

volunteer and take care of the rest of us in times of war. Sometimes those young men and women give their lives for the rest of us. United States Army Corporal Scott A. McIntosh, of Humble, Texas, was one of those noble few. He was killed in Iraq on March 10, 2008 by a suicide bomber, and he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

Not only was he a loyal and courageous soldier, but he was a beloved son, a caring brother and a friend to many.

His life was special not just because of how he died, but also because of how he lived. He was both the kid next door and a proud soldier defending this Nation.

He was born on February 4, 1982 in Humble, Texas, and he graduated from Cypress High School in 2001. After trying college for a little while he decided it wasn't ready for him, and he joined the United States Army. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, in Fort Stewart, Georgia. He re-enlisted for three more years when his first tour of duty was over.

His parents, Alex and Gwenn McIntosh, did an excellent job raising such a fine son. His family described Scott as someone who loved people. His mission in life was to meet and make friends with every person he came in contact with. He shared his hearty laugh and always had a smile to give. Scott always had a positive outlook on life. He loved to hunt and fish in his spare time, but most of all he loved his family, the Army, the country he lived in and his life.

His smile matched his fun-loving personality, which carried over into everyday tasks, like work, with humorous results.

Eric McIntosh described his brother's comical attempt at being a golf caddy. When Scott went to work, he said, "it was like a scene right out of the movie Caddy Shack. Scott barely showed up on time, still tucking his shirt in his pants and tying his shoes, and he would grab the golf bag and march down the fairway with all the clubs and balls falling out all over the place."

Scott would have fun with everything that he did and his joyful, worry-free personality was contagious to those that knew him and everybody around him. Not only did he love to laugh, but he truly cared about others, especially his family in Texas.

Scott was always looking out for other people, and that's why he joined the United States Army. He wanted to protect and serve those he loved. And as the Good Book says in John 15:13, "Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." Scott's life was a shining example of this greater love which he demonstrated for family, friends and country.

Scott went off to war because he was a faithful son of America. Over Easter weekend this past weekend I had the

opportunity to be in Iraq with our troops. And Mr. Speaker, there is no finer military in the long history of warfare than our troops that are in Iraq that proudly wear the uniform of the American fighting man. Scott McIntosh was among those elite fighting forces.

Scott's wonderful life is a huge loss to those that were close to him. His father said, "My family is devastated by this loss, and it is something that we will have to carry with us for the rest of our lives. At the same time, however, we are bursting with pride for our son's service to this country. We understand the sacrifices required to keep this country free. And Scott was the best son anyone could ever have asked for. I will love and cherish him for the rest of my days."

Mr. Speaker, this is a photograph of Scott McIntosh. He was a real person and he was proud to wear the uniform of the United States soldier.

In a moving speech at his brother's funeral, Eric told hundreds of friends and family that he loved his big brother. He thanked Scott for being such a good friend, a good son, a great person and the best brother anybody could ever have.

In a final act of sacrifice for others, his family has established the Scott McIntosh Memorial Fund. In the attack that took Scott's life, four other soldiers were also killed. Three of them were married and had small children. And the purpose of the fund will be to raise money for those kids who lost their fathers that were soldiers in Iraq. Even in death, the eternal spirit of Scott's love and care for others will continue.

We do not forget, as a Nation, Corporal Scott A. McIntosh and all those who sacrificed their lives on the altar of freedom. Scott's memory will live on in the hearts and minds of friends and family, while his life will always be an inspiration to Americans.

We can honor his sacrifice by following his example, to live life to the fullest and to take care of those people around us.

In 1940, a reporter, right before the great World War II, made this comment, he said, "This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave."

Our country, Mr. Speaker, will long survive and live free because of the likes of Scott McIntosh and his band of brothers.

And that's just the way it is.

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THE BIGGEST BURDEN OF THE IRAQ CONFLICT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I'm really glad to be back in the House. I've been away for over 6 weeks because

of back surgery. I've been patched up, and I'm going to be just fine. I'm not worried about myself. But I'm worried, and I hope every Member of the House is worried about the hundreds of thousands of American soldiers and civilians who have been injured in the conflict in Iraq.

Nearly 30,000, probably many, many more of our brave troops have been wounded.

Many have injuries that will rack their bodies and their minds for the rest of their lives.

Yet Vice President CHENEY said last week that President Bush carries the biggest burden of this conflict. Tell that to the widows and widowers, Mr. Vice President. Tell that to the families who have been devastated by the injuries to their loved ones. Tell that to the children who see their mother or father in a hospital bed without a limb or with a terrible head wound. Tell that to the veterans who have not gotten the care they need and the care they deserve, the care we promised them.

One of our soldiers in Iraq, Lieutenant Sean Walsh, wrote a piece for Time magazine recently about the human costs of the occupation. He wrote that his fellow soldiers have become his family and that three of them have died. And he asked the question, "What is worth the lives of three of your loved ones?" It is a good question.

And so I would like to ask every Member of this House who supports the occupation the very same question: Is our occupation of Iraq worth the lives of three of your loved ones?

We must also remember the Iraq civilians who have been injured. We seem to forget them, and that is truly a disgrace. According to the best estimates, anywhere from 80,000 to 150,000 civilians have been injured. And the real number, the real number is certainly much, much higher.

What kind of health care are they, the Iraqi civilians, getting? The International Committee of the Red Cross reported last month that public hospitals in Iraq now provide 30,000 beds. Mr. Speaker, that is less than half of the 80,000 that are needed.

In addition, 2,200 doctors and nurses have been killed since the year 2003, and another 250 have been kidnapped. And the current conflict has worsened the impact of the previous war and the years of international sanctions. Of the 34,000 doctors registered in Iraq in 1990, 20,000 have fled the country, some by choice and others by force. What about their burden, Mr. Vice President?

Meanwhile, the administration continues to play its cynical game with troop levels. It is clear that the administration intends to keep 140,000 troops in Iraq until it leaves office in order to put an artificial lid on this violence. That way, the outgoing administration can say that it improved the security situation and that we are on the road to victory in Iraq.

But the truth is, all that has been achieved is a temporary military and

political stalemate, new explosions of violence coming as I stand here speaking on the floor of the House of Representatives.

And while we continue to be bogged down in a civil war in Iraq, a conflict that began centuries before 9/11, the real enemy, al Qaeda, grows stronger in its cozy, safe haven in Pakistan.

The administration is often criticized for not having an exit strategy in Iraq. But in my view, the reason the President never had an exit strategy is because he never intended to exit Iraq. Permanent occupation has always been his game plan.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's up to the Congress to implement the will of the American people and end the occupation with a responsible redeployment of our troops. The best way to honor those who have died or have been injured in this occupation is to ensure that more won't die and more won't be injured.

That is why I will continue to speak up for our brave troops and for the innocent Iraqis who are, despite what the Vice President may think, the ones who are carrying the biggest burden.

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

SUNSET MEMORIAL

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

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I stand, once again, before this body with yet another Sunset Memorial. It is March 31, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave. And before the sun sets today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless, unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Mr. Speaker. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that were lost on September 11 times 15,000, the total number that were lost on September 11.

It has now been exactly 12,852 days since the travesty called Roe v. Wade was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of our own children. Some of them, Mr. Speaker, died and cried and screamed as they died. But because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords rather than air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common. They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. Each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be the same. And all of the

gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are lost forever.

Yet, even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date: those yet unborn.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps it's important for those in this chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government."

The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

Mr. Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is that clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and they are endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Every conflict our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are. And yet, Mr. Speaker, another day has passed. And we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We failed our sworn oath, and we failed our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with the nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection that we should have given them. And it seems so sad, Mr. Speaker, to me that this Sunset Memorial may be the only remembrance that these children who died today will ever have in this Chamber.

And so just as small a gesture as it might be, I would ask those who are inclined for just a moment of silence at this time for these little, lost Americans.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude in the hope that perhaps someone new who hears this Sunset Memorial tonight will finally realize that abortion really does kill little babies, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express and that 12,852 days spent killing nearly 15 million children in America is enough and that the America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust is still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their babies than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Mr. Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon, each of us will walk through these chambers for the very last time. And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to con-

vene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of the innocent unborn. May that be the day when we finally find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

Mr. Speaker, it is March 31, 2008, 12,852 days since Roe v. Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children. This, in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

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.)

ECONOMIC PLIGHT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the American people are desperately struggling to understand why our Federal Government is ignoring their economic plight. The average price of gasoline now sits at \$3.28 and it is rising. Only a month ago, Americans paid \$3.16. A year ago, they paid \$2.67. Months away from the peak of the summer driving season, the American people can expect to see this trend get only worse.

In 1996, the United States began its plunge into nearly total dependence on imported petroleum. With 10 years of oil deficits continuing to plague our economy, we have spent too much time talking and not enough time acting. Our lack of energy independence translates into a true loss of liberty.

Since the Bush administration assumed office, our Nation is importing a billion more barrels of petroleum a year. A billion barrels more. By 2007, the trade deficit of oil imports had risen to \$293 billion, accounting for a third, over a third, of the total \$815 billion U.S. trade deficit.

This last statistic is truly sobering. But for this year of 2008, 51 percent of the total U.S. trade deficit, over half, is now the result of imported oil. Over half of our structural trade deficit flows directly from the increasing cost of oil.

Again, this equals dependence for America, not independence. It is an abrogation of our birthright as a Nation to allow us to continue in this position.

Based on 2007 numbers, the United States is adding \$808 million a day to the trade deficit just from our imbalance in oil. The rising cost of oil added an estimated \$50 billion to the Nation's trade deficit in 2006 and, on top of that, another \$28 billion in 2007.