

needs to combat that enemy and has told us on countless occasions. Yet the efforts by some to water down a fix to FISA or punish American businesses for cooperating with the government has brought us to another deadline. We face the choice of acting to defend this country or further delaying a fair solution.

I hope we take the bipartisan Senate bill and pass this fix immediately. Let's get this done to protect American families.

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

#### PENTAGON TO KEEP 130,000 TROOPS IN IRAQ

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, Defense Secretary Gates confirmed what many of us in Congress have long suspected: the Bush administration plans to leave nearly 130,000 troops in Iraq until the day he leaves office next January.

The war in Iraq has been misguided from the start and mismanaged in its prosecution. It has led to a significant military readiness crisis, deteriorating conditions in Afghanistan, a readiness crisis for National Guard forces here at home, and a record low standing for us abroad.

This month, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau said that 88 percent of our stateside Guard units are "very poorly equipped" with less than half of what they needed to respond to a domestic crisis. Five years of war in Iraq is indeed straining our troop force and their equipment. Yet the Bush administration wants more of the same.

Mr. Speaker, this Democratic-led Congress will continue to fight to change direction in Iraq and responsibly redeploy our troops home.

#### CONGRESS WORKS FAST TO ADDRESS ECONOMIC DOWNTURN, BUT MORE WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, economists said if Washington wanted to help jump-start our Nation's economy, it needed to act fast. That's exactly what we did. Congress acted in a strong bipartisan fashion to pass an economic stimulus plan that will be signed into law by President Bush today.

The new law will put hundreds of dollars into the hands of more than 130 million American families, including seniors and disabled veterans, who will then spend it to reinvigorate our economy.

The law also expands financing opportunities for Americans who are in danger of losing their homes because of

the mortgage crisis and promotes small business investment in plants and equipment.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats are proud that we have been able to work so quickly to produce an economic stimulus plan that is timely, targeted and temporary. We are also proud of the fact that this package provides immediate relief to low- and middle-income families and small businesses that need the help the most.

We will continue to rebuild and strengthen our economy, create good jobs, and give relief to families that are struggling to make ends meet.

#### COMMEMORATING THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Day of Remembrance. This marks the 66th anniversary of the executive order which authorized the incarceration of over 120,000 Americans, primarily of Japanese descent, but also Italian and German Americans.

I stand today to remember those that were taken from their home and their communities, citizens and residents of our country that were victims of an unwarranted and unjust political paranoia.

In 1988, Congress apologized for that internment and took steps not to allow this black mark in our history to happen again.

Mr. Speaker, in rising today, it is also important to remind ourselves in these times where scapegoating and fear-mongering against a certain people is becoming more and more prevalent, this day reminds us not to allow this to happen again and to, above all, protect everybody's rights, protect everybody's inherent rights in this country, and not to allow this to happen again.

#### NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

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

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate February 19, the National Day of Remembrance for Japanese American internment.

During World War II, fear and mistrust clouded judgment and allowed brazen racism to take hold. Sixty-six years ago next week, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which sent 120,000 American citizens and legal residents of Japanese descent into internment camps, forcing them to lose their homes, jobs and possessions. Some of these families were held in internment even while their sons showed great patriotism by serving in the Army. In my home State of Hawaii, 10,000 individuals were investigated and an estimated 1,250 Japanese Americans were detained in our islands.

During trying times such as our Nation once again faces, we must not allow prejudice against people based on race, creed or national origin to shape public policy. Fear tests our moral fortitude, and this National Day of Remembrance reminds us to reflect on our past actions in order to make just decisions which uphold our Constitution.

#### GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor of the House today to address the issue of gun-related violence and deaths in America. Last Thursday, the first day I began this series of statements on the plague of gun violence that's sweeping our country, two more gun-related incidents captured the Nation's attention.

In Portsmouth, Ohio, an estranged husband shot and then stabbed his wife to death on the schoolhouse steps. She was a fifth grade teacher, and she died in front of her students.

The second incident that grabbed headlines that day occurred during a city council meeting in Kirkwood, Missouri. In that suburban town, the assailant took the lives of five innocent people. A sixth victim, Kirkwood Mayor Michael Swoboda, is still clinging to life. And so in a sign of respect for the victims, Kenneth Yost, police officers Tom Ballman and William Biggs, and council members Michael Lynch and Connie Carr of Kirkwood as well as teacher Christi Layne of Portsmouth, I enter these six names in the RECORD.

When will America join me in saying, Enough is enough? Stop the killings.

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#### CONGRESS WORKS FAST TO ADDRESS ECONOMIC DOWNTURN, BUT MORE WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today President Bush will sign our bipartisan economic stimulus legislation into law. Getting this bill done quickly is a victory for the American people that will inject confidence and consumer demands, promote economic growth and create jobs.

130 million low- and middle-income Americans will receive tax rebates in the coming months. These rebates are welcome relief to many families who are struggling in this economy. Family incomes and home prices are down as health care and energy, food and education costs and mortgage foreclosures have climbed. Economists estimate that every dollar included in these rebate checks will lead to \$1.26 in economic growth. The new law should also

help create 500,000 new jobs by year's end.

Mr. Speaker, this economic stimulus package is a good first start, but this Congress will take additional action to help American workers and help our economy recover. We will also develop a plan for additional assistance, which could include extension of unemployment benefits, food stamps, State and local assistance, and Medicaid.

#### RENEWABLE ENERGY TAX PACKAGE

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, ExxonMobil recently announced that they have earned over \$40 billion in 2007, the highest profits ever for a U.S. company. Of course, we want our U.S. companies to succeed in the global marketplace, but hugely profitable oil companies certainly don't need taxpayer subsidies, especially as the price of oil continues to hover at \$100 a barrel.

I want to urge my colleagues, it was none other than President Bush who said that with oil at \$50 a barrel, he saw no need for the kind of subsidies put in the 2005 energy bill by the Republican Congress. My constituents are fed up that oil companies are reaping billions in profits while hardworking Americans are suffering from a slowing economy.

Now is the time to level the playing field by removing Big Oil tax breaks and advancing clean technologies that will create green collar jobs and help grow our economy, drive down high energy prices, reduce our dependence on dirty and dangerous fossil fuels, and curb global warming pollution.

If we are going to give American consumers more efficient and cheaper energy options, we need to expand the incentives to invest in renewable and alternative energy sources.

The House will soon take up legislation to repeal these giveaways and to put our tax dollars to work to create a new policy for the 21st century. This legislation will significantly move us toward the goal of energy independence.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### CONGRESS WORKS FAST TO ADDRESS ECONOMIC DOWNTURN, BUT MORE WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE

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

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, the economic stimulus package that President Bush will sign into law today is a bipartisan victory for the American people. This broad-based stimulus package will provide tax relief of up to \$600 per

individual and \$1,200 per married couple, plus an additional \$300 per child. Recovery rebate checks could be sent out to 130 million Americans as early as May.

The stimulus package includes unprecedented tax relief for working families. The measure provides \$32 billion in tax relief for 35 million families who work but make too little to pay income taxes, families who otherwise would not have been included in the recovery package. This is a critically important provision in the stimulus package because economists say that the tax rebates that include low- and moderate-income families are 24 percent more effective as stimulus than rebates that leave these families out.

Mr. Speaker, it is our hope that this stimulus package will help jump-start our economy so more Americans can live the American Dream.

#### HONORING CONGRESSMAN TOM LANTOS

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this Nation lost a great American this week. United States Congressman Tom Lantos passed at the age of 80. Last night on this floor, there was an hour of bipartisan agreement of what this man meant to this country and how much we've lost. There will be a memorial service tomorrow under the Capitol rotunda.

Tom Lantos was a Holocaust survivor who escaped from the Nazis twice and survived. He helped Jewish people survive the Holocaust through the good deeds of Raul Wallenberg, and he remembered that. He was a leader in this Congress and this Nation on human rights and civil rights, animal welfare rights, all living creatures.

Mr. Speaker, as a freshman Member of Congress, I was befriended by Tom Lantos, who told me to call him "Tom," which was difficult to do. He was such a giant of a man.

There are great opportunities to speak out on policy in this body and to serve in the greatest deliberative body in the world, but there are human stories, too.

In my opinion, there are two saints that are Members or have been Members during this term that I have served. One is Congressman Lantos, and one is Congressman LEWIS. They have overcome great adversity to go to great heights. I think this country owes a debt of gratitude to the Lantos family for his work. He will be sorely missed. I was fortunate to serve with him and to be able to call him a friend.

#### SHORT-TERM EXTENSION ON ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE LEGISLATION

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, we are back on the floor today deliberating another short-term extension on electronic surveillance legislation, and I would understand a stopgap measure if we were at an impasse. But yesterday the other body passed a bipartisan permanent rewrite of this essential national security legislation. They did it with 68 votes. They did it overwhelmingly on what some here have called a contentious issue. Well, 21 Members of the majority here have written the Democratic leadership supporting the Senate's version. The President has said he will sign it.

Mr. Speaker, let's bring that bill to the floor and pass it today. If the current authority is allowed to lapse 3 days from now, most experts agree that the administration would have to go back to the original FISA statute for new warrants in cases where foreign-to-foreign communications are routed through the U.S. telecom infrastructure, causing us to miss important information on terrorists that are trying to attack Europe, trying to attack us here, trying to attack in the Middle East. That's a situation we cannot go back to.

#### ENDING SUBSIDIES FOR BIG OIL AND SUPPORTING RENEWABLE ENERGY

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, you've heard previous speakers this morning talk about the incredible profits of oil companies. The number is \$40 billion last year. That is the largest corporate profit in the history of this Nation. And meanwhile, as these profits are flowing and high energy prices continue to squeeze working-class Americans since President Bush took office, gas prices are up 109 percent, and home heating prices are up 222 percent. And over that same period of time, profits at the oil companies are up 313 percent.

Now, to add insult to injury, in addition to these profits, the oil companies are currently receiving tax subsidies from the taxpayers of America. House Democrats do not believe that's right.

In the coming weeks, we are going to consider legislation that will end those subsidies and transfer it to renewable energy sources. Renewable energy jobs and investment across America depend on Washington to act on this.

Mr. Speaker, by passing this energy bill, congressional Democrats will lower energy costs, improve national security by making us more energy independent, and end taxpayer finance subsidies to the oil companies.

#### RECOGNIZING THE COURAGE AND CHARACTER OF PEOPLE IN THE SOUTH AFTER NATURAL DISASTERS

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House