

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to recognize two great high schools in my congressional district.

The ladies of Mount Notre Dame, once again, with their usual style, grace, and determination won the Ohio Division I basketball championship. This win puts them in the history books, as it makes them the first Ohio team ever to win three consecutive State titles.

With time running out and the game tied, freshman guard Kathryn Reynolds scored at the buzzer, clinching the championship for the Cougars 69-67. Coach Dante Harlan, top scorers Tia McBride, Ashley Fowler and the rest of the team are to be congratulated for their achievement. Well done, Cougars.

I also want to recognize the 32 students in the Winton Woods High School Varsity Ensemble who were selected to participate in the Choral Salute at the 2008 Olympic Games in China. For more than a year, these gifted students have been preparing in rehearsals and planning fund-raisers to pay for the trip to Shanghai and Beijing, China.

They are to be commended for showcasing their talent and also for the time and hard work they have dedicated to this journey. I am proud Winton Woods will be representing Ohio's First District this year in the Olympics.

SEEING IS BELIEVING WITH YOUTUBE.COM

(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, YouTube is an amazing thing. As the fifth anniversary of the war in Iraq will be commemorated across the country in recent days, the statistics tell the tale.

Because of the military surge and Sunni cooperation, we are making significant progress towards stability and freedom in Iraq. Violence is down more than 60 percent last year. But as the saying goes, "seeing is believing." And thanks to this miracle that is called youtube.com, Americans can join me for a walk down the streets of al Anbar province in Haditha, Iraq.

On March 2, with a military security detail, our bipartisan delegation walked the streets of this war-torn city and I posted 15 minutes of unedited interviews with local Iraqis on youtube.com.

The fight is far from over, but we are making significant progress in Iraq. I hope many of my colleagues and many Americans will go to youtube.com, type in "Mike Pence," and take a look for themselves at what Sunni cooperation and the American military have wrought in Iraq.

□ 1430

PROTECTING THE SECOND AMENDMENT AND HUNTING RIGHTS ON FEDERAL LANDS ACT

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Protecting the Second Amendment and Hunting Rights on Federal Lands Act of 2008. This legislation will protect the Second Amendment rights of American citizens and promote hunting activities on Federal lands.

Under current Federal law, land under control of the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been subject to a blanket gun ban, regardless of State law. So I was pleased with the Bush administration's recent announcement that the prohibition of firearms on National Park Service lands, in place since 1983, will soon end.

Currently the laws of 47 States recognize the rights of law-abiding adults to carry firearms for personal protection. The existence of different laws regarding the transportation and possession of firearms has presented a trap for law-abiding gun owners.

It is my hope that these new regulations, when finalized, will provide greater uniformity across our Nation's Federal laws and put an end to the patchwork of regulations that govern the different lands managed by the different Federal agencies. Under this proposal, Federal parks and wildlife refuges will now mirror State firearms laws.

In addition, my legislation would also require that hunting activities be considered as a land use in all management plans for all Federal land to the extent that such use is not clearly incompatible with the purposes for which the Federal land is managed.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Protecting the Second Amendment and Hunting Rights on Federal Lands Act of 2008.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

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

DARFUR: RETURNING TO HELL

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, 3 months after the United Nations took over peacekeeping and joined forces with African Union peacekeepers, the situation in Darfur has entered a new and deadly phase of conflict. There has been an upsurge of violence in western Darfur, and the Sudanese government launched an offensive at the beginning of February. A number of villages have been bombed by government planes, and there have been ground attacks by the Sudanese army and its allies, the Janjaweed militias. According to the United Nations, more than 100 people have been killed and thousands more left homeless.

A March 12 article in the UK Independent describes recent events in Darfur as "a return to hell," with another "scorched earth policy" being unleashed by the Sudanese government, reminiscent of the worst waves of government-backed violence 5 years ago, actions that led the United States to declare what was happening in Darfur as genocide.

Darfur is home to the world's largest humanitarian operation, but the World Food Program reports that 45 of its trucks have been hijacked already this year. WFP now transports about half as much food into Darfur as it normally would.

Tensions also run high between neighboring Chad and Sudan, and eastern Chad is receiving a new influx of refugees from Darfur at a time when Chad itself is facing instability and displacement.

The new commander of the U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force said it would not be fully deployed until the end of this year, possibly not until the beginning of 2009. The peacekeeping mission, which is supposed to deploy 26,000 peacekeepers, currently has only about 9,000 soldiers on the ground.

The Sudanese government, President Al-Bashir, is defying the world. The government is blocking new deployments of U.N. peacekeepers at every turn, vetoing non-African troops, blocking supplies, and refusing to provide land for bases.

But the international community is also to blame for the obstacles confronting the peacekeeping mission. Nations have failed to make good on their pledges of support, from soldiers to equipment to funds. The mission requires 18 troop-carrying helicopters and six armored attack helicopters. So far, they have none. U.N. officials say they could have responded to last month's attack if they had the right equipment.

Mr. Speaker, why haven't the United States and our Western European allies provided these helicopters to the U.N.-AU peacekeeping mission? Why aren't we working collectively and with Russia and China to make sure this force has the helicopters, equipment, manpower and funding necessary to protect the people in Darfur and the refugees? Why hasn't the U.N. Security Council called an emergency session and targeted new sanctions at Sudan's highest

officials, including President Bashir? Why isn't the international community working together to make sure peace-keeping missions are fully equipped and deployed to eastern Chad and the Central African Republic? Why haven't we lived up to our word to stop the genocide in Darfur?

Mr. Speaker, words are not enough. It is action that is needed. And while we remain silent, while we refrain from taking action and fulfilling our promises, women and children are raped. Homes are being looted. Villages are being burned to the ground. People are dying of hunger and exposure.

Darfur is returning to hell.

KEEPING OUR PROMISES TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, first I want to commend David Walker for his years of service as U.S. Comptroller General, heading up the Government Accountability Office. Mr. Walker is a highly respected CPA from Atlanta and for the last few years has been trying to be a Paul Revere about the horrible financial condition of the Federal Government. He has appeared before many Congressional committees and on television and has traveled around the country trying to sound the alarm about our \$9 trillion national debt, and, even worse, our \$53 trillion in unfunded future pension liabilities.

Two days ago in the Washington Times he was quoted from testimony he gave about Iraqi oil revenues. "The Iraqis have a budget surplus," Mr. Walker said. "We have a huge budget deficit. One of the questions is who should be paying."

Stewart Bowen, Inspector General for Iraq reconstruction, said increased production, along with the highest oil prices in history, "coalesce into an enormous windfall for the Iraqi government." Mr. Bowen said Iraqi oil revenue is now around \$60 billion, and probably headed higher.

Most estimates are that we have been spending approximately \$12 billion a month on the war in Iraq, a really astounding figure if you stop to think about it. However, even worse, the request for this fiscal year is \$189 billion, or \$15.75 billion a month. This comes out to \$500 million a day.

There is certainly nothing fiscally conservative about the war in Iraq. William F. Buckley, Jr., was an inspiring figure to almost every conservative Republican. In the current issue of the New Republic, John Judis begins an article about Mr. Buckley in this way: "In the last years of his life, William F. Buckley, Jr., who died on February 27 at the age of 82, broke with many of his fellow conservatives by pronouncing the Iraq war a failure. He even expressed doubt about as to whether George W. Bush is really a conserv-

ative, and he asked the same about neoconservatives."

Mr. Buckley wrote in 2004 that if he had known in 2002 what he then knew, he would have opposed the war in Iraq.

More significantly, in June of 2005, he wrote, "A respect for the power of the United States is engendered by our success in engagements in which we take part. A point is reached when tenacity conveys not steadfastness of purpose, but misapplication of pride." Mr. Buckley continued, "It can't reasonably be disputed that if in the year ahead the situation in Iraq continues as bad as it has done in the past year, we will have suffered more than another 500 soldiers killed. Where there had been skepticism about our venture, there will then be contempt."

The major difference is that instead of just 500 more soldiers killed, we have had more than 2,000 killed since Mr. Buckley wrote that. Earlier in 2005 he had written that the time had come to get out.

There is nothing traditionally conservative about the war in Iraq. It is huge deficit spending. It is massive foreign aid. It is placing really the entire burden of enforcing U.N. resolutions on our taxpayers and our military, when conservatives have traditionally been the biggest critics of the U.N. This war has gone against every traditional conservative position.

In addition, our Constitution does not give us the authority to govern Iraq, which is what in reality we have been doing. All this against an enemy whose military budget was only a little over two-tenths of one percent of ours, most of which was used by Saddam Hussein to build castles and protect himself and his family. Iraq was no threat to us whatsoever.

As the conservative columnist Charley Reese wrote, "The war in Iraq was against a country that was not attacking us, did not have the means to attack us, and had never expressed any intention of attacking us. And for whatever real reason we attacked Iraq, it was not to save America from any danger, imminent or otherwise."

Similarly, nationally-syndicated columnist Georgie Ann Guyer wrote a few months after the war started, "Critics of the war against Iraq have said since the beginning of the conflict that Americans, still strangely complacent about overseas wars being waged by minorities in their name, will inevitably come to a point where they will see they have to have a government that provides services at home or one that seeks empires across the globe."

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we have to choose. Do we keep spending mind-boggling amounts of money in Iraq, or do we keep our promises to our own people? We cannot afford to do both.

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

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

□ 1445

A CONSTITUTION THAT ALWAYS LIVES AND NEVER DIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I applaud your leadership, and I am delighted to have the opportunity to address the day's and the week's events, because many times, as we discuss these matters on the floor of the House, many of our constituents and Americans sometimes wonder the order of our words.

This afternoon we did an important and major leap towards securing this Nation and providing it with the protection of civil liberties. Although in the course of the discussion there may have been accusations, the FISA bill, the amendments to the Senate bill, was the right approach and the right direction to take.

You know, we had an opportunity last evening for a secret session, and I was on the floor questioning the validity of such, because I always believe what we do in America should be in the eyes of America, although we recognize in this time of terrorism there is a necessity for classified documents or top secret documents, but there is never a time to close the door on America's knowledge.

I would not want this debate that many of you may have heard to be characterized as one of a coverup that we are doing something that does not provide the absolute safety and wise direction that America should take. I wanted to simply add to my statements that will be put into the RECORD the idea that this bill provides the opportunity to secure foreign-to-foreign surveillance, but it also avoids the targeting of Americans without the intervention of the court so that if you were, by chance, talking to a relative in a foreign land that might, without your knowledge, be targeted or through some way, might be connected, that would draw surveillance, you can be assured that as an American, unlike the occurrence with Martin Luther King and some Americans during the Vietnam War, that you have the intervention of a court established first in 1978 under President Carter.

We have streamlined that. The language called "reverse targeting" was an amendment that I submitted into the Judiciary Committee that would avoid targeting an American without the intervention of a court, not a court for 6 days or 6 weeks, but an automatic intervention that is given to you within hours.

We have a system where the Attorney General now must, along with the Director of Intelligence, put in guidelines to be able to oversee what happens when an American is targeted. I