

lady who was damaged by vaccinations, a young lady from Georgia, Hannah Poling, her case went before the special master, and the Justice Department had five attorneys who said that this young lady was not damaged in part by the mercury in the vaccinations. This young lady got five vaccinations in one day, most of which contained thimerosal, which is 50 percent ethyl-mercury. Shortly thereafter, she became autistic.

The same thing happened to my grandson. He got nine shots in one day, and within a short time, he became autistic. I won't go into all of the details of what happens when you become autistic, but it is certainly a tremendous change in the lives of not only the child but the entire family.

But anyhow, this case went before the special master along with two others. And just recently, a decision was made in that case by the special master; and in spite of the evidence that was presented by the Health and Human Services, the FDA, and the Justice Department, the special master awarded damages to this family and said that this girl was damaged by the vaccination. And the case was brought because this young lady took several shots, five in one day, that had mercury in them. So this is the first case that shows, in my opinion, that the mercury in vaccines is a contributing factor to the epidemic of autism that we have in this country.

The reason I come before the floor tonight to talk about this is it's time that we got mercury out of all vaccinations. We've been able to get it out of most of the children's vaccinations, but it's still in some. I think it is in three or four now. It needs to be out of all children's vaccinations.

We have had an increase in the cases of Alzheimer's in this country, and that's because in part, in my opinion, because mercury is in almost all of the adult vaccinations. When you get a flu shot or almost any kind of a shot, you're getting ethyl-mercury injected into your body. Now if we eat fish, they tell us to be careful because there's mercury in the fish and it may cause neurological damage. Yet, we are injecting it into ourselves and into our children through vaccinations.

It's high time that the Food and Drug Administration, Health and Human Services, and the pharmaceutical industry decides we want vaccinations because they give us a better quality of life and makes us live longer and prevents us from getting diseases, but we have to get mercury out of all vaccinations out of anything that goes into the human body; and until we do that, the problems with autism and other neurological diseases will continue to rise.

So I would like to say to my colleagues, I hope you will pay attention to this special order tonight. We have to get mercury out of all vaccinations. We can do it with single-shot vials that will not require that preservative; and

once we do that, I think we will have a much better quality of life, and people will be able to get vaccinations without worrying about becoming autistic.

□ 1345

CONGRESSIONAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION PRESENTED TO THE FAMILY OF CHARLES COOPERI' THORNTONA

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, April 4, will mark the date that Martin Luther King departed and went for his just rewards. I have a theory that messengers are sent to Earth to make us better human beings. And if you go back in history, Jesus Christ left early in his thirties, the Kennedy brothers left early in their thirties, and Martin Luther King, after he had done his work, left us.

And so we are very fortunate to be able to participate in a service today honoring the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I would like to pay tribute to someone from the State of California who can be described as a "diamond in the sky."

Charles Thorntona left this Earth about 2 weeks ago, and I presented his family with a Congressional Memorial Certificate of Recognition:

"Whereas he was preceded in death by parents Polly and Jimmie Thorntona and godson Gary Parker.

"Whereas he leaves behind lifelong soul mate Christine; children Kishaun and Charles Thorntona, Victoria and Aurea Smith and Chris Bale; grandsons DeAndre and Jaydn; and siblings Jim, Sandra, Pamela, and Timothy Thorntona and also Debra.

"Whereas, as a musician, artist, and coach, Charles touched many lives. A big-hearted father figure who thrived on making others happy. A legend, never to be forgotten.

"Be it resolved that Charles Thorntona be immortalized as a humanitarian, who shared his life to make it better for his fellow man and left an outstanding lasting legacy for his family and friends. May he rest in peace."

And may I just share a poem that was written called "A Diamond in the Sky," and it's a tribute from his brothers Jim and Tim and also written by Alice Holmes McKoy:

Stand and take a bow;
As you leave us for the pureness of heaven,
You have left us in this mist of life;
What becomes a legend most . . . you, my brother;

The one who reached out to everyone.
You chose to engage to interact to love;
Sharing and caring, never too busy to do.
Why you? The original rock of our world has been called to your eternal rest with the Lord;

You were supposed to let me know these things in advance . . . after all,

I am your brother . . . but it's all right;
As you sit with Jesus, Mom, Dad, and young Gary,
Man, know that you will always be loved and appreciated; and as I look into the sky tonight . . .
I see you . . . a diamond in the sky.

THE PROTECT AMERICA ACT

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it's now 1:48 p.m. on Thursday afternoon. Throughout the Nation, folks are finishing the day shift, getting ready to finish the day shift. People who work the afternoon shift are getting ready for work. Those who work the night shift are probably snoozing a little bit so they can get up in a few moments and start it all over again this evening. And where's the House, Mr. Speaker? The House has gone home. The House has gone home.

Now, why is that important? Well, we have just finished 2 weeks at home talking to constituents about issues great and small. They're concerned about a lot of things, Mr. Speaker. They're concerned about gas prices. They're concerned about the housing situation. And in my district, the Sixth District of Georgia, I get constant questions about national security: What is Congress doing to make certain that our Nation is safe? And that's important because, Mr. Speaker, today is the 48th day, the 48th day, of a unilateral disarmament on behalf of the Democrat leadership of the House of Representatives.

Why do I say that? Well, Mr. Speaker, we are at the 48th day now where the Protect America Act has been allowed to expire. This isn't going to happen in the future. This has happened. This Speaker, this Democrat leadership, has allowed the Protect America Act to expire.

Now, what's the Protect America Act? Well, it's an act, a portion of amendments that were adopted to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act shortly after 9/11. And what this portion of it allows that was allowed to expire is for the United States, our intelligence community, to listen or intercept electronic communication or phone communication between a foreign individual in a foreign land talking to a foreign individual in a foreign land. Not an American citizen, not on American soil. That means, Mr. Speaker, what they would be allowed to do is to listen to a potential terrorist or a terrorist talking to another potential terrorist or a terrorist outside the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I asked every single group that I spoke with at home for 2 weeks, who believes that our intelligence community ought not have the authority to do that, to listen to a terrorist talking to another terrorist outside the United States, talking potentially about how to do you, me, and our

Nation harm? I didn't find a single individual who didn't think that was the right thing to do.

But this leadership, this Speaker, this Democrat leadership has allowed that act to expire. Why? Because they believe that trial lawyers ought to have the ability to represent foreign individuals in the same way that the United States Constitution protects Americans.

Mr. Speaker, that's wrong. Many in my district and I believe also that it's a dereliction of duty. It's an abrogation of duty. It's a violation of the oath that we take as Members of the House of Representatives to uphold the Constitution and to protect and defend the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I call on this leadership, I call on this Speaker, to allow this House to vote on the Protect America Act, a bill, amendments that the Senate passed 68-29, in a bipartisan way; a bill that the majority of this House, the majority, Democrats and Republicans combined, have said they will support if allowed to vote on the floor. Mr. Speaker, this is essential to the protection of the United States of America and to reverse the unilateral disarmament that has come about because of the leadership of the majority party.

Mr. Speaker, I call on this leadership to bring this bill up as soon as we come back next week and do the people's business.

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.)

CONGRATULATING THE HOWARD PAYNE LADY JACKETS BASKETBALL TEAM ON THEIR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AND PERFECT SEASON

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Howard Payne University Lady Jackets on their 2008 NCAA Division III Women's Basketball National Championship. In this, their fourth consecutive appearance in the tournament, the Lady Jackets defeated the Messiah University Falcons 68-54. Winning the National Championship was a fitting end to an unbelievable season for this rising basketball powerhouse. From day one the women of the Lady Jackets unwaveringly pursued excellence, and in the end they achieved perfection. The Lady Jackets finished with a record of 33-0, the only perfect record of any of the 3,823 men's and women's collegiate basketball teams in this country.

Located in Brownwood, Texas, Howard Payne University is a small school of 1,400 students that I am honored to represent. As Division III athletes, the members of the Lady Jackets team receive no scholarships or lucrative contracts for their collegiate exploits. Rather, these women play for the thrill of competition and the glory of their achievements. Every minute of every team practice, at every meeting, and every game is endured for the love of basketball.

I am proud to commend the Lady Jackets today, not only for their victories but also for their dedication to their sport and to each other in the drive to be the best. It is my great pleasure to extend my personal congratulations to team members Tiffany Warner, Katy Sarem, Stephanie Brewer, Mionca Hall, Daphnie Pippins, Kimberly Hoffman, Makiesha Davis, Meia Daniels, Elaine Hobbs, Stacey Blalock, Hope Hohertz, Sarah Pfiester, and Sarah Jockers on their remarkable accomplishments.

I'd also like to congratulate coaches Mr. Chris Kielsmeier and Ms. Lindy Hatfield, who coached this year's team. This season belongs to them as well. While a coach's devotion to their team is often displayed simply in the wins column, this perfect season speaks volumes about Mr. Kielsmeier and Ms. Hatfield's ability to bring out the very best of their players and nurture the talents of their team.

Mr. Speaker, hallowed as these walls that we work in are, we rarely have an opportunity to witness perfection, that which cannot be improved upon. Lest we forget what such accomplishments look like, the women of the Lady Jackets have reminded us that there are rare moments in time when imperfect individuals can work together to achieve perfect results. I hope that by taking time to celebrate these small moments we can remind ourselves the importance of working together to achieve success.

And, again, Lady Jackets, congratulations on a very unforgettable season.

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

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

REMEMBERING THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I joined a bipartisan group of Members of the House and Senate just a few short hours ago here in the Capitol where we were accompanied by Martin Luther

King III, and we gathered to remember a day that tens of millions of Americans will pause to remember tomorrow. That was the day that saw the assassination of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 40 years ago.

I rise today as someone who, as a 9-year-old boy, was deeply inspired by the example of Dr. King and as a 9-year-old boy who was shaped by those tragic events.

But I also rise today as a Hoosier and as a congressman representing Muncie, Indiana, because it may not be known to many, Mr. Speaker, but both Indiana, and Muncie, Indiana, in particular, played a small role in the unfolding drama of that day, April 4, 1968. And I will borrow generously from an article written by Nick Werner recently in the Muncie Star Press as I reflect on that connection.

Muncie helped shape history after the King assassination because it was in Muncie and at Ball State University where Senator Robert Kennedy was speaking. He was speaking at the men's gym, which is now Irving gym. He was running for President of the United States. And it was there after his speech, as he was moving through the crowd, that historians recall and record that he had first learned of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. And as he went to the Muncie Airport and traveled from the Muncie Airport to Indianapolis, Robert Kennedy would prepare what for all the world appeared to be an impromptu speech but one that perhaps he had been writing all of his life. A speech that he would deliver to a stunned crowd in Indianapolis that night, and it was a speech that I rise today to remember.

It was humbling to me, despite our differences on philosophy and politics, to sit today on the same row with Senator TED KENNEDY as we remembered the tragic events of that day.

Robert Kennedy stood before a largely black audience in an outside park in Indianapolis, and he spoke these words:

"I have some very sad news for all of you and I think sad news for all our fellow citizens and people who love peace all over the world, and that is that Martin Luther King was shot and was killed tonight in Memphis, Tennessee." As Nick Werner wrote: "The crowd gasped and screamed, but they remained fixed on Kennedy as he continued speaking, words that condemned violence and lawlessness.

He said, and I add, "For those of you who are black, considering the evidence evidently that there were white people who were responsible, you can be filled with bitterness, with hatred, and a desire for revenge. But," he added, "what we need in the United States is not division. What we need in the United States is not hatred. What we need is not violence and lawlessness, but love and wisdom, compassion toward one another. He asked those gathered to "return home tonight to say a prayer for the family of Martin Luther King. Yeah, that's true, but