

have not been authorized by the Congress and as a result, the task force members are not eligible for Federal disability or death benefits if they are injured while federally deployed.

I have introduced H.R. 4183, the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Act of 2007, which could give them the protections that they deserve. I hope all Members will join me in moving this legislation forward.

DENTON, TEXAS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Denton County, Texas.

I grew up in Denton, a town where a mere 160 years ago there were more cattle than people. In fact, when my parents moved to the area in 1951, the town of Denton was a city of 20,000. Today it is well over 100,000 and the county is well over 400,000.

Denton is not the biggest county in America, but as long as I can remember, it is the kind of place where you knew the mayor, the local shop owners, the bank tellers, or the manager of the local grocery store. The fabric of the community was in the businesses that helped build the community and sustain life there. The same is true today.

Some of these Denton County businesses and the Chambers of Commerce that represent them are here in Washington today. I am pleased to welcome my friends and some of the local officials to the Nation's capital. I also want to thank them for helping make Denton County a place of entrepreneurship and economic opportunity, a friendly place where people are glad to see you, and I, for one, am very glad to call home.

I would like to submit the names of the Denton County delegation for the RECORD: Mandy Calvin, Jonathan Calvin, Gene Carey, Donald Combs, Cindi Howard, Mary Jacoby, Claude King, Matt McCormick, Stan Morton, Jody Smith, Katy Taggart, and Lori Walker.

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

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

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, April 28 marks the 20th annual Workers Memorial Day. I rise with other members of the Labor and Working Family Caucus to acknowledge the millions of workers who have been killed or injured on the job.

Since 1970, OSHA has been a driving force in improving workplace safety across the country. However, the Bush administration has sought to downsize the agency. A weakened OSHA has real life-or-death consequences for workers, such as Cintas employee Eleazar Torres-Gomez who died last year when

he was dragged into an industrial dryer.

Mr. Torres-Gomez's fate is, unfortunately, too common. Sixteen workers die every day in our country from work-related injuries.

Last year, along with Representative LYNN WOOLSEY, I introduced the Protecting America's Workers Act, which amends OSHA to cover more workers, and strengthens protections and accountability. During Workers Memorial Week, the best way to honor our workers is to quickly send this bill to the President's desk.

HERE COMES THE HORSE CAVALRY

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Canada is the largest crude oil supplier to the United States. About half of that crude is derived from what is called oil sands. Also, the military wants to buy Canadian "unconventional fuels" instead of buying fuel from rogue dictators. The Air Force wants to use Canadian "coal to liquid fuel" and turn it into jet fuel.

But the nonenergy bill passed by Congress prohibits such purchases because of absurd environmental restrictions.

Now, not only is it harder for Americans to obtain affordable gasoline, our military is at risk of having a fuel shortage to carry out its mission in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This Nation is at war. Our troops need fuel. The latest congressional attempt to hurt the military as a way of appeasing environmental fear mongers could result in what happened to General George Patton in World War II. On August 31, 1944, General Patton was charging toward Germany and just outside of Metz, France, his tanks ran out of gas because bureaucrats here in the United States denied him fuel.

So unless Congress acts, our troops may be charging into battle riding cavalry horses, while our tanks and planes rust and gather dust because they are out of gas.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1015

RECOGNITION OF WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this coming Monday, April 28, millions of people worldwide will recognize Workers Memorial Day.

Each year, in this country, thousands of workers are killed due to workplace related injuries, and tens of thousands more die of occupational illness. It is staggering to think that each day an average of 16 workers are killed due to the injuries on the job.

The bottom line is that everyone deserves a safe and healthy workplace. Many of us take this basic right for granted, but for millions of Americans, the threat of being permanently disabled or even killed on a job is very real.

Workers Memorial Day not only recognizes and honors those who have been killed or injured on the job, it also reminds us of the overwhelming need to improve health and safety standards in our Nation's workplace.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced a resolution to recognize Workers Memorial Day, and I certainly encourage all my colleagues on Monday to pay respect for those who have lost their lives this past year.

COUNTY PAYMENTS FOR DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON

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

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, in Deschutes County, Oregon, 78 percent of the land is owned by the Federal Government. That's an area 50 percent larger than the State of Rhode Island. Yet the Federal Government has pulled the plug on its commitment to this central Oregon county, by allowing the county timber payments program to expire.

A full 10 percent of Deschutes County's annual budget is comprised of county payments. Faced with the possibility of losing those funds, the county last year laid off employees and cut services in its road department. This year the county's grappling with a similar choice, lay off more employees, cut vital services, or find a balance of the two.

Deschutes County Commissioner Dennis Luke said, "It's not only our roads that will take a hit. More importantly, it affects our ability to reduce the threat of wildfire, provide search and rescue services to folks who enjoy recreating on the vast stretches of federal lands."

All the while, the House has had a solution in waiting in H.R. 3058, a 4-year reauthorization, but its approval has been stymied by the Democratic leadership, which, for some reason refuses to allow it to come up for a vote.

H.R. 3058 languishes while we name post offices, honor sports teams and rename roads. There's time for that, but not time to vote on H.R. 3058.

I hope the health of rural America can find a spot somewhere tucked in among those priorities, and that the leadership will allow the House to vote to reauthorize county timber payments.

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

(Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning

to honor the thousands of American workers who are injured, sickened, and killed each year in this Nation.

Next Monday, April 28, is Workers Memorial Day, dedicated to remembering workers whose lives are lost on the job. Sixteen workers are killed on the job every day in America. Every Day.

And these are not just workers in highly dangerous professions, but workers from every profession you can imagine, from mechanics to teachers to newspaper carriers.

Instead of addressing the crisis in worker safety, the Bush administration continues to underfund the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, OSHA. Like an old dog who's lost its teeth, OSHA doesn't scare anyone. It hasn't improved safety and it doesn't protect workers.

Today, I stand with families who have lost loved ones on the job. Tomorrow I continue working with my colleagues in the Labor and Working Families Caucus to strengthen OSHA.

American workers deserve to be safe while earning a living and contributing to this great country. And we must do more to ensure that they are safe.

DEMOCRATS' COMMONSENSE PLAN

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, "Democrats have a commonsense plan to help bring down skyrocketing gas prices."

That was Ms. PELOSI in a press release 1 year ago today. The price at the pump then, \$2.91 a gallon, today almost \$4 a gallon.

Also 2 years ago, Ms. PELOSI vowed that if her party took over Congress they would cut energy prices, especially gasoline. It's obvious there's a fast growing need for energy in our country, and this need must be met with a solution.

To provide a reduction in gas prices for Americans, we need to find resources here at home and support domestic energy production. Our country needs to research and fund alternative energy production to become less dependent on foreign sources for the security of our country, and to ease the burdening gas prices for our American families.

American families were promised a commonsense plan by the Democrat majority. If there's a commonsense plan, don't you think it's time that we see it?

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, which, sadly, was the first genocide of the 20th century, a template for a cycle of geno-

cide that continues to occur to this day.

The Armenian Genocide involved the issue of man's injustice to mankind. It continued to occur throughout the 20th century, as we know, in the Holocaust, Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and now in Darfur.

Growing up in Fresno, California, as we proudly say, the land of William Saroyan, I heard many stories as a young man from the grandparents of our neighbors, the Kezerians, the Koligians and the Abramhian families, about being forced to leave their homes and farms, the stories of long marches and systematic murders. They believe it was the first genocide of the 20th century, and ladies and gentlemen of the House, I believe it was too.

Genocide is not something that can simply be swept under the rug and forgotten. The United States cannot continue its policy of denial regarding the Armenian genocide, and I encourage that we once again reconsider the passage of H. Res. 106 to recognize the Armenian genocide.

OIL SHOCK

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I want to read an editorial to the American people, Mr. Speaker, that was printed yesterday in Investors Business Daily:

"Oil Shock."

"When it comes to energy policy, Democrats always talk a good game. But look at their actual record while in control of Congress in the last year and a half. It's been nothing short of disastrous.

"Wasn't it 2 years ago that then Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi vowed, if the party took over Congress, to cut energy prices, especially gasoline?

"Democrats have a commonsense plan," Ms. Pelosi went on to say, "to help bring down skyrocketing gas prices by cracking down on price gouging, rolling back the billions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies, tax breaks and royalty relief given to the big oil and gas companies, and increasing production of alternative fuels."

"This is what Ms. Pelosi wrote in April of 2006 as part of her efforts to convince the American people to elect Democrats.

"How's that working for you? The cost of energy, measured by the price of West Texas Intermediate Crude is up more than 70 percent."

On 12/19/07 President Bush signed into law H.R. 6, which was the plan. It's not working.

We want to see the real plan, Ms. PELOSI.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COSTA). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill H.R. 2830, the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1126 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2830.

□ 1025

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2830) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes, with Mr. McNULTY in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall not exceed 1 hour, with 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Homeland Security.

The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) each will control 20 minutes, and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGPREN) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 2830, the Coast Guard Authorization Act that includes critical provisions to strengthen the U.S. Coast Guard.

It's been since 2004, the last time we actually moved through House and Senate and conference a Coast Guard authorization bill, not for lack of effort. In the 109th Congress in 2005 and 2006 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, under then Chairman DON YOUNG, a strong advocate, admirer of and one who embraces the U.S. Coast Guard, we moved the bill through committee, and we brought it to the House in 2006. Unfortunately, we were not able to reach conference with the other body, but not for lack of effort.