

were killed in the line of duty defending the Capitol against an intruder armed with a gun.

At 3:40 p.m. today, the Chair will recognize the anniversary of this tragedy by observing a moment of silence in their memory.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ON ANNIVERSARY OF CAPITOL POLICE DEATHS

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

Mr. HOYER. The Speaker has just made an announcement about two of those who served our democracy and our country and who served this Capitol. Every morning when I come into work, I pass by a plaque honoring Detective John Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut on the spot where they were murdered 10 years ago this very day.

It's a quiet hallway now. Down the hall you can hear the sounds of visitors to the Capitol; a few feet away the work of the majority leader's office goes on every day. John Gibson lost his life in the hallway that is in my office that was then the office of the majority leader Tom DeLay. What a shock to think that that hallway could be filled with gunshots and blood, to know that our Capitol, the most sacred space in our democracy, could be filled with violence. But what a saving grace to know that every day we are surrounded by brave men and women who will stand in the way of violence even at the cost of their own lives.

Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut died in the defense of our democracy just as surely as those in harm's way in Iraq and Afghanistan and in other trouble spots of the world.

Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut deserve every tribute they've been given: Lying in honor under the Capitol dome; yesterday's words dedicated to their memory; today's moment of silence at 3:40. But we know that what they did, every member of the Capitol Police and every law enforcement officer throughout our land stands ready to do as they rise in the morning and put on a badge, either on their uniform or in their wallet or on their hip, and they attach a gun, perhaps, as well, prepared to defend and keep the peace.

We honor Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut not because they were unique in their sacrifice, which, however, they were, but because their willingness to sacrifice was so typical, typical of all of the best in those who wear the badge.

Edmund Burke wrote that "Good order is the foundation of all things." It is certainly the foundation of every-

thing that happens in this building. Without peace and good order, democracy could not survive.

Let us thank those men and women who risk their lives to give us order, safety, freedom from fear, and let us keep their families in our thoughts today and every day.

God blesses America with men and women ready to defend our freedom, our country, and our Capitol. Without them, the work of this Capitol and the work of our democracy would not prevail. We thank their families, we remember them this day, and may God grant them continued peace.

DRILL ON THE ANWR SPECK

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, as our "Drill Nothing" Congress continues to ignore viable energy options such as drilling in ANWR, I thought a chart would best illustrate where these drilling locations are.

Madam Speaker, this is Alaska, this is ANWR, and this little bitty red speck is where the proposed drilling in ANWR is to be. It takes glasses to see it because it's only 3 square miles. To put it in perspective, the Houston Intercontinental Airport is five times the size of this speck. Disney World is 15 times the size of this speck, and the King Ranch in Texas is 500 times this proposed drilling location.

Madam Speaker, it's time for Congress to stop using the distortions of the elites in the environmental fear lobby as an excuse not to take care of ourselves. America needs to take care of Americans and not be held hostage by OPEC and handcuffed by the Drill Nothing Congress.

And that's just the way it is.

PASSAGE OF THE HOUSING BILL

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor to acknowledge the bipartisan work of this Congress and the Bush administration on the housing bill that the House passed yesterday. This legislation is in the best interests of the American people, and it was the product of honest negotiation and compromise between the administration and this Congress.

At the beginning of the 110th Congress, I had hoped that this type of work between the legislative and the executive branches would take place regularly. Unfortunately, it has been a rare occurrence. I'm optimistic that the next administration will be prepared to put forth ideas and to work collaboratively with the Congress instead of resorting to tired rhetoric and dragging their feet on policies that are supported by Americans.

I'm glad that we had a positive breakthrough and bipartisan negotiations with this important housing bill. It will provide needed assistance to homeowners, to communities, and Main streets across the Nation. And I look forward to the Senate's swift passage of this legislation to enhance the economic future of the United States.

PUT ALL ENERGY OPTIONS ON THE TABLE

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

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, earlier this week I had the opportunity to meet with patients at the Jackson Dialysis Center in Jackson, Michigan, and discuss transportation issues. I heard from patient after patient about how high gas prices are negatively affecting their lives and their health.

I also visited the American Red Cross branch in Jackson and learned that service volunteers, men and women who help fire and accident victims, are now using their own money to pay for gasoline because the Red Cross cannot afford to reimburse.

I heard about situations in my district and across the Nation like this, yet Congress continues to do nothing. High gas prices demand action from Congress and we need to put all energy options on the table. Just as with the Manhattan Project and the race to the Moon, breaking our dependence on foreign oil should be a national priority. Americans are being stretched to the max, and it is time their elected representatives act on their behalf.

I urge my colleagues to sign on to my discharge petition to bring the No More Excuses Energy Act to a vote. So I say to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, Madam Speaker, let's join together and vote to immediately increase American energy production, bring down the price of gas and make American energy independent.

THE MIDDLE CLASS IS GETTING SQUEEZED

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, yesterday the Wall Street Journal reported that the richest 1 percent are doing better than ever under President Bush. According to the Wall Street Journal, the income of the richest 1 percent, people who earn above \$1 million, are at a 19-year high. At the same time, their average income tax rate is at an 18-year low. And if they're doing so well, simple question, how are the other 99 percent doing?

Median household income has dropped \$1,200 under George Bush and the Republican Congress. Household expenses are up \$4,600. College costs have doubled. Health care costs have doubled. Gas prices have more than doubled, and yet median income has

dropped by \$1,200. These are sobering statistics. The middle class is simply getting squeezed in this country.

After 7½ years of the administration policies, it's not a surprise 99 percent are getting hurt and the top 1 percent are doing better than ever. And now JOHN MCCAIN is offering an economic plan to cut taxes to this top 1 percent by \$127,000.

It is time for a new direction.

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EXELON

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, Exelon, an energy company which provides electricity to my district in Pennsylvania, recently announced a voluntary goal of reducing, offsetting, or displacing more than 15 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year by 2020. This is more than the company's current annual carbon emission total and is equivalent to taking nearly 3 million cars off American roads and highways.

The campaign, called Exelon 2020, will pursue three broad strategies: first, reduce or offset Exelon's carbon emissions by reducing energy consumption and operating to the highest environmental standards; secondly, help customers and the communities in which they serve to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency programs and a diverse portfolio of green products and services; and third, offer more low-carbon electricity in the marketplace.

The voluntary, market-driven strategies such as Exelon 2020 will help to strengthen our clean energy infrastructure, and they should be commended.

MIDDLE CLASS TAX FAIRNESS ACT

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, the gentleman on our side of the aisle who just spoke from Illinois laid out the exact situation that's happening in our economy. That's why today I'm proud to introduce the Middle Class Tax Fairness Act, which will allow the average taxpayer to keep more of their hard-earned dollars.

In this slow economy, it's unfair to put the load of taxation right on the backs of the middle class. Middle class Americans are being squeezed by high gas prices, high cost of groceries, high health care costs, high tuition costs, and their paychecks, as you heard, are not keeping up with the rising costs. And in fact, the speaker was right; they're actually \$1,000 less than they were 5 years ago.

Meanwhile, our tax code is full of government waste and unnecessary giveaways to the richest 1 percent.

Today, I am introducing legislation that will restore balance to our tax code and do something unusual: help reduce the national debt. My bill will be a jump-start to this slumping economy. It will double the standard deduction for the next 2 years, providing an annual savings of \$750 to 61 million Americans. It will expand access to the child tax credit and provide relief on property tax.

My legislation allows the middle class to keep their income and does so in a fiscally responsible manner, by fully being paid for.

Madam Speaker, it is easy to offer a tax cut. It's harder to pay for it. Join me.

LIFT THE AMERICAN OIL EMBARGO

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

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, today we vote on a bill to draw down the Strategic Petroleum Reserve by 70 million barrels of oil. The U.S. consumes 21 to 23 million barrels of oil a day. So this is just over 3 days' supply.

The good news is that our Democrat colleagues have finally started to realize that supply is the problem. Seventy million barrels may help slightly the pain at the pump, but so would the billions of barrels of oil in ANWR, offshore, and in shale oil.

Increasing American energy supply is not an ideological issue like traditional marriage or abortion. It's a simple issue of do you support the American people or radical environmental groups.

Sixty-seven percent of the American people want safe, environmentally sound drilling for oil. This is what the American people want. This is what they should have. The only obstacle seems to be Speaker PELOSI and the Democrat Congress.

Americans are counting on Congress to work together and lift the American oil embargo. Americans stand ready to work with the Democrats, as do the Republicans.

POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS OF IMMIGRANTS TO THE UNITED STATES

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I speak on behalf of the 12 to 14 million immigrants in the United States.

Throughout history, America has been a Nation of immigrants. For decades, immigrants have contributed with their heart, sweat, and tears to have the American dream like the rest of us.

Immigrant families continue to pay property taxes in the form of rent, pay sales taxes on every purchase, and most importantly, contribute to Social Security without legally having any

claim to any of it. Yet, there are those who wish to downplay these positive contributions for political gain.

You don't see many local governments turning away taxes paid by undocumented immigrants. However, you do see local governments spending these tax dollars to create anti-immigration legislation that strip away families of basic services.

I urge my colleagues to get past the anti-immigrant myths and look at the facts about the true positive contributions of immigrants.

We must stand firm and pass comprehensive immigration reform.

HONORING CHARLES HOOKER—WINNER OF CHARACTER COUNTS CONTEST IN ELMHURST, ILLINOIS

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

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I don't know about you, but sitting here and listening to these speeches, I'm ready for some good news. And the good news is we are joined today by a constituent of mine named Charles Hooker, who is a young boy who wrote an essay. It's short, it's sweet, it's succinct, and I'm going to read it to you. It is a result of him winning the Character Counts Contest in Elmhurst, Illinois. This is what young Charles says to us.

"If I were Mayor of Elmhurst, I would be fair to everyone by treating everyone the way I would like to be treated. I would listen to the requests of the young and old equally, because they both matter. I would be honest, be fair, and most importantly give credit to anyone who helped make things possible. I would also make sure I communicated well to show I'm trustful and responsible in all things. I am a Christian, and I would represent God in anything I do."

Madam Speaker, as we listen to these challenges that have been outlined today, I think that's a good word for us all, and I offer great congratulations to young Charles.

WE MUST MAKE THE MINIMUM WAGE A LIVING WAGE

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, today the minimum wage will increase to \$6.55 an hour. This is laudable. However, Madam Speaker, if the truth be told, the increase will be consumed because of inflation, higher gas prices, and higher food prices.

Madam Speaker, we must make the minimum wage a living wage. This is why I have introduced the Living American Wage Act, the LAW Act, such that we can have people who work full time always live above the poverty line.