

Our local first responders represent the highest in public service. By providing them with collective bargaining rights, we can help these patriotic men and women secure adequate equipment, ensure workplace safety, and promote pay and benefits that will allow us to recruit the best and brightest to these important professions. This legislation represents an effort to put words into action.

Madam Speaker, our Nation's firefighters, police officers, and EMS personnel do right by the American people every day, keeping our families and communities safe. It is high time that we honor their service by enacting this legislation and providing them with the Federal resources they need to do their job.

CONGRATULATING SHAW FARMS ON THEIR 200TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Shaw Farms on their 200th anniversary. Shaw Farms, located along State Route 131 in Miami Township, Claremont County, Ohio, is home to the region's finest summertime produce. It is best known for its sweet corn, tomatoes, melons, beans, squash and cucumbers. Shaw Farms began operating during the tenure of Thomas Jefferson. Think about that, the tenure of Thomas Jefferson, and has continually operated as a family farm since 1807. It is one the oldest family farms in Ohio.

Today the family farm is run by Jerry and Jean Shaw, with the help of their children and grandchildren. Through the hard work of the Shaw family, much of greater Cincinnati relies on them for their produce.

Summertime produce is not the only thing the Shaw family is known for. Each October, thousands of visitors, including many eager school children come to the family's Fall Festival, which is known for its pumpkins, hayrides and farm animals.

This weekend the Shaws are hosting a bicentennial bash to help celebrate their amazing accomplishment. In the spirit of the Shaw family, they have invited everyone in the area to enjoy their success. Of course many of the items for which they are well known will be on their menu.

The Shaw family's fresh produce and family entertainment is truly an asset to all the communities in southern Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing the Shaw Farms a happy 200th anniversary, continued success, and let's wish them at least 200 more years in Ohio.

LET'S NOT OVERSTAY OUR WELCOME IN IRAQ

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, last night the Senate stayed in session and they're probably still in session because they can't get an agreement to discuss the resolution, the bill that this House has already passed, a similar one to end the war in Iraq and redeploy our troops and bring our troops home.

This House, on several occasions, has passed bills with benchmarks to respond to the American people's wishes and end this horrific war. The Senate hasn't been able to do it because they need 60 votes to avoid filibuster. That's what they have going on now.

And that's the problem, Mr. Speaker, is the procedures in the Senate, and that's why we're still in this horrific war, a war where the Prime Minister of Iraq has said he can provide for the security of his country by January 1 and he does not need our troops.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that Emily Post's rule should be invoked. When you're a visitor and your host says you're no longer needed and no longer wanted, you pack your bags and you go home. I would advise the President, Mr. Speaker, to listen to Emily Post and be a good visitor and bring our troops home and stop losing lives needlessly.

THE THREAT IS REAL AND WE MUST REMAIN VIGILANT

(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, yesterday morning the National Intelligence Estimate report was released outlining threats to the United States over the next several years. I am grateful that since September the 11th counterterrorism efforts have stopped terrorists from additional attacks on American soil.

The report confirms that the threat to America is real, and al Qaeda has intensified efforts to attack the United States. I appreciate the brave men and women worldwide in the fight in the global war on terrorism so that we do not face another attack here at home. They are fighting to protect American families, and their presence in Iraq and Afghanistan is vital to this effort which al Qaeda has identified as the central front.

The report reiterates the threat to the United States and the significance of our mission in Iraq. We must remain on the offense everywhere and remember that the threat to our Nation is real. Al Qaeda is like a cancer which must be stopped at all sources or it will spread.

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

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT TO START BRINGING OUR TROOPS HOME

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, by overwhelming majorities, the American people are demanding a change of course in Iraq. After 5 years of a failed Bush administration strategy to bring peace and stability to Iraq, the American people are fed up with the way that is jeopardizing our national security, our military strength and our Nation's fiscal future.

The American people no longer listen to the President when he says the situation in Iraq is improving. And they received more proof last week that the President's new way forward strategy, the so-called surge, is only inflaming Iraq's civil war. Casualties among U.S. forces have surged and the political process in Iraq has halted. The President's policy has produced few results on the ground, and yet he is asking both the American people and the Congress for more time.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush has had 4 years to make his policy work, and the situation is not getting any better. It's time that we get back to fighting the real global war on terror so that al Qaeda does not continue to gain strength in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Senate has a chance today to follow our lead, listen to the American people and begin bringing our troops home.

NEWS FROM THE BATTLE FOR IRAQ

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, news from the war in Iraq: The Iraq interim assessment report of progress states that sectarian murders in Baghdad are down from what they were in January. Many Iraqis are now coming forward with information to help root out terrorists from their hiding places.

On the local level, citizens are forming neighborhood watch groups and young Iraqis are joining the army and the police forces. Measured progress continues in Iraq. The surge strategy has only recently been completely implemented, and it seems that we are seeing positive signs.

A policy of surrender and failure in securing Iraq would hold catastrophic consequences for the United States and the Iraqi people. We should be focused on victory, not pandering to the "peace at any price crowd."

Those who want retreat, defeat and withdrawal while in the midst of this battle for Iraq have yet to understand that there are consequences for appeasement, and they are bad for the United States and the Iraqi people. Retreat will not bring victory and it will never bring peace.

And that's just the way it is.

ALL NIGHT SENATE SESSION

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

Mr. HODES. Mr. Speaker, the Senate was in session all night long because Senate Republicans refuse to allow a fair up or down vote on an amendment that would redeploy our troops by April of next year.

Today, Senate Democrats want a vote on an amendment offered by Senators LEVIN and REED, but Republicans are using the filibuster to prevent a fair majority vote. Do Senate Republicans really want to obstruct the process on the most critical issue of our time?

The American people are demanding change in Iraq, and while a majority of Senate Republicans refuse to listen, nearly a dozen Republicans have said the administration must change its strategy in Iraq. These Republicans need to realize that their words are important, but they will only have meaning if they choose to act and support the Levin-Reed amendment.

We all know that President Bush has no intention of making any changes in his war policy, and so it is up to Congress to force that change, which is why last night's all-night debate in the Senate was so important. Let's hope wayward Senate Republicans are finally listening.

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THE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY AND THE LARGEST TAX INCREASE IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY

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

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, some years ago the story was told about the mean-spirited old Grinch who tried to steal the joy of Christmas. Well, it is not Christmas, but you might as well almost think it was a Christmas present when you take a look at the American economy that has been strengthened by the tax cuts of a number of years ago.

This boom that the Republicans set in place has added 46 months of straight growth in job creation. The unemployment rate is at a very low 4.5 percent. The Dow has just made all kinds of records at crossing the 14,000 mark, and the deficit has been cut in half.

In the face of this good news, the Democrats have passed a \$392 billion tax increase, the biggest tax increase in the history of our country. And just like the Grinch, the Democrats seem to be wanting to steal our economic joy.

We must not allow the Democrats to steal the joy of the American families.

EGYPT

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

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about problems that have arisen on the border between Egypt and Gaza.

Since the Hamas military took over all power in Gaza there has been massive smuggling of arms into Gaza along the border with Egypt, often by the use of tunnels that are proliferating along the border.

The Egyptian government has made efforts to curb the smuggling by closing the border between their country and Gaza and by assigning more security personnel to patrol the border. However, the border remains porous in many areas and weapons continue to find their way across the border and into the hands of Hamas fighters.

With fears of refugees pouring into Egypt from Gaza and fears that Hamas will escalate its attack on Israel, this situation has become both a security and a humanitarian concern. Egypt has vowed to partner with Israel, the United States, and the European Union to work toward a solution.

While part of the solution will be immediate increases in security forces at the border, a long-term solution is also needed. Egypt must take responsibility for the actions of its own people, and Israel must support Egypt's good-faith efforts.

I hope we can come to some resolution of this problem.

NATIONAL RIDE YOUR MOTORCYCLE TO WORK DAY

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, today is National Ride Your Motorcycle to Work Day, and just a few minutes ago, I proudly rode a Harley Davidson Roadking to the steps of the Capitol building.

Motorcycle riding has been a passion of mine for many years, since my 20th birthday, and a proud member of the American Motorcyclist Association I am, as well as the Harley Owners Group. I can attest that responsible riding has many unique recreational benefits for millions of Americans.

During this session of Congress, we are looking for ways to break our dependence on foreign oil, develop alternative fuels, and increase domestic conservation. Motorcycles are excellent alternatives to current forms of transportation because they offer both fuel efficiency and greater enjoyment for the commuter.

I encourage all Americans to learn more about the recreational and environmental benefits of responsible motorcycle riding by visiting American Motorcyclist Association's Web site and availing themselves of the motorcycle rider safety training program.

KEEP GROWING THE ECONOMY, NOT THE BUREAUCRACY

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose above 14,000 for the first time ever. What a proud moment for all of us.

For many of us it is not a surprise. This strong economy is a direct result of the pro-growth Republican policies that we are fighting for every day on this floor. It is a sign of continued and growing investor confidence, and it shows that when taxes are low and Americans choose how and where to spend more of their money they will choose to invest in America and make us stronger.

This isn't a victory for Wall Street or for big business; it is a victory for Americans. Over half of all Americans are invested in the stock market. More and more Americans want to participate in this strong and growing economy. So they need a Federal Government that respects those wishes, not one that will raise their taxes to pay for out-of-control spending.

Let's keep this economy on the right track. Let's rein in spending. Let's focus on growing our economy rather than Washington's bureaucracy. That is what Americans want.

A HISTORY LESSON ON THE AUTO INDUSTRY

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the Democratic leadership in both this House and the United States Senate have made a conscious decision to bankrupt the domestic United States auto industry by forcing an antiquated CAFE standard on them.

And I just want to remind my colleagues what this industry has meant to America.

Over 100 years ago, Henry Ford built the Model T, which brought automobiles to the masses, created opportunities that built America's middle class, and fundamentally changed our Nation.

During World War II, Michigan was known as the Arsenal of Democracy because we had the manufacturing capability to build the armaments that literally led the world to peace. For 2 years we didn't even build automobiles because we were building tanks and jeeps and B-24 bombers. And as we surrendered our manufacturing capabilities to Japan and China, we had better hope that we never need the ability again to build armaments because we will be at the mercy of these foreign countries.

After 9/11, when everyone was concerned that our economy would go into a tailspin, the American automobile industry, the domestic auto industry,