

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 June 18, 2008 in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun sets 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 12,931 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, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

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. And it seems so sad to me, Madam Speaker, that this Sunset Memorial may be the only acknowledgement or remembrance these children who died today will ever have in this Chamber.

So as a small gesture, I would ask those in the Chamber who are inclined to join me for a moment of silent memorial to these lost little Americans.

So Madam Speaker, let me conclude this Sunset Memorial in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard it 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 12,931 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that it is time that we stood up together again, and remembered that we are the same America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust; and we are still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

Madam Speaker, as we consider the plight of unborn America tonight, 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 June 18, 2008, 12,931 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 PURSUIT OF OIL: ITS ECONOMIC AND NATIONAL SECURITY RAMIFICATIONS

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, the other day, I went to fill up my car with gasoline, and the price tag was a little over \$75. I gulped because, of course, it's always a shock, and it has been for the last several months every time I've filled up my car, and I know it has been for most persons.

Most Americans, I'm sure, do not consider this to be just the price of doing business and having to go to work. "Okay. No problem. I'll just do this and not complain." But, you know, I thought about it, and there are so many people to thank for this situation we're in that I'm paying \$75 to fill up my car, and it's probably going to get worse by the way. We all recognize that. I was wondering who to thank for this situation, who to thank every single time I go into the gas station. Who is really responsible? Of course, I think, for every single American, every time they go in to get their gas and every time they look at that pump and have it say something startling back at them like \$75 or more, of course, thank your local environmentalist first. Start off there because, of course, it has been years since we've had the kind of control that they've exercised over especially the Democratic Party. As a re-

sult of that control that they exercise and the power that they bring to bear, we have been unable to drill for oil in the United States, off of our coasts or in ANWR.

So thank them first of all.

Then, of course, you could also thank your Democrat Congressman or Senator, if you have one, because, for years now, they've been able to avoid either allowing us to drill for oil in the places where we have oil in this country or, in fact, in the last few months, they've been able to even block any sort of vote on it whatsoever for fear, of course, that they would have to explain such a vote to their constituents.

So there are people who we can thank for \$75 when you go and fill up your car at the gas station. I just hope every single time this happens to every single American and that, every time they go in and put the credit card in the reader and see that money deducted, they remember who to thank.

Also, they should remember this: That it's not just this economic issue. It's not just what it's going to take out of their pocketbooks—mine included—that is causing great pain and consternation. It's also the fact that this is a national security issue. It's not just an economic issue. People are going to have to recognize that we are in a situation, in an international situation, where we are funding our own opponents. The people who want to do us harm are being funded to the tune of billions of dollars a day, every single day, in order to accomplish their goal to eradicate the United States of America from the face of the Earth.

Ten years ago, Osama bin Laden said a strange thing. Well, he says many strange things, but this was a particularly odd statement. He said that he wanted to see \$144-a-barrel oil. Now, this was 10 years ago. Of course, oil was nowhere near this price, and everybody looked at that statement and thought it was peculiar to say the least, but he said that's what he believed it would have to be in order for the West to pay the price that he believed was deserving by all the Muslims in the world who have had their oil stolen from them over the years.

The point is he used oil. He talked about oil as being a tactical part of the war against the West.

Well, who would have thought we'd be right at that \$140-a-barrel mark within the 10-year period of time that he projected? Who would have thought that that was possible?

It also is an indication, as I say, of the fact that we are facing a much bigger problem than just the economic burden. It is imperative that we strip oil of its strategic value. Not only are billions of dollars flowing outside of the United States into countries that are enemies of the United States', but in fact, those dollars do come back to the United States often in terms of investments that are made by countries through things we call sovereign wealth funds. These are funds that are

controlled by governments. There is \$3 trillion, we believe, that is controlled by sovereign wealth funds that are primarily in the Middle East or in countries, again, that are opponents of the United States'. \$3 trillion.

With that money, a lot of things can happen. You could probably even affect, to a certain extent, the futures markets, but you could also, certainly, buy up a lot of stock in a lot of companies. Well, to a certain extent, that's good. That's healthy. I'm not going to argue with the fact that we're getting investment back out of some of those dollars, but some of those dollars go into companies that have very important information available to them that are part of the technological base we have in the United States that we rely upon to keep us one step ahead of the game. Although we try our best to make sure that significant technological advances in strategic areas are not available to countries outside the United States, when you own a lot of stock in those companies, believe me, you have access to a lot of information, and they are making use of it.

So there are ramifications to this outflow of dollars in the pursuit of oil, and there are a lot of things we have to do. Yes, build wind towers. Absolutely. Any kind of alternative fuel you want to talk about and pursue is fine with me, but when it comes down to it, we have to drill. All of those other things will not solve our problem and certainly not in the time frame that will allow us to breathe easier with the thought that the enemies of the United States' are not actually being enriched by our own need for their oil. We have it. It's abundant. There are trillions of barrels of oil just in the Colorado-Wyoming plateau that are locked up in shale now, but there is technology available that will allow us to extract it.

There are all kinds of things that we can do if only the government will get out of the way and allow it to be done. That is what is required. Let's do it as soon as possible.

VACATING ORDERING OF YEAS AND NAYS ON H. RES. 1199

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the ordering of the yeas and nays on House Resolution 1199 be vacated to the end that the Chair put the question de novo.

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

There was no objection.

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

(Mr. WEINER 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 gen-

tleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

RESPONSIBLY RESPONDING TO GAS PRICES

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

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, rapidly rising gas prices are a serious concern in my home district of southern Arizona. It's a serious concern across the Nation, but I think it's important that we recognize that today's prices are the result of policies that have been put in place for many years and, in fact, for many decades. There are responsible actions that we can take now to address the problem. Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, also known as ANWR, is not one of them. In recent weeks, some of my colleagues have called for opening up the areas off of coastlines and in ANWR to drilling.

Current Federal law prevents drilling in these specific areas. Claims that opening these areas would increase drilling, would increase supplies, would bring down the prices have been made all across the House here. They would have us believe that there is nowhere else to drill in the United States except in the areas that are currently off limits to drilling. They claim that we need to increase domestic supply, and if we want to do that, our only option is to open up these incredibly sensitive environmental areas.

This information, Madam Speaker, is blatantly wrong. The oil industry has not tapped all of its drilling options. It holds leases for drilling on lands that have not yet been utilized. In the last 4 years, the Bureau of Land Management has issued over 28,000 permits to drill on public land. However, at the same time, they have only opened up or have actually drilled on fewer than 19,000. So that means that companies are effectively stockpiling 10,000 drilling permits not currently being used to increase domestic oil production for our Nation.

Of the over 47 million acres of onshore Federal lands currently leased by oil and gas companies, only about 13 million acres are currently in production. Now, the trend offshore is similar where 44 million acres are currently leased but where only 10.5 million acres are actually currently in production. Counting onshore and offshore leases, oil and gas companies hold drilling rights to almost 68 million acres of Federal land and waters that the oil companies are not drilling on.

Based on today's production rates on Federal lands and waters, we can estimate the result if oil and gas companies were to tap all 68 million leased but currently unused acres. Our coun-

try could produce an additional 4.8 million barrels of oil and 44.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas every single day. That would nearly double the total U.S. oil production and increase natural gas production by 75 percent. It would also cut U.S. oil imports by more than a third.

Finally, that amount is more than six times the estimated maximum daily production from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Six times. Calling for drilling in ANWR, I believe, is an attempt to hide years of poor energy policies that showed more support and more sympathy for the big oil and gas companies than for hardworking Americans.

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We do have serious energy challenges in our country, and I agree that increasing domestic supply should be part of the solution. We do not, however, have to drill in some of the most pristine and environmentally sensitive areas in America to solve this challenge.

We have millions of acres of resources available to us right now, and we must insist that they get used. That's why I am joining with many of my colleagues to promote practical policies to solve the gas crisis.

Two responsible and reasonable bills that have been introduced offer some solutions. The first is H.R. 6251, the Responsible Federal Oil and Gas Lease Act. It's a bill that would force the oil and gas companies to either produce on their Federal leases or give them up.

The second bill is H.R. 6256, the Responsible Ownership of Public Lands Act. This is a bill which will help lower gas prices by compelling the oil companies to begin producing oil and gas on public lands that they are currently holding but not using. It will also use an escalating fee on land that oil companies have leased but are not using for production. Both of these bills would provide some strong incentives for the oil companies to stop stockpiling these leases and begin using them.

We would also help reduce the demand of oil and gas by investing in a new energy economy, revenue raised by these fees will be invested in renewable energy and energy efficiency programs to help reduce our dependency on oil. So while we continue to develop renewable energy solutions like solar energy, we have to continue to power our economy today.

That means yes, we will need gas, we will need oil, but we will need them at an affordable price. We must require that the oil and gas companies use the Federal resources that have already been given to them. By increasing domestic production on leases they already hold, they can lower prices at the pump.

That's why I support H.R. 6251, H.R. 6256, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in backing these intelligent proposals.