

Thank you for your service. God bless and good luck.

Mr. KILDEE. Thank you, Mr. HOYER. Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Could I also ask that Representative FOXX from North Carolina, who is a member of the board, come and express her opinion as well.

Ms. FOXX. I want to thank my distinguished colleagues for the comments they have made. I agree with them, and I will not repeat the points that they have made in their comments to you.

I often like to look back at what our Founders of this country said about different issues and remind us of the things they brought, because our founders were remarkable people and we are a truly blessed country that they came together at the time that they did.

I want to give you a quote from John Adams who was writing about the importance of civic education in 1787. He encapsulated the idea behind the page program in a very simple but profound sentence on the importance of learning about freedom. He said, "Children should be educated and instructed in the principles of freedom."

Now, I know you all don't consider yourselves children, but I am sure if John Adams had been here, he would say, "Young people should be educated and instructed in the principles of freedom."

The experience of being a page has given you the opportunity to be instructed in the principles of freedom with firsthand experience in the halls of the world's greatest democracy. And that is what the page program is all about. That is one of the reasons I am so honored to serve on the Page Board. Having the fantastic opportunity to interact with you is another reason that I am so honored to serve on the Page Board.

You are an excellent group of young people who, in completing this year's program, are embarking on a lifetime of building on your experiences, learning and working in the Nation's Capital. You have performed extremely important functions for us; but I think one of the most important functions that you perform is simply being here and reminding us every day of the people we are serving, and reminding us that the actions we take are going to affect people like you, young people like you who are growing up in this country.

I do want to mention that I have had the privilege this semester of having a page here, Max Robertson, who is from the Fifth District of North Carolina. And the only reason I call attention to Max is because I think he is a great example of all of you. You are all model citizens, I think, of our country. You are all civic achievers, like Max.

I know that many of you will not want to serve in elective office, but I think all of you will want to be citizens and voters after this experience. I hope that many of you will want to serve in

the military, as I know Max has expressed an interest in doing, because that is one of the most sacrificial ways you can serve this country.

All of you, your lives and character are examples of the high caliber of students who serve as House pages. It really has been a delight for me to get to know all of you, to answer questions, to share my opinion with you, and to hear your concerns and your issues about things, because we certainly need to get the feedback that we get from you, too.

I want to congratulate all of you on successfully completing this program, and I want to wish you all the best in all your future endeavors. And I hope that you will not forget your experience here, and that you will stay in touch with us and let us know other successes that you are having and ways that the page program has impacted your life, particularly in positive ways.

I want to thank the chairman, Mr. KILDEE, for his leadership on the Page Board and Mr. BISHOP and all the other folks who are serving on the Page Board for their wisdom and insights, and the opportunity to serve and lend my few talents to that endeavor.

Mr. KILDEE. Much of the joy that I get from serving on the Page Board through the years is the pages. But you have heard the two Republican Members speak, and we indeed are friends and I really enjoy meeting with them. Our meetings, none are bipartisan, they are nonpartisan. The bottom line is you, and they are really friends of mine.

If you will make your concluding remarks, and then I will wrap it up.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Just stay involved, stay active, and stay the over-achievers you are. Thank you for your service here. We have appreciated you.

Mr. KILDEE. Thank you again for all you have done for us, for enriching this body, for, as I say, making myself a better person, making this body a better body. May the riches of God's blessings go with you as you return home. Thank you very much. God bless you.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DRIVE-IN THEATER

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

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the drive-in theater.

On June 6, 1933, Richard Hollingshead, Jr., opened the first drive-in theater in the United States in Camden, New Jersey. Hollingshead's vision of enabling Americans to view movies from the comfort of their spacious cars was mastered through trials on his own driveway where he nailed a bed sheet between two trees and placed a film projector on the hood of his car. From its simple origins, Hollingshead's concept would transform the movie indus-

try and later become a lasting icon of Americana.

Today, there are close to 400 drive-in theaters operating 650 screens in 47 States across the Nation. As summer approaches and evenings become warmer, thousands of families, couples, and groups of friends will gather at drive-ins to enjoy the latest Hollywood blockbusters on the largest movie screens in the theater industry.

Throughout the U.S., moviegoers are rediscovering the pleasures of the all-American drive-in experience, which often includes dining on classic American foods and beverages. My district in eastern Pennsylvania is home to the famous Shankweiler's Drive-In Theater built in 1934. It is the oldest operating theater in the United States. Every summer, many of my constituents flock to local drive-ins like Shankweiler's for an evening.

I ask my colleagues to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the drive-in theater and I encourage all Americans to rediscover their local theaters.

A TEENAGE HERO IN A TIME OF LOSS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, recently communities in North Carolina's Fifth District were hit hard by severe weather in the form of tornadoes. No one was badly injured in the town of Clemmons, North Carolina, when a twister left a trail of destruction leaving several families homeless but thankfully alive. But one young man, Chris Ellis, who is a senior at West Forsyth High School, proved his selflessness and heroism when he rushed to the rescue of his neighbors on Frye Bridge Road in Clemmons.

Risking his own safety, Chris ran to the aid of Amber Parker and her two children who were trapped in the wreckage of their collapsed house. His demonstration of uncommon courage in the face of the awesome power of a tornado is nothing short of inspiring.

Madam Speaker, I hope the example of Chris Ellis is an inspiration to his entire community as they cope with the loss of homes and memories during this difficult time. In times of suffering, it is always encouraging to know there are selfless souls like Chris ready to lend a hand even at their own personal risk.

HIGH FUEL COST CRISIS

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today, just as many of my colleagues have done, to address the urgent high fuel cost crisis. Yes, Madam Speaker, it is a crisis that is facing all Americans. From the trucker who can no longer afford to operate his rig, to the farmer who must keep the tractors

in the barn, or to the small business owner who is being forced to close their doors, the daily commuter, or the general consumer. It is a crisis.

You know, we are being told that we buy petroleum from other countries, oftentimes countries that don't even like us, because many in this country see our resources as a liability, an economic or an environmental hazard. We have got to change that mind set. We must allow ourselves the opportunity to drill on our own land, in ANWR, off our own coastlines. We must increase refining capacity instead of continuing to shut down more factories.

□ 1630

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CASITOR). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

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

NEWS FROM THE SECOND FRONT

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I bring you news from the second front. The second front, of course, is the border we have, the southern border, where there is a war going on. It's a border war between the United States and those people who wish to enter the United States illegally.

During my travels to the Texas/Mexico border and, really, the southern border with Mexico, I've traveled all the way from San Diego to Brownsville, Texas meeting with the various law enforcement officers. Of course I've met with the Border Patrol, but more recently I've met with the sheriffs along the Texas/Mexico border.

Let me make it clear. The Border Patrol does as good a job as we will let them do. They patrol the first 25 miles inland into the United States. But that's all they patrol. And if an illegal individual, no matter who they are, comes into the United States and gets past that 25-mile marker, it's up to somebody else to patrol that area. And much of that time it's left up to the sheriffs throughout the States of Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and California.

The sheriffs patrol the entire county. And let me give you an example. When a crime is committed in a county, a person calls 911, and 911 transfers them to the Sheriff's Department, not to the Border Patrol, because it's not impor-

tant at the time where that crime or where that criminal came from.

And many times those criminals are cross-border criminals. They come into the United States from all over the world to commit crimes and then flee back across the southern border. And it's up to the sheriffs to protect the citizens of those counties.

Just to give you an example of a couple of counties, I've visited with Sheriff Arvin West of Hudspeth County. That's way over here in West Texas. That's a county that's the size of Delaware. And Sheriff West, like most of the 16 border sheriffs along the Texas/Mexico border, they look like sheriffs from Texas, they act like sheriffs from Texas. But, to a person, they are relentless in protecting their communities from criminal conduct.

And much of that conduct is the result of the failure of the United States of America to protect the border from people coming into the United States without permission. It is the duty, the first duty of government, to protect us from invasion by any source and by any means, and that includes anyone that comes into this country without permission.

Most recently, I've gone all the way to the other end of Texas, down to Cameron County, Texas where Brownsville is. It's a unique county because most of that county borders water, either the Rio Grande River or the Gulf of Mexico. And I've watched, and I went down with Sheriff Omar Lucio and some of his deputies who also are a relentless bunch of Texas deputy sheriffs trying to protect the border.

He, like Arvin West on the other side don't have a big budget for vehicles. So the way they get vehicles, Madam Speaker, is they have to confiscate the drug dealers' vehicles, those SUVs. And then once those are confiscated, they use those because they don't have enough money to fund their own transportation on the border.

As Sheriff Lucio said, the drug dealers, the drug cartels outman them, they outspend them, and they outgun them. That's because they have more money than we have on this side of the border.

And to give you an example of how the drug cartels work, and how it is very difficult for the sheriffs and the Border Patrol to stop the invasion of the drugs, down here on the Texas/Mexico border, the Rio Grande River is about as wide as this House of Representatives. And planes fly in from Mexico. They fly out into the Gulf of Mexico, come straight in across the Gulf of Mexico and the border of the United States, and they drop their cocaine, marijuana, and then other drug mules pick that up and move that throughout the United States on these interstate highways that are depicted on this map.

So it's important that we give the border sheriffs the resources that they need. And part of that can come from the Merida Initiative. The administra-

tion has offered and is promoting the idea of sending \$1.4 billion in equipment and training to the other side of the border, to the Mexican side to fight the drug cartels.

Good intentioned, but in all due fairness, the history of Mexico along the border is not good. There is corruption, and many of the military and the police have started working with the drug cartels, some of whom have been trained in the United States have gone over to the other side. Maybe that money would be better spent if we left it on our side of the border and gave that money to the sheriffs to patrol this entire area.

We should give the sheriffs surplus military vehicles that have come back from Iraq and let them patrol all this area, because you cannot patrol this part of Texas with a Prius. We have to use some type of SUV or pickup truck. And it's important that we do this. The number one duty of government is public safety.

Madam Speaker, June 6, 1944, the anniversary is tomorrow. We sent thousands of Americans over the lands and over the seas to protect the borders of countries that had been invaded. France, Belgium, Czechoslovakia and other nations, and it's the duty of our country to protect us from the invasion coming south of the border.

We should send the military to the southern portion of our border and have the moral will to stop the invasion into the United States.

And that's just the way it is.

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.)

NO PICNIC FOR IMPRISONED U.S. BORDER PATROL AGENTS RAMOS AND COMPEAN

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. Madam Speaker, today many Members of Congress and their families will attend the Congressional Picnic hosted by President and Mrs. Bush at the White House.

However, for two imprisoned Border Patrol agents, this day will not be a picnic. Today is day 505 of a terrible injustice in America. Agents Compean and Ramos have been in Federal prison in solitary confinement since January 7 of 2007.

These two U.S. Border Patrol agents were convicted in March of 2006 for wounding an illegal alien drug smuggler from Mexico. The smuggler brought \$1 million worth of marijuana across our border into Texas, and the drug smuggler was given immunity by