

VETERANS BENEFIT ENHANCEMENT ACT

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak today in support of the bill S. 1315, the Veterans Benefit Enhancement Act of 2007, which contains a provision that gives veterans' benefits to Filipinos who fought under the U.S. flag during World War II.

As the only Member of Congress with any Filipino ancestry, I'm pleased to speak today in support of these benefits for Filipino veterans.

Members of the Commonwealth of the Philippines' military were promised full veterans' benefits if they fought for the United States during World War II. Because of this promise, many Filipino soldiers fought tirelessly and courageously for the United States, and they helped us defeat the Japanese empire in the Pacific.

We have failed to fulfill our promise, and these veterans deserve the benefits that they were promised over 60 years ago. S. 1315 provides surviving Filipino veterans, all of whom are now in their eighties, with full veterans' benefits.

In honor of the service of the Filipino veterans, I urge the House of Representatives to act swiftly and to take up and pass S. 1315.

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BEST OF THE WORST EXAMPLES OF MEDIA BIAS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, by a 5-to-1 ratio, Americans believe the media are trying to help Senator OBAMA win the Presidency. The following partial list of the "Best of the Worst" examples of media bias shows why Americans are right to be concerned.

One, Senator OBAMA has led Senator MCCAIN in news coverage for 12 consecutive weeks, according to the Nonpartisan Project For Excellence in Journalism.

Two, journalists who gave money to Senator OBAMA outnumber those who contributed to Senator MCCAIN by a 20-1 margin, according to Investors Business Daily.

Three, while the media often label Governor Palin "conservative," they rarely call Senator OBAMA or Senator BIDEN "liberal," even though the National Journal ranked Senator OBAMA as the most liberal Member of the Senate and Senator BIDEN as the third most liberal Member of the Senate.

Four, the New York Times opinion editor, a former staff member in the Clinton administration, refused to publish an op-ed by Senator MCCAIN about the Iraq war, just days after publishing

an op-ed on the same subject by Senator OBAMA.

Five, although the media criticize Senator MCCAIN for running negative TV ads, the nonpartisan Wisconsin Advertising Project found that 77 percent of Senator OBAMA's recent ads have been negative, far more than Senator MCCAIN's.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded that when their time has expired, they are meant to end their remarks.

SUPPORT THE BORDER SECURITY SEARCH ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2008

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6869, the Border Security Search Accountability Act of 2008, which I introduced into the House last week. This bill establishes strict guidelines for Customs and Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement's electronic device seizure policy.

It is important to ensure that Customs and Border agents have the tools necessary to go after potential terrorists. This bill allows for the appropriate search, review, retention and sharing of information on an individual's electronic device, as necessary for security purposes.

H.R. 6869 also ensures that when an individual's property is seized at a point of entry, there is a well-defined procedure in place that will protect their privacy and electronic data, especially the doctor-patient and attorney-client privileges. This legislation also requires the Department of Homeland Security to post information about individual rights related to border searches in visible areas near the search points so that individuals will understand their rights.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to heed the gavel when their time has expired.

GOOD ENERGY BILL NEEDED

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

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, we have got an investment crisis that seems to be rising and the talking heads were on television last night talking about it. Most everyone agreed that we needed a long-term plan that our investing community could look to as we grow our economy. It needs to be

long-term and it needs to have solutions. Part of that was an energy plan, a plan you could rely upon.

I heard an environmentalist this morning say we need to go to alternative fuels, but we need a transition with carbon-based fuels. Yet we passed an energy plan which purports to have drilling for these necessary oil and gas resources, but there is still in place the availability of radical environmentalists to stop all drilling by filing lawsuits. They have declared 80 percent-plus of the areas off-limits to drilling, and they have set up kind of "gotchas" that will prevent the rest of that drilling.

We need a good energy plan.

ANOTHER CHANCE FOR GOP TO STAND UP TO WALL STREET

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, we are going to give the Republicans another chance today. They have been standing up for Big Oil this week and their obscene profits, but we are going to give them a chance one more time. Twice they have killed legislation on the floor of the House to rein in energy speculators. Now they are creating this fantasy that George Bush lifting the moratorium on offshore oil drilling drove down the price of oil.

Well, no. Actually, the price of oil started to drop when we first debated reining in energy speculation on the floor of the House. It had already dropped considerably before Bush lifted the moratorium.

Oil 10 years out is doing nothing for this year's speculation. Going after the speculators by releasing oil from the SPR and breaking their backs, or just reining them in with regulation, which this administration hates, which has brought about the crash on Wall Street, will bring much more immediate relief to the American consumers.

If we rein in speculation, then we won't see these obscene run-ups again next year around Memorial Day. \$600 billion of speculative money flooded into that market. When it started flowing out, the price of oil dropped.

Rein in the speculators. Come on, GOP; stand up with us and take on Wall Street.

DEMOCRAT HOAX BILL WAS ALL ABOUT POLITICAL COVER

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, the House had a choice. They could support a bipartisan energy plan that invests in renewable energy resources, supports conservation and expands exploration for American oil and natural gas. It was not a perfect bill. There were additional items like nuclear energy that were not addressed, and should be.

Unfortunately, House Democrats made a different choice. They decided to stand with their leadership and support a hoax of an energy bill that had no input from the minority, had been crafted overnight by the House Democrat leadership, and failed to provide revenue sharing for States that authorized deepwater drilling off their shores. Moreover, the Democrat bill had a renewable energy mandate that would mean higher electricity bills for families of southern and midwestern States.

There was a bipartisan choice, and I am disappointed that so many chose to vote for a hoax bill that was all about political cover.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

EIGHT DISASTROUS YEARS UNDER PRESIDENT BUSH

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

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, as the stock market plunges, financial institutions fail and the economic pain Americans feel grows, our Republican colleagues' only answer is to drill.

Drilling won't help the 2 million Americans who have lost jobs in the last year. Drilling won't protect 46 million Americans without health insurance, 7 million more than when George Bush took office. Drilling won't help nearly 6 million people who have slipped into poverty. Drilling won't bring back the huge surplus that George Bush inherited and squandered. And drilling won't help the 3 million families who have lost their homes to foreclosure in the last 3 years.

Despite their cries for drilling, our Republican colleagues voted against accelerated drilling in the National Petroleum Reserve, already under lease, and against drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf. In fact, the drilling they do support wouldn't produce new oil for at least 8 years.

In truth, they don't want to help American families. They only want to distract public attention from eight disastrous years under George Bush.

SUPPORT THE REPUBLICAN ENERGY BILL

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, the speaker just before me just admitted that the jobs that have been lost primarily have been lost while the Democrats have been in control of this Congress. They continue their assault on the American family with their energy bill, which doesn't help American families who are hurting at the pump.

This new bill results in an \$85 tax hike on consumers. Our constituents have been looking to us for relief. That bill does not bring the relief they need.

Skyrocketing gas prices have taken a dramatic toll on almost every area of our lives. Families have had to adjust by tightening budgets. Schools adjust by cutting field trips and textbook purchases. Small businesses are watching their profits shrink, while making tough decisions about expanding their company or being able to make their payroll. This is has all occurred under the Democrats' watch in the last 20 months.

The House Republican plan increases production of American-made energy in an environmentally safe way. It promotes new, clean and reliable sources of energy, while cutting red tape and increasing the supply of American-made fuel and energy.

The Republican plan encourages greater energy efficiency by offering conservation tax incentives to Americans who make their home, car, and business more energy efficient.

The House Republican plan helps American families combat the increase cost of energy. I invite my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join us in bringing real solutions to the energy crisis.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind persons in the gallery that they are guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings or other audible conversation is in violation of the rules of the House.

ATTENTION NEEDED FOR MAIN STREET, NOT JUST WALL STREET

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

Ms. KAPTUR. American taxpayers, think about this: So far this year the Bush administration has put you on the hook for \$30 billion to prop up an investment house on Wall Street, Bear Stearns. Now you have been pledged to insure \$200 billion to \$2.4 trillion for the stock of loss-plagued Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. And taxpayers this week have been put on the hook for the insurance company American International Group to the tune of \$85 billion. It seems like for Messrs. Paulson and Bernanke, any blank check for Wall Street can't be bigger. Every day it gets bigger.

Now, what about Main Street? In the State of Ohio, we are hemorrhaging with mortgage foreclosures. There are no workouts. Messrs. Paulson and Bernanke haven't come to Ohio to make some of that cash available. Ohio needs \$20 billion to do workouts now. We will have over 100,000 more foreclosures this year. All that legislation we passed here in Congress, it has no bite, because it isn't helping people now.

We need some attention to Main Street, not just Wall Street.

SUPPORTING EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY OF BENEFITS FOR FILIPINO VETERANS

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

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I rise to urge the immediate support for the expansion of the eligibility of benefits for Filipino vets.

On July 26, 1941, Franklin Roosevelt brought the Philippine Commonwealth Forces under the control of the United States during World War II. Yet when their service ended, they did not receive the same benefits or treatment as other American soldiers.

Congress passed the Rescission Act in 1946, against General MacArthur's open objections. This even includes such things as burial benefits. No other group of veterans has been systematically denied these benefits. There will be only 20,000 left by 2010.

There is some contention here that the Filipino veterans that fought with us as allies are not U.S. citizens. We are paying Sunni tribesmen who killed American soldiers bribe money today in Iraq, but the Filipino vets who saved American soldiers are left out of the benefits as allies of the United States.

This is shameful and needs to be stopped immediately. Bring those benefits to these Filipino vets, who are the allies and comrades in arms of United States soldiers.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 6889. An act to extend the authority of the Secretary of Education to purchase guaranteed student loans for an additional year, and for other purposes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3036, NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE ACT OF 2008

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1441 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1441

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3036) to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding environmental education, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education