

This Memorial Day, he and his fellow veterans at the local American Legion hall will be marching in a parade somewhere in Texas. He's the best man I ever met. Virgil Poe: good man, good father, good soldier. That's plenty for one life.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 2145

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

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

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.)

REAFFIRMING SUPPORT OF THE HOUSE FOR LEBANON UNDER PRIME MINISTER FOUAD SINIORA

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, as the representative of thousands of proud Lebanese Americans in Connecticut's Fifth Congressional District, I rise tonight in strong support of the democratically elected government of Lebanon and to condemn the recent violence perpetrated against the people of Lebanon by the terrorist group Hezbollah.

Lebanon is a vital ally in a region where we need all the allies that we can get. It is a vibrant society composed and defined by its diversity of religious and ethnic backgrounds. A culturally rich Nation renowned for its tolerance and democratic values, Lebanon stands at the crossroads of Arab tradition and Western culture.

Yes, Lebanon has struggled with the proxy wars fought inside its borders by powerful neighboring nations, but with the strong support of the United States, the strong independence and vibrant democratic tradition of Lebanon can and will continue.

Yesterday, this House considered H.R. 1149, which reaffirmed the support of this House for the democratically elected government of Lebanon, led by the governing March 14 coalition. This resolution was necessary because that government has recently come under vicious attack by Hezbollah-led opposition fighters, an outbreak of violence that has brought that country to the brink of civil war.

In response to legitimate actions by the government to protect the security of its own citizens, Hezbollah insti-

gated riots, blocked roads, forcibly shut down media stations, and attacked the residences of prominent members of the ruling coalition. During the course of this violence, Mr. Speaker, more than 69 Lebanese citizens were killed and more than 250 were wounded.

These actions blatantly violated the commitments made by Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, who has always maintained that Hezbollah exists solely to defend Lebanon against Israel, and that its members would never take arms up against other Lebanese. That pretense is now clearly shown to the entire world to be false, as we have known it was for a very long time. Indeed, Hezbollah's primary purpose seems to be to act as the agent of Iran and Syria, which continue arming the terrorist group in order to maintain a presence in Lebanon and a military front on Israel's northern border.

This brief, but bloody, period of fighting was the worst violence Lebanon has seen since the civil war that engulfed that Nation from 1975 to 1990. It demonstrated the military strength of Hezbollah's militias, and it threatened the free media, religious tolerance, and cultural diversity that make Lebanon such an important ally of the United States. The streets of Beirut are now relatively calm, but Lebanon will remain under threat until that government becomes truly independent from foreign influence.

It has been more than 3 years since the Cedar Revolution, when the people of Lebanon took to the streets and demanded an end to Syria's occupation of that country. Unfortunately, while Syrian troops have withdrawn, its government has continued to undermine Lebanon's vibrant but fragile democracy. They do this by allowing weapons shipments to pass over their territory into Lebanon and by continuing to disrupt internal Lebanese politics.

The boiling over of tensions that have been building for months has brought the world's attention to the challenges facing Lebanon, and we must capitalize on that focus.

Last night, the government and opposition leaders concluded talks in Doha, Qatar, finally reaching an agreement that will allow for the formation of a government and the election of Michel Suleiman as President, probably as soon as this Sunday. This is a welcome development and one that bodes well for the future of Lebanon.

But a number of issues still remain unaddressed. These include the status of Hezbollah's weapons, the future of Lebanon's electoral law, and the long overdue investigation into the murder of former Prime Minister Hariri.

The Lebanese people have found a way to live side by side with all of their differences for years and years, and I for one believe that it is in the United States' best interest to do all that we can to use yesterday's political breakthrough to press for the total elimination of undue outside influence

on the Lebanese government and Lebanese society.

As political negotiations move forward in Lebanon, the United States, its Arab allies, and the European Union must provide the Lebanese government with the economic, military and political support it needs. We have seen the difficulty of promoting new democracies in the Middle East; however, in Lebanon, we have the opportunity to preserve one. A window of opportunity has opened, Mr. Speaker. The United States must now work diligently and quickly with Lebanon and her allies to assure that the moment is seized.

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. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is May 21, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Madam Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,903 days since the tragedy called Roe v. Wade was first handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Madam Speaker, died and screamed as they did so, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, no one could hear them.

And all of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves 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." Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle 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. Madam Speaker, it is who we are.

And yet today another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We have failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them.

Madam Speaker, let me conclude in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard this Sunset Memorial tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies; that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express; and that 12,903 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn 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 unborn babies than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each one of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

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

It is May 21, 2008, 12,903 days since Roe versus 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 Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

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.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ENERGY PRICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, let the record show that on Wednesday, May 21, oil hit \$137 a barrel and closed at about \$134. Natural gas has pushed by \$11.50 per thousand and is approaching \$12.

Yes, this chart I have shows the growth in energy costs. Price of oil continues to skyrocket. I guess the part that's surprising is, as a 12-year Member of this body, that it's not a crisis here. This Congress is not treating energy prices as if it was a crisis.

I was looking at my notes before I came down from an October time when I came down to the floor, and we talked then, as we were kind of climbing through the eighties, and that day we

had hit \$94 a barrel. And we all shuddered that we might be approaching \$100, and here we are a few months later, not only past \$100, but at \$134 and actually hit \$137 today.

Do we have a bipartisan task force by the House and Senate that would look at how we deal with this energy crisis and how we deal with these high prices that American consumers are struggling with? The answer is no. Do we have a special House committee looking for solutions? The answer is no.

Yesterday, the House had a bill. It was defined and named to cut costs, cut gas costs. Will it? Well, the first part of the bill dealt with trying to figure out a legal way that we can sue the OPEC countries for not producing enough oil. Now, Saudi Arabia alone produces 12 million barrels a day, and many of the other countries, 10, 9, 7, but we think they should produce more.

It's interesting, on this floor a few months ago, when we had some energy bills pass that didn't have any energy in them, we claimed that it was a new era. The era of oil was over. We were moving into the fields, the new fields, and energy dependence on foreign countries would disappear.

I've been in Congress 12 years. We've increased dependency almost 2 percent a year every year I've been here, and we're on a pattern that by 2015, if we don't change, we'll be 85 percent dependent on foreign, mostly dictatorship, unstable countries, not always friendly to us.

I think that's a serious crisis for the American people. It's a serious crisis for American businesses to compete. It's a serious crisis to our defense of this country.

I wish our governmental leaders, White House and legislative included, were half as interested in energy prices as our military was. Because when I talk to the leaders of the Air Force specifically, who use a huge amount of our energy flying our planes, they want 60 percent of their energy to be non-foreign, and they're working judiciously to do other fuels from coal and fuels from gas and trying to have other non-oil fuels because in oil we're just becoming majorly foreign dependent.

Today, the Senate determined that when they return after the May recess, they're going to deal in the week or two period with climate change. They're going to deal with carbon taxes because they think that a one-and-a-half percentage degree in temperature increase in this country, in this world, is a greater threat to our future than energy prices that most Americans can't afford, and most businesses can't compete in the global economy if they continue.

But the Senate is not talking about energy. They're talking about a climate bill and a carbon tax which will increase energy prices 25 to 30 percent. Much of America today hit \$4 in gasoline. That means if the Senate acts as they say they're going to, a carbon tax