, Admiral William Fallon testified effectively that the new reinforcement course in Baghdad is producing positive results. We will face the terrorists overseas or again in the streets of America.

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

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE RAYMOND G. MURPHY

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

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor the life of a great American.

Lt. Col. Raymond Gerald Murphy was born on January 14, 1930, in Pueblo, Colorado. He graduated from Pueblo Catholic High School and attended Fort Lewis Junior College in Durango, then Adams State College in Alamosa. After graduation, Jerry Murphy joined the Marine Corps Reserve and entered Officers Candidate School. In 1952, he was sent to Korea where he served with the 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division.

In February 1953, Raymond Gerald Murphy was cited for "Conspicuous

Gallantry at the risk of his life and above and beyond the call of duty as a Platoon Commander."

Although painfully wounded by fragments from an enemy mortar shell, Second Lieutenant Murphy steadfastly refused medical attention and continued to lead his men up the hill through a withering barrage of hostile mortar and small-arms fire. Wounded a second time, he again refused assistance.

His resolute and inspiring leadership, exceptional fortitude and great personal valor reflect the highest credit upon Lt. Col. Murphy and enhance the finest traditions of the United States military service.

Raymond Gerald Murphy was the 39th United States Marine to be awarded the Medal of Honor for Heroism in the Korean War. In addition to the Medal of Honor, Lt. Col. Murphy was awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart, Korean Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, the United Nations Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

On Good Friday, Lt. Col. Raymond Jerry Murphy died in the Veterans Administration nursing home in Pueblo at the age of 77, Mr. Speaker, but his spirit and heroism will live forever.

OVERHAUL OUR CUMBERSOME TAX SYSTEM

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

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, under Democrat leadership, the year 1993 witnessed the greatest tax increase in American history, until recently. Just 3 months into this new Congress, the Democrats have shown their vision for America with a more than \$400 billion budget increase, an increase which can only be paid for through a colossal scale of taxation that will reach nearly every American.

The Federal Government has created a monster. Today, our Tax Code and regulations bulge at over 60,000 pages. I have yet to meet anyone who has read all of them. Americans pay billions of dollars to accountants and financial advisers just to comply with this labyrinth of rules. More than 50 percent of all taxpayers pay someone else to prepare their tax returns.

Planning for the future is challenging enough without the added headache of complex taxes and confusing deductions, not to mention the uncertainty of how taxes may change from one year to the next. Congress has the moral responsibility to remove the obstacles it has created that punish Americans who are simply working hard to achieve their dreams.

I encourage my colleagues in Congress to overhaul our cumbersome tax system.

WE SHOULD END THE WAR NOW

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the American people want the war in Iraq to end and the troops to be brought home. Why then is this House preparing to capitulate to the Bush White House and let the war continue? We have learned that the Democratic compromise with the President is to make withdrawal timetables nonbinding.

We have the power to end the war now. We should not give the President another dime for the war. We should not permit this war to continue to go on. Yet this House passed a \$97 billion supplemental which gives the President money to keep the war going through September of 2008, and then a week later approved the President's budget for another \$195 billion for Iraq to keep the war going into 2009. And now we are talking about a nonbinding timetable for withdrawal.

What is the difference between the Democrats and the Republicans on the war? Well, the Republicans do not want any timetables for withdrawal at all, and the Democrats, well, the Democrats want nonbinding timetables for withdrawal.

PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION RULING

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday's Supreme Court decision to uphold a ban on partial birth abortion has been a long time coming. Opinion polls have long shown overwhelming opposition to this gruesome and horrific procedure, and in response, Congress acted to ban partial birth abortion, passing the ban two times during the Clinton administration only to have it vetoed by President Clinton both times. In 2003, Congress passed the ban again with bipartisan majorities in the House and Senate, and this time it was signed into law by President Bush.

Unable to win through the democratic process, proponents of abortion-on-demand took to the courts, and for years their efforts delayed a final decision, leaving unborn children without protection from this gruesome procedure.

Thankfully, yesterday's decision ends the uncertainty, and this ruling protects America's unborn children from a barbaric, grisly procedure that has no place in a civilized society.

Mr. Speaker, this is a win for the sanctity of human life and a win for American democracy.

TAX RELIEF FOR WORKING CAREGIVERS

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

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1911, the Tax Relief for Working Caregivers Act.

In recent years, the rising costs associated with caring for children and aging parents have placed a significant burden on many middle-class families. Today, more than 16 million Americans have joined the ranks of the new "sandwich generation," those working Americans who provide care for both their own children and for their aging parents.

Yesterday, I introduced legislation to provide more tax relief for working families who provide dependent care for their children or parents.

My legislation does two things. First, it would extend the full benefit of the dependent care tax credit to allow more middle-class families to receive tax relief for the child and elder care expenses they must incur in order to work.

Secondly, the bill expands the credit to include all older dependent parents, not just those who live with the taxpayer. This makes it easier for families to care for their loved ones, while providing the flexibility to maintain a living situation more suited to the family's unique needs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for support for this legislation.

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MARK LUNSFORD—TRUCK DRIVER AND DADDY

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker: "Just a truck driver and a daddy" is how Mark Lunsford described himself before February 24, 2005. However, that night forever altered the course of his own life. A convicted sex offender snuck into the Lunsford home and kidnapped Mark's 9-year-old daughter, Jessica. For 3 weeks, Mark pled to the American public for Jessica's safe return, to no avail.

A sex offender was captured, confessed to the kidnapping, sexually assaulting, and killing Jessica by burying her alive. Mark's mission to protect our Nation's children from these predators became his life's ambition.

Using the local and national media, Mark has raised the awareness and the need to strengthen the laws to keep sex offenders from harming our kids. He has traveled from State to State campaigning for Jessica's Law, which includes harsher punishments for sex offenders. He was also instrumental in helping Congress pass the Adam Walsh Child Safety Act, which tracks child molesters.

Last night, Congressman JIM COSTA and myself, on behalf of the Victims' Rights Caucus, were pleased to honor Mark Lunsford, this daddy, this truck driver, for his commitment to our Nation's children. After all, children are our greatest natural resource.

And that's just the way it is.

THE TRUTH FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today we will once again hear from the Attorney General, Alberto Gonzales, on the prosecutor purge. When it comes to the U.S. Attorney firings in public corruption cases, we have heard plenty of different explanations from the Attorney General and his associates.

What we have not heard is the simple truth. We know many of the fired U.S. Attorneys were pursuing public corruption cases. Contrary to the administration's earlier assertion, we know the decision to fire these prosecutors reached the highest levels of government in the administration and involved Members of Congress and Republican Party officials. So this administration either originally hired incompetent U.S. Attorneys in the first place, or hired competent attorneys but incompetently fired them.

Which is it? Are the public corruption cases that implicate Members of their own party off limits in the Bush Justice Department? Is this blind justice? Democrats have been asking these questions for months and for months, and we have been consistently told other stories. Now the time for misdirection is over. Today we will demand and seek the truth.

THE CONSTITUTION AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, article I, section 2 of the Constitution states that "the House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second year by the people of the several States." It goes on to say: "No person shall be a representative who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen."

Mr. Speaker, in spite of the Constitution and what it says today, this new majority will pass a bill to provide a vote, by law, not constitutional amendment, a vote in this House for the delegate from the District of Columbia.

Now, I support, strongly, voting rights for residents of D.C. The proper way to do that, the constitutional way, is to return residential area in the District of Columbia to Maryland. It respects the supreme law of the land of the Constitution. Even the Democrat chairman, Peter Rodino of the Judiciary Committee in the 95th Congress, said: "If the citizens of the District are to have voting representation in Congress, a constitutional amendment is essential. Statutory action alone will not suffice."

So why would this new majority pass a law so clearly violative of the Constitution? Because they can. It's an ar-

rogance and hypocrisy that the American people recognize, and they are watching.

THE CARNAGE IN IRAQ AND THE SUPPLEMENTAL BILL

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, as military leaders were on the Hill explaining how well things were moving in Iraq, news outlets were reporting that 171 human beings were killed at a Baghdad market. The carnage seems to have no end, even as we see endless U.S. troops shipped into an Iraqi shooting gallery.

This Congress has approved a supplemental bill which provides everything the President requested and more. In fact, the bill provides plentifully, but appropriately, for the wounded who return home every month.

The hope is that the President will sign the supplemental as the American public desires. Every opinion poll shows that the American public wants this war to end. Sign the supplemental.

LIFE IS WINNING IN AMERICA

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, despite the best efforts of the abortion rights movement, 34 years since Roe v. Wade, more Americans embrace the sanctity of life than ever before. Yesterday, thanks to the leadership of the Republican Congress and this Republican President, the United States Supreme Court echoed that moral awakening.

I rise to commend the United States Supreme Court for affirming, in a 5-4 decision, the constitutionality of the ban of the barbaric procedure that has come to be known as partial birth abortion. I commend President Bush for signing the bill, my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who supported it, and Congressman STEVE CHABOT of Ohio, its principal author.

Life is winning in America. In big cities and small towns, American women are listening and learning. It's not a choice; it's a baby. American women are choosing life as never before.

To all who labor in the cause of life, I say in the wake of yesterday's decision, press on. Your labors on behalf of the unborn are not in vain.

PRESIDENT BUSH SHOULD NOT VETO STEM CELL RESEARCH LEGISLATION THAT WILL PROVIDE REAL HOPE

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

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, President Bush has an opportunity to