

them to not extend the moratorium on drilling offshore on the continental shelf. Because if they do that, Mr. Speaker, then the price of gasoline and energy will go down, and we will move rapidly toward energy independence. And that is what everybody wants.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

#### HONORING CORPORAL JASON DANE HOVATER

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

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, tonight I come to the floor to honor a great American hero, Corporal Jason Dane Hovater, who gave his life 10 days ago in defense of the United States of America in Afghanistan. Corporal Hovater was killed when 200 militants with machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars attacked his outpost. Thankfully, they were beaten back after a fierce firefight that lasted hours. But nine American soldiers lost their lives.

Besides Corporal Hovater, First Lieutenant Jonathan Brostrom of Hawaii; Sergeant Israel Garcia of California; Corporal Jonathan Ayers of Snellville, Georgia; Corporal Jason Bogar of Seattie, Washington; Corporal Matthew Phillips of Jasper, Georgia; Corporal Pruitt Rainey of Haw River, North Carolina; Corporal Gunnar Zwilling of Florissant, Missouri; and Private Sergio Abad of Kentucky, with the C Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, these nine patriots gave it all they had. And they laid down their life for our Nation.

Yesterday morning, I had the privilege of being with Corporal Hovater's family at the Holly Gamble funeral home in Lake City, Tennessee.

I was with Jeanna, his wife of only 19 months. They only had 6 weeks together before he went to train, before he spent 16 months on the ground in Afghanistan. He was set to come home 1 week after his death.

I met his mother, Kathy; his father, Gerald; his sister, Jessica; his brothers, Joe and Jesse Darrin; Sean and David. They're very active at the Lake City Christian Fellowship where the memorial service was held Monday night. It was a praise service. You see, he was a worship leader. His family is very involved in this ministry. When I met his family, it was like no other time that I have spent with a family of a wounded or slain soldier. Unfortunately, he was the ninth soldier from Tennessee's Third Congressional District, and every time we've lost one in the last 4 years,

I have had the privilege of being with the family and presenting them a Bible engraved in their memory. But this was unusual. In this family's eyes, all of them, all of them, was the love of their Lord.

The humility, the genuine appreciation of our Nation, they honored their son. They believed deep in their soul that God was with him when he was conceived, throughout his life, God was with him when he died on this Earth, and he is with God today. They believe deeply that this is what God ordained for him, to lay his life down voluntarily for our country. I had the privilege to say to them, thank you from a grateful Nation, from every one in the Congress and the executive branch, to thank this family for this extraordinary sacrifice and to share with them that every time freedom has been handed from one generation to the next, it has been by the blood of these American patriots who are willing to stand between a threat and our civilian population and pay the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf.

Corporal Jason Dane Hovater is an American hero in every sense, and we thank him so much for his sacrifice. And we thank this extraordinary family for their witness and their testimony and their faith and their goodness and their trust in God Almighty that Jason is in his arms and they will see him again. I felt it. We love him, and we are so grateful in east Tennessee that they gave their husband, their son, their brother, for all of us. And with his eight comrades, we honor you on the floor of the House tonight and we thank you for standing up for us and giving us, as Abraham Lincoln once said, "your last full measure."

We honor you, Corporal Hovater, as a great American patriot and hero. We will always remember, and we will never forget.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

#### AMERICAN ENERGY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I don't think anyone could have heard that wonderful 5-minute speech just given by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) without being touched and without reflecting on how much we owe our men and women who are fighting every day to protect us and to allow us the opportunity to do what we do here and for everyone else in this country to do what they do. I also want to express my appreciation. I feel very

humbled to come here and speak after him.

But I do want to talk about something that is very important to all of our military families, and that is the price of gasoline in our country and what is happening and not happening in our country related to that.

In 2006, Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER, and many other leaders in the Democratic Party promised the American people if they would give them control of Congress, they would do things differently. They said that they would bring down the price of gasoline. Well, the price of gasoline has almost doubled under their watch, and we have yet to see any kind of plan.

However today, House Republicans introduced a bill, H.R. 6566, the American Energy Act, that is a comprehensive measure to reduce gas prices "by harnessing new technologies, encouraging greater conservation and efficiency, and increasing American energy production in an environmentally safe manner."

House Republicans will push for an up-or-down vote on the legislation before Congress adjourns for the August recess in 9 days. Our leader, Congressman BOEHNER, has issued a statement on this bill: House Republicans have a plan to lower gas prices by supporting more production of American energy, encouraging more conservation and efficiency, and promoting greater use of alternative fuels.

Today we have transferred our plan into a single bill that reflects our all-of-the-above strategy. We have only 9 days remaining before the August recess, and it is time for Speaker PELOSI to bring this bill to the floor so Members on both sides of the aisle can give it the support we all know it would receive.

A solid majority of Americans and a bipartisan majority in Congress support more production of American-made energy to help bring down the price at the pump. For months on end, Democratic leaders have instead clung to the anti-American energy policies that have driven gas prices to historic levels and increased our costly and dangerous dependence on foreign sources of oil and gas. By blocking a vote on the all-of-the-above plan to reduce energy costs, Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER and their colleagues in the Democratic leadership are proving themselves complicit in the financial crunch American families feel every time they fill up their tanks. Congress must not adjourn for the August recess without giving the American Energy Act an up-or-down vote, and House Republicans will continue to fight to hold Democratic leaders accountable until the American people get the vote they expect and deserve.

What Americans need to say to the Democratic leadership: Do it here; do it now; do it for America. We can be energy independent. We have the means.

The good Lord has given us the resources we need. Americans need to demand it of the Democratic leadership in the House.

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.)

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

(Mr. MCHENRY 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 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 New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey 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 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 Texas (Mr. HALL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HALL of Texas 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.)

#### AMERICAN ENERGY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 18, 2007, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank you and I thank my colleagues on the Republican side and our leadership for giving me the opportunity to be on the floor tonight to talk to all of our colleagues, both Republicans and Democrats, about one of the most pressing issues facing this country in a long, long time. And of course the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) just spent her 5-minute discussion talking about the very same thing. But we are blessed to have an hour worth of time tonight, as we have done on several nights for the last I would say 3 or 4 weeks talking about this one huge problem, Mr. Speaker.

And I have a number of my colleagues who have joined me tonight to help in this discussion of this energy crisis which is so important that the Nation is now facing. We have a Member who I will yield to subsequently who wants to talk about something very unique, a new bill, something that he has thought of that I think is very, very interesting, intriguing, and I want my colleagues to hear about that.

But let me start the hour, Mr. Speaker, by giving our colleagues a little quiz. This is not a pop quiz. Well, maybe in a way it is, but it is not a difficult pop quiz. In fact, it is the easiest type question, the kind I always enjoyed when in school, it is multiple choice. It is a multiple-choice question. So I want to ask the cameras to sort of hone in on this first slide that I have to my left. This is the question. It is simple. It is straightforward.

How do we bring down the price of oil?

Now I have listed about six possible answers. I could have listed eight or ten. Let's start with A, open up oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Outer Continental Shelf.

Now that oil and natural gas has been closed to us, has been locked up since the mid-seventies when a moratorium was placed. Thank goodness President Bush just recently, in the last 2 weeks, lifted the executive order and now Congress certainly could pass a law and allow us to do that.

So, A, I am sure for many of our colleagues in this body on both sides of the aisle, A, would be their choice as the best answer.

The second answer, B, build new oil refineries. Well, you mean we haven't? No. No, my colleagues, we have not built a new oil refinery in this country probably in 25 years. We have expanded a bit along the gulf coast where most of the refineries currently exist. And, of course, they are right in hurricane alley, and we know what happened during Hurricane Katrina when a lot of refineries were shut down and we had a real crisis because of that.

So darn right, B would be a good answer, build new oil refineries.

And C, commercially develop renewable energy resources. What do we mean by renewable energy resources? Well, I think the main two that come right to mind are wind and solar. Wind and solar. Wind and sun.

There are some parts of the energy where there is a lot of energy produced by wind and sun. The North Sea, the northern part of Germany, Hamburg; in the Netherlands. I have been to both of those countries and seen these huge turbines, wind farms, and some are out in the ocean. You can't see them, they are a long way from shore, but this constant wind source in the North Sea is a good source of renewable energy.

Solar panels, I would say, work real good in the equator in the temperate zones, but they may not work so well in certain parts of our country. But without question, C is a good response to how do we bring down the price of oil, commercially develop renewable energy resources. We are doing that. In fact, we have tax credits to incentivize that. I have recently supported a bill by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT), to renew those tax credits for renewable to stimulate that industry. These tax credits expire, I think, in about a month, so it is very important that we do renew that.

Right now only 1 to 2 percent of the energy, the electricity in this country is generated from these renewable sources. It ought to be 6 to 8, maybe 10 percent; and hopefully eventually it will. So C is a pretty darn good answer.

The fourth choice, D, commission new nuclear power plants. Well, you know, some of our colleagues may say you mean we haven't? We don't? We have got over 100 nuclear power plants in this country, some in the southeast. The gentleman from Tennessee is with us tonight, and there are some in Tennessee. And there certainly are some in my home State of Georgia. I worked at a nuclear power plant in South Carolina when I was a co-op student at Georgia Tech. But we have not licensed, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has not licensed a nuclear plant in about 30 years.

The Three Mile Island scare, there was no loss of life, maybe that had something to do with it. But nuclear power today is safe. It is efficient. It is clean; and yes, it is expensive. And maybe that is part of the reason why we haven't gone nuclear in a more meaningful way. Right now I think probably 12 percent of our power in this country is generated by nuclear power.

But when you are paying \$140 a barrel for oil, petroleum products, all of a sudden nuclear power would be a bargain. And we have a couple of power plants in the State of Georgia. Plant Vogtle has two and is asking to bring online two more. We need to streamline that.

There are countries, France in particular, 85 percent of their electric power, their electricity, is generated by nuclear power. In fact, they even have to sell some of that to their