

Thompson (MS)	Walden (OR)	Westmoreland
Thornberry	Walsh (NY)	Wexler
Tiahrt	Walz (MN)	Whitfield
Tiberi	Wamp	Wicker
Tierney	Wasserman	Wilson (NM)
Towns	Schultz	Wilson (OH)
Turner	Waters	Wilson (SC)
Udall (CO)	Watson	Wolf
Udall (NM)	Watt	Woolsey
Upton	Waxman	Wu
Van Hollen	Weiner	Wynn
Velázquez	Welch (VT)	Yarmuth
Visclosky	Weldon (FL)	Young (AK)
Walberg	Weller	Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—14

Aderholt	Johnson, Sam	Obey
Burton (IN)	Lucas	Poe
Buyer	McCarthy (CA)	Rogers (AL)
Calvert	Napolitano	Rogers (KY)
Hunter	Norwood	

□ 1744

So (two-thirds of those being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to my leave of absence, if I had been present earlier today, I would have voted as follows on today's recorded votes:

Rollcall No. 27—"Yea"—H. Con. Res. 31—Honoring the Mare Island Original 21ers for their efforts to increase equal employment opportunities in the military;

Rollcall No. 28—"Yea"—H.R. 434—Short Term Extension of the Small Business Administration;

Rollcall No. 29—"Nay"—Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 5;

Rollcall No. 30—"Nay"—Adoption of the Rule for H.R. 5;

Rollcall No. 31—"Yea"—Republican Motion to Recommit for H.R. 5;

Rollcall No. 32—"Nay"—Final Passage of H.R. 5; and

Rollcall No. 33—"Yea"—H. Res. 58—To Honor Muhammad Ali, global humanitarian, on the occasion of his 65th birthday.

DOMESTIC TERROR

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, a new terrorist has just been captured in Florida. Not an international terrorist, but a homegrown domestic one.

The facts are hard to comprehend, but here they are, according to the Associated Press. A husband took his wife on a canoe trip, and finding a wilderness spot, he took her ashore and then he raped her. He tied his naked wife to a tree and assaulted her with the butt of a knife. He let her hang on the tree for over 2 hours, then he took her off and raped her again. All the while, get this, he was videotaping this ghastly, dastardly crime. This crime is one of intimidation, degradation and humiliation.

Mr. Speaker, rape is a crime where the deviant tries to destroy the soul of the victim. When the assault occurs in

the family, the domestic rape is even worse.

Now the hubby is facing a multitude of criminal charges, as it ought to be. Wives are not male property and these crimes are not to be excused as a domestic problem.

The offender should be given quick, accurate justice, and then tell him to pack his toothbrush, because justice is a thing we are going to find and demand life behind bars in this case.

And that's just the way it is.

WORKING FOR A SAFE AND SECURE IRAQ

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I certainly agree with my colleague from Texas. We must really approach violence, wherever it is, and I thank him for his words.

Mr. Speaker, so many of us as Members have confronted families who have lost loved ones on the battlefields of Iraq. We realize that not one of those fallen soldiers would in any way step away from their duty. So today I rise to thank them.

But because of their commitment to their Nation, I believe as policy makers we have a commitment to them, and it is imperative that this body and the other body not engage in nonbinding resolutions, when the American people have asked us to bring our troops home, when the President of the United States has not begun to consider alternatives such as political diplomacy, when there is no recognition that the Congress is an equal branch of government and can in fact cease the funding.

We must have a new direction. We must have a safe and secure Iraq. We can work for both, but we must have the respect and mutuality of the three branches of government.

A POORLY KEPT SECRET

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pass along some inside information to the American people. By the way, this is the most poorly kept secret in Congress. Big surprise: The Democrats want to raise taxes, again.

Never mind that tax revenues increased by 11.5 percent last year because of strong economic growth, economic growth created by the Bush tax cuts over the last 6 years. Never mind, never mind, the economy is strong. Never mind that last year the U.S. Government took in more revenue than any government in history. Actually, in the history of the planet.

But yet that is not enough revenue for the Democrats' plans, yet they talk about pay-as-you-go in order to tax the American people more.

This is a poorly kept secret, that the tax and spend Democrats are indeed still tax and spend Democrats.

TRIBUTE TO BENNY PARSONS

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

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to call attention to the loss of one of the foremost members of the racing community. Benny Parsons passed away on Tuesday.

Benny was a wonderful friend, not only to the industry, but to mankind. Benny lived a wonderful life. He set many records. He was the first person to drive a stockcar over 200 miles an hour, and won many, many championships. A native and resident of North Carolina, he will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, this body extends our sympathy and gratitude to the Parsons family and his wife, Terri, for the many, many services Benny has provided.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

A SAD DAY IN AMERICA

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today is a sad day in the history of America. Two law enforcement officers who have given years of their life in service to this Nation have entered Federal prison today for shooting a drug smuggler.

This is a black mark for the President and his administration. U.S. Border Patrol agents Ramos and Compean were found guilty in a Federal court last spring for wounding a Mexican drug smuggler who brought 743 pounds of marijuana across our southern border into Texas.

Many of us in Congress have written letters asking the President to consider pardoning these agents, a request that is justified by serious questions about the prosecution of this case, including both the indictment and the process. These agents never should have been prosecuted for their actions last year, yet they have been sentenced to 11 years and 12 years in Federal prison respectively.

These agents do not deserve to spend one day in prison. By attempting to apprehend an illegal alien drug smuggler, these agents were simply doing their jobs to protect the American people. The extraordinary details surrounding the prosecution of this case assure that justice was not served. These agents should have been commended for their actions. Instead, the U.S. Attorney's Office prosecuted the agents and granted full immunity to the drug smuggler for his testimony against our agents.

The drug smuggler received full medical care in El Paso, Texas, was permitted to return to Mexico, and is now

suing the Border Patrol for \$5 million for violating his civil rights. He is not an American citizen. He is a criminal.

Although it is clear that the agents fired shots in self-defense, Ramos and Compean were convicted mainly on the testimony of a habitual drug smuggler who claimed he was unarmed. Despite my repeated requests for an investigation of this case and a request by more than 50 Members of Congress for the President to pardon these agents, this administration has ignored the concerns of countless citizens who have cried out against this injustice.

Mr. Speaker, the indifference of this White House will long be remembered by the American people and by those of us in Congress who tried to come to the aid of these two heroes.

WHERE DEMOCRATS REALLY STAND ON THE ISSUES

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from North Carolina who preceded me in the well was saying, "Those Democrats, they just want to raise taxes and spend." I would look at the legislation we passed today with 124 Republican votes as an example of where Democrats really stand on the issues.

Just about 1 year ago today, almost exactly a year ago today, the Republican Party passed legislation called reconciliation that actually raised the cost of student financial aid, dramatically raised the cost of student financial aid. It also did one other thing to "save money" or "create revenue," which is it cut medical care for needy Americans.

Now, we have got to be fiscally responsible, but what they did with this money was cut taxes for wealthy investors, extend tax cuts for wealthy investors that were going to expire in the year 2008, not exactly an immediate problem, to 2010. They paid for that by raising the cost of student financial aid; i.e., taxing students and cutting medical care for poor Americans; i.e., taxing poor people or taking away needed health care. That is his model. He says we are the "tax and spend" folks.

Well, look at what we did today in legislation that passed with 124 Republican votes. We said it was wrong for the Republicans to jack up the cost of student financial aid. The cost of a higher education is beyond reach of too many Americans and we think people should have a chance at the ladder of success. Key to that is education, and we want to make education more affordable and more accessible. Today was the first step, and only the first step in our plan to help make higher education more affordable.

So I guess he would say we are taxing the banks; i.e., we are asking the banks to pay part of the cost here to lower

the interest rate on student financial aid.

Now, these bank private loans are losers for the taxpayers. We have in fact a government study that says if we converted the whole loan program in this country to national direct student loans administered by the universities and overseen by the government, we would make money, even with the defaults. But in order to continue the subsidized bank program which he was up here defending, we are getting back 84 cents on the dollar.

The American taxpayers are subsidizing banks to offer loans on which they make a pile of money, and now he is aggrieved that we have asked the banks to lower the interest rate over 5 years. I would like to lower them tomorrow, and they shouldn't have been raised. The Republicans shouldn't have raised the cost of student financial aid to fund tax cuts for wealthy people.

Now, if they want to have more tax cuts for wealthy people, then they ought to find a way to responsibly finance that. Personally, I don't think wealthy people need more tax cuts. In fact, I think they have gotten way too many.

And he did not talk about the fact that we are borrowing money to finance tax cuts for the wealthy, that we are ding people who need medical assistance to finance tax cuts for the wealthy, that we are heaping the costs onto students to finance tax cuts for the wealthy. If that is what he calls tax and spend, then that is what I am.

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

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

AMNESTY NEEDED FOR BORDER PATROL AGENTS RAMOS AND COMPEAN

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government, this body, the body down the hallway, for some time has been talking about amnesty, amnesty for anywhere between 12 million and almost 20 million illegal people in the United States.

Well, I would like to talk about amnesty, but not for people who are illegally in the country, because I am opposed to that. But I would like to talk about amnesty for Americans, citizens, and I only want to talk about amnesty for two of those citizens. They are border agents who have been convicted of so-called civil rights violations of an illegal drug smuggler bringing drugs to the United States.

□ 1800

Two border agents, Compean and Ramos, today went to the penitentiary for 11 and 12 years for doing this. They work on the Texas-Mexico border, a volatile war zone. The border is the second front, and while on duty patrolling the sovereignty of our country, they come across a drug dealer driving a van full of about 780 pounds of marijuana. That does not mean anything, but it is worth a million dollars. That does mean something, something we can relate to.

A confrontation occurs, drug dealer abandons the van, tries to flee back to Mexico, has an altercation with the border agents, shots are fired, he runs to Mexico.

The next thing we find out, our Federal Government chooses to go to Mexico, find this drug dealer, learns that he has been shot, bring him back to America, treat his wounds at American expense, give him a deal, a backroom deal, to testify against the border agents because they did not follow some policy of reporting shots being fired. So they go to court, give the drug dealer amnesty, give the drug dealer immunity.

While waiting to testify, the old drug dealer goes back to Mexico and picks up another load of dope, almost 1,000 pounds of drugs, gets caught by different border agents. Once again, not prosecuted by the Federal Government because the Federal Government is so determined to prosecute border agents, not drug dealers; and after the trial, the border agents were convicted, and now they went to the penitentiary.

Our Federal Government had a choice to make in this case, whether or not to stand on the side of the lawless drug dealer or stand with our border agents who try to enforce the rule of law. Our government chose poorly. They sided with the enemy. They sided with the outlaws. They sided with illegal drug dealers and prosecuted our border agents. I ask the question, why?

If the border agents violated some policy or rule, suspend them, give them days off, demote them, but send them to the penitentiary for 12 years when the drug dealer goes free? This does not pass the smell test or, as we say in Texas, that dog just don't hunt, Mr. Speaker.

So we are asking a very simple thing, some of us from Congress, about 55. We are asking the President to grant amnesty to these two border agents. The administration, Federal Government, talks about amnesty. We just want it for two folks, and the President has the constitutional power to pardon and parole. The President exercised that power, that is his right under the Constitution, almost 100 times in the last 6 years. We are simply asking that the administration exercise the pardon power and pardon these two border agents and send the message to the Border Patrol and all these sheriffs who work on the border, trying to enforce the law, that we will stand beside