

prefer to pay less for filling their gas tanks than having to pay much more to finance a wider conflict in the Persian Gulf.

TEXAS SHERIFF OMAR LUCIO

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, during the last week I had opportunity to go to the Texas Rio Grande Valley and visit with some relentless lawmen that represent the State of Texas down on the Texas-Mexico border. I had the privilege to be the guest of Valley Sheriff Omar Lucio. We call it the Valley. It's really the Rio Grande Valley that separates the United States from Mexico. And he is the Sheriff in the tip of Texas where it meets Brownsville and Metamoras.

This map here has a photograph or a drawing of where Sheriff Lucio is Sheriff in Cameron County, the red area. Most of his county borders the water. Some of it borders the Gulf of Mexico. Some of it borders the Rio Grande River. And he's been Sheriff there for 3 years.

I went there as his guest to see the way it really is on the Texas-Mexico border and how the violence and the crime is causing a tremendous problem to the locals who live in that area.

Sheriff Lucio is from the Valley. He was born in San Benito, Texas, and he started his law enforcement career in Harlingen, Texas, as a peace officer; and he retired as a captain of police from Harlingen. He's an educated individual from Pan American University. He has a degree in criminal justice and a degree in sociology, and he's also a graduate of the FBI academy at Quantico.

Prior to being Sheriff, he was also the Chief of Police of the City of Mercedes, and he is on the Texas Sheriff's Association, and more importantly, the Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition. What that is, Mr. Speaker, is the Sheriffs, the 16 county Sheriffs that border Mexico and Texas, all the Sheriffs form a coalition because of the tremendous problems they have as law enforcement officers protecting their communities.

Let me try to explain it to you this way: When a crime is committed in a county, even if it is committed by some outlaw that has crossed the border illegally into the United States, the people affected do not call the border patrol, they call the local Sheriff, whether it is a burglary, auto theft, robbery, or a murder. The Sheriffs are the ones who are called because of the crimes that are committed in those counties and not the border patrol.

The border patrol patrols, as the law says, 25 to 30 miles inside the Texas-Mexico border. Most of the Texas counties are a lot bigger than 25 miles. In fact, Cameron County, where Sheriff Lucio is Sheriff, is 1,300 square miles. Now, 300 miles of that is water border. And his biggest concern is the drug

cartels that infiltrate the United States from Mexico.

I want to mention that some of the information I received from Sheriff Lucio was quite remarkable, and I'm very impressed with the intelligence-gathering network that he has. Without going into that—it would not be proper for me to tell you how he gathers his information—but he gathers information from all sources, and he knows as much as anybody, including Homeland Security, as to what is taking place with the drug cartels that are infiltrating especially his county.

And he's concerned about the turf wars in Juarez, Mexico, and Laredo, and concerned that they will spread down further south into Metamoras, which is across the border from his main town of Brownsville, Texas. He says that the illegal criminals that come into his county are the biggest threat to not only national security but the security of the folks who live in that area. And he was very concerned about some of the proposals that the Homeland Security has for trying to protect that area.

There are 70 miles of fence proposed in that area, and Homeland Security is even proposing a fence so far inland that it cuts part of Texas' southmost college in half. Half of that college will be on the southern side of this fence. And that is probably not a good idea, and I would invite the Homeland Security chief to go down to that area and see some of the area and why it's impractical in that area to have a fence. Maybe in other parts of Texas, but certainly not in this particular part of the area.

His deputy sheriffs, Mr. Speaker, make \$24,000 a year, \$24,000 a year patrolling this rugged territory between Mexico and the United States. And I met a good number of those deputy sheriffs and some of his lieutenants, and I insert the names of The Posse, as I call them, into the RECORD at this point.

Gus Reyna, Jr., Chief Deputy; Javier Reyna, Captain; Lt. Carlos Garza, Investigations; Mike Leinart, Chief Jail Administrator; Lt. Domingo Diaz; Lt. Tony Lopez; Lt. Rick Perez; Lt. Dionicio Cortez; Sgt. Andy Arreola; Inv. Alvaro Guerra; Inv. Leo Silva.

And to a man, they are all determined to protect the citizens of Cameron County, Texas, from criminals from any source.

But they talk about the biggest problem they have is the fact that the border is not secure, that criminals come across the border, whether it is drug cartels or just old-fashioned robbers, and then they go back home across the border. And he is asking that he and other border Sheriffs get more manpower down on the border.

I told him that fence was going to cost \$1 million a mile. He said he would rather take that \$70 million that's going in his county for fences and have more personnel, more equipment, because the drug cartels have better equipment, more money, better fire power than he does.

In fact, speaking of equipment, I noticed that he didn't really have a lot of patrol vehicles. The way they get their vehicles, because they don't have a budget for vehicles, is they have to confiscate the drug dealers' vehicles, and they turn those over and become part of his operation.

So I want to thank him for his work down on the Texas-Mexico border, and the Cameron County folks are safer because of Sheriff Lucio and his relentless deputy sheriffs.

And that's just the way it is.

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NATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to thank my colleagues for just a few minutes ago passing unanimously H. Con. Res. 138, which I introduced recognizing June 9 through 15, 2008, as National Men's Health Week.

The need for this legislation could not be more evident, as far too many of our friends, brothers, uncles, cousins, grandfathers and fathers die each day from illnesses and diseases that are treatable.

Despite the advances in medical technology and research, men continue to live an average of almost 6 years less than women, and African American men have the lowest life expectancy of all groups.

Further, all of the 10 leading causes of death, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, affect men at a higher percentage rate than women.

Men simply are not getting the care they need. Women are 100 percent more likely to visit the doctor for an annual examination and to get preventive care.

This happens for a variety of reasons, including fear on the part of men, lack of health insurance, a macho attitude, thinking that they cannot be harmed, lack of information and cost factors. The disparity in men's health has led to increased risk of death from heart disease and cancer. But these problems do not only affect men.

More than one-half of elderly widows now living in poverty were not poor before the deaths of their husbands, and by age 100, women outnumber men eight to one.

We simply must get more men the early care and education they need to lead long, healthy lives. That is why I sponsored this resolution that recognizes June 9 through June 15 as National Men's Health Week. We need to educate both the public and health care providers about the importance of early detection of male health problems to reduce rates of mortality for common diseases.

Appropriate use of tests such as prostate specific antigen, PSA, exams,

blood pressure screening, cholesterol screening and in conjunction with clinical examination and self-testing for problems such as testicular cancer, can result in the detection of many of these problems in their early stages. This early detection can lead to increases in the survival rates to nearly 100 percent of men.

National Men's Health Week was established by Congress in 1994. The week is designed to encourage men and their families to engage in appropriate health behaviors, and the resulting increased awareness has improved health-related education and helped prevent illnesses.

Men who are educated about the value that preventive health can play in prolonging their life span and their roles as productive family members will be more likely to participate in preventive care.

By recognizing National Men's Health Week, we bring this very important issue to the forefront, encouraging discussion and promoting this critical education in early detection.

I thank Chairman WAXMAN and Subcommittee Chairman DAVIS for their support, and I appreciate my colleagues voting in favor of this resolution.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO HONOR FALLEN HEROES

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. Mr. Speaker, on May 8, 2008, I introduced H. Res. 1183, a resolution calling for the House to observe a moment of silence on the first legislative day of each month for those killed or wounded, as well as their families, in the United States' engagements in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I am very grateful that the Speaker of the House has written me to indicate her support for this proposal and has agreed that it is important for the House of Representatives to honor America's fallen heroes. It is my understanding that the Speaker will initiate this moment of silence during the first series of votes tomorrow.

I am pleased that this month will mark the beginning of the House's ongoing observation of a moment of silence for those killed or wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan. I thank Speaker PELOSI for making this right and fitting tribute a part of the regular order of the House.

This moment of silence will serve as a solemn reminder of the more than 4,000 killed and more than 30,000 wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan and a thank you from a grateful Nation. For their courage and selfless commitment to duty, these servicemembers, and their families, deserve our unending support.

Again, I want to thank Speaker PELOSI, and Catlin O'Neill on her staff,

for working with me to make this remembrance a reality for the families of those who have sacrificed for our Nation.

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS PROGRAM

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, this House will take up a critical piece of legislation, H.R. 3058. This legislation would extend the secure rural schools program for 4 years. If this legislation is not adopted, we expect that more than 7,000 teachers in rural districts across the United States of America will be laid off. We expect that in more than 600 counties critical services such as sheriffs deputy patrols, jail deputies who perform services in the jail, and other critical emergency services will end. Road funds will be impacted in terms of critical road and bridge maintenance. This is must-pass legislation.

But we also recognize that the United States of America is in a fiscal bind here. So the Democrats have reimposed something pretty simple most Americans live by called pay-as-you-go. So we had to figure out a way to pay for this. We've gone through a whole ream of proposals, and we've found one that works, and I think in this time of record-high oil and gas prices, it's particularly appropriate.

We would have in place a renegotiation of existing leases which omitted a price trigger at \$35 a barrel or impose a conservation resource fee if those companies would renegotiate. A number of good citizen companies have renegotiated, including Shell, BP and Conoco. A number of other not-so-good citizen companies, those which are extorting incredible amounts of money from the American consumer, such as ExxonMobil, have refused to renegotiate, and they're trying to take their unintended windfall.

Now, many on the other side of the aisle are going to say this is unconstitutional. Well, I would urge my Republican colleagues to read the CRS Report for Congress, No. RL 33974. It addresses those issues in depth. It's not a taking. It doesn't violate the doctrine of unconstitutional conditions. It doesn't violate substantive due process and equal protection. And it doesn't cause a breach of contract.

In fact, CRS finds that the government, but of course not this administration, the Bush administration, may have a cause of its own under a section called unilateral and mutual mistake.

Everyone admits these provisions, these triggers are supposed to be in the bill. At \$35 a barrel, that's about \$100 a barrel ago, the subsidies were supposed to go away for these oil companies. They didn't because some bureaucrat messed up. So, in fact, the preponderance of evidence is that the govern-

ment has a cause of action to reinstate lawful charges against those oil companies. This bill would do that, and it would assure the future of more than 600 counties, hundreds of school districts, 7,000 teachers.

If we don't pass this, if you lean on the slender read, if you're concerned about the wealth of the oil companies, I refer you to ExxonMobil's and others' most recent statements. I refer you to the Wall Street Journal to look at the price of oil hovering in the upper \$120 a barrel when this fee was supposed to come in at \$35 a barrel.

You can't lean on the unconstitutional read, but if you do want to side with the oil companies over and above rural schools, public safety, maintenance of roads, bridges and highways in rural counties across America, then you will side with the oil companies in this vote tomorrow.

I hope a majority of my colleagues join me on the right side of this issue.

GAS PRICES

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. Mr. Speaker, every year I conduct town hall meetings in each of the 69 counties that comprise the First District of Kansas. I want to hear what's on the minds of my constituents and receive my marching orders that I bring back to Washington, D.C.

And so now for the 12th year, I've made the rounds, some 5,000 miles with 69 town hall meetings, and I'm here on the floor tonight to visit one of those issues that has certainly been raised by Kansas voices, and I want to make certain that those voices are heard and that the commonsense that my constituents have is part of the debate on the issues that we face here in the Nation's capital.

While the issues that Kansans talk to me about every year—they change I guess from year to year a bit—one thing remains the same. Folks want to see good things happen in their own communities, and they want to see good things happen in their country.

This year, the issue I heard the most about was the high cost of energy. I heard from Kansans who can't take much more pain at the pump. Right now, prices which are expected only to increase are too high for Kansans, and it's past time in their opinion, and mine as well, for Congress to pay attention.

Farmers, truckers, manufacturers, teachers, seniors, all shared with me that something needs to change or they just can't make it. This is what I heard all across our State. Kansans are trying to get by, and their employers are struggling to keep them employed.

And it's not just about economics. It's about our foreign policy. We can look at the nightly news and see that our own foreign policy is distorted because of national security issues that