

politics, and the difficulty in finding suitable locations for the 223 detainees remaining at Guantanamo. But the broader facts have not changed.

It's in our national security interest to shut down Guantanamo, to close this ugly chapter in American foreign policy once and for all. By continuing to imprison people without charge, we violate the most basic principle of American justice known as habeas corpus, we undermine our international reputation, and we fuel terrorist recruitment and anti-American sentiment.

I hope our administration has learned from their early mistakes and will begin consulting with Congress on this issue. Keeping the legislative body in the dark on pertinent information related to the detainees and efforts to relocate them is a recipe for policy failure and risks the larger goal of keeping President Obama's promise to close this black hole of American injustice.

#### PRESIDENT OBAMA'S SPEECH TO WALL STREET AND THE G-20 SUMMIT

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

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, in his recent speech before Wall Street, President Obama was right to demand more responsibility from the American financial industrial complex. One year and \$16 trillion of taxpayer liability at risk later, the American people are still shouldering the burden of the reckless behavior of the companies deemed "too big to fail."

I am troubled, however, Mr. Speaker, by the presupposition espoused by international leaders during last week's G-20 summit that greater global consolidation of our financial systems is in our national or in the international community's best interest. Mr. Speaker, it is the global scale of the crisis of credit and confidence that should give us pause to consider that our profound economic connectedness might actually intensify our problems.

Local businesses and local financiers best know the needs of their communities and, in their very essence, are more transparent and accountable. Rather than risk becoming more intertwined in an internationalist financial industrial model, we should focus instead on encouraging the formation of strong local economies, which are the proper models for us to build economic strength in America as well as for the world's developing nations. This should be Wall Street's and the President's guiding principle. They owe it to the American people.

#### THE RECESSION AND TAKING NEVADA AND THE NATION IN A NEW, MORE PROSPEROUS DIRECTION

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, Nevada's families have been hard hit during this recession. Since coming to Congress, I've made it a priority to address our economic slump, help create jobs, and put families in their homes for keeps.

In the past week alone, the House has taken important steps to help Nevadans during this challenging time. With the Silver State facing record unemployment, we passed legislation to extend unemployment benefits. For some, this can mean the difference between making that mortgage payment and losing their home.

We have also passed legislation that I was proud to introduce to protect seniors from higher Medicare premiums. With the recession taking a toll on retirement savings, many seniors cannot afford to pay higher Medicare costs that eat away at their Social Security benefits. My bill will protect seniors at a time when they are counting on every dollar to get by.

We didn't get into this recession overnight, and it will take some time to climb out, but I will continue working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to take Nevada and this country in a new and more prosperous direction.

#### THE TIME FOR COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE REFORM IS NOW

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, the time for comprehensive health care reform is now. This picture says it all from the American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association. It shows a young boy in a doctor's waiting room. It says he's not a Democrat or a Republican; he's a patient.

We need to talk about the human face of health care reform like my nephew's son, Tucker Wright, who was 18 months when he was diagnosed with liver cancer. Both of his parents work. They have health insurance. But the enormous cost of the lifetime of health care that Tucker faces is not even close to being covered by his parents' insurance policy. When we have lifetime caps on medical policies and we have an inability to have portability from one job to another, we are not addressing the medical needs of America.

This Monday I met with a young woman, whose name is Hanna Rodriguez, who has a cleft palate, a birth defect. She's ready for the final surgery to repair that birth defect, but it's not covered by insurance, unlike other birth defects such as cystic fibro-

sis, because it's considered cosmetic surgery.

We are not doing the job for the American people when we have these obstacles, and that's why we need health care reform now.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PAS-TOR of Arizona). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 293

In the Senate of the United States, September 29, 2009.

Whereas, Henry Bellmon served as a United States Marine from 1942-1946, where he served as a platoon tank commander in the Pacific theater, and was awarded the Legion of Merit for his service in Saipan and the Silver Star for bravery in action on Iwo Jima;

Whereas, Henry Bellmon served as a Major in the Marine Corps Reserve until 1954;

Whereas, Henry Bellmon served two non-consecutive terms as governor of the State of Oklahoma from 1963-1967, when he was elected as the state's first Republican governor, and from 1987-1991; and

Whereas, Henry Bellmon served the people of Oklahoma with distinction for 12 years in the United States Senate from 1969-1981;

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Henry Bellmon, former member of the United States Senate,

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Henry Bellmon.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed without amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 2131. An act to amend the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 to reauthorize the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy.

H.R. 3593. An act to amend the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 to extend by one year the operation of Radio Free Asia, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that Mr. KIRK and Mr. LEMIEUX be added as conferees, on the part of the Senate, to replace the late Senator Kennedy and recently retired Senator Martinez, on the bill (H.R. 2647) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department

of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, to provide special pays and allowances to certain members of the Armed Forces, expand concurrent receipt of military retirement and VA disability benefits to disabled military retirees, and for other purposes.”

#### COMMENDING HOMELAND SECURITY DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES AND ANTI-TERRORISM PARTNERS

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 731) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the employees of the Department of Homeland Security, their partners at all levels of government, and the millions of emergency response providers and law enforcement agents nationwide should be commended for their dedicated service on the Nation's front lines in the war against acts of terrorism.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

##### H. RES. 731

Whereas it has been 8 years since the horrific terrorist attacks against the United States and its people on September 11, 2001;

Whereas terrorists around the world continue to plot and plan attacks against the United States and its interests and foreign allies;

Whereas, as evidenced by a suicide bomb attack in Jerusalem that killed 22 people and wounded 140 on March 27, 2002, a car bomb that exploded outside a Marriott Hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia, on August 5, 2003, killing 10 people and wounding 150, 10 bombs that exploded on 4 commuter trains in Madrid on March 11, 2004, killing 191 people, a major anti-terrorist operation by British Police disrupts an alleged bomb plot targeting multiple airplanes bound for the United States flying through Heathrow Airport, near London on August 10, 2006, and the shooting and bombing attacks in Mumbai, India, on November 26, 2008, the thwarted terrorist attacks targeting the Brooklyn Bridge in March 2003, Herald Square in New York City in 2004, the PATH Tunnel trains in New York and New Jersey in 2006, the U.S. Army Base at Fort Dix, New Jersey in May 2007, JFK International Airport in June 2007, and the Air National Guard base in Newburgh, New York and synagogues in Riverdale and the Bronx, New York in 2009, citizens across the country and in the world should remain vigilant, prepared, and informed;

Whereas during the month of September, the Nation observes National Preparedness Month which is sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security, and encourages all citizens to prepare themselves and their families for possible emergencies by getting an emergency supply kit that will last 72 hours, making a family emergency plan, being informed, and getting involved in the community in organizations such as Citizen Corps, which actively involves citizens in making our communities and our Nation safer, stronger, and better prepared;

Whereas acts of terrorism can exact a tragic human toll, resulting in significant numbers of casualties and disrupting hundreds of

thousands of lives, causing serious damage to our Nation's critical infrastructure, and inflicting billions of dollars of costs on both our public and private sectors;

Whereas in response to the attacks of September 11, 2001, and the continuing grave threat of terrorism, Congress established the Department of Homeland Security in March 2003, bringing together 22 disparate Federal entities, enhancing their capabilities with major new divisions emphasizing terrorism-related information analysis, infrastructure protection, and science and technology, and focusing their employees on the critical mission of defending our Nation against acts of terrorism;

Whereas since its creation, the employees of the Department of Homeland Security have endeavored to carry out this mission with commendable dedication, working with other Federal intelligence and law enforcement agencies and partners at all levels of Government to help secure our Nation's borders, airports, seaports, critical infrastructure, and communities against terrorist attacks;

Whereas our Nation's firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical personnel, and other first responders selflessly and repeatedly risk their lives to fulfill their new mission of helping to prevent, protect against, and prepare to respond to acts of terrorism, major disasters, and other emergencies;

Whereas State, local, territorial, and tribal government officials, the private sector, and ordinary citizens across the country have been working in cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security and other Federal Government agencies to enhance our ability to prevent, deter, protect against, and prepare to respond to acts of terrorism;

Whereas all people of the United States can assist in promoting our Nation's overall terrorism and emergency preparedness by remaining vigilant and alert, reporting suspicious activity to proper authorities, and preparing themselves and their families for potential terrorist attacks; and

Whereas all people of the United States should take the opportunity during National Preparedness Month in September 2009 to take steps at home, work, and school to enhance their ability to assist in preventing, protecting against, and preparing to respond to acts of terrorism: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the public servants of the Department of Homeland Security and other Federal agencies for their outstanding contributions to our Nation's homeland security;

(2) salutes the dedication of State, local, territorial, and tribal government officials, the private sector, and citizens across the country for their efforts to enhance the Nation's ability to prevent, deter, protect against, and prepare to respond to potential acts of terrorism;

(3) expresses the Nation's appreciation for the sacrifices and commitment of our law enforcement and emergency response personnel in preventing and preparing to respond to acts of terrorism;

(4) supports the goals and ideals of National Preparedness Month as they relate to the threat of terrorism; and

(5) urges the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe National Preparedness Month with appropriate events and activities that promote citizen and community preparedness to respond to acts of terrorism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

New York (Ms. CLARKE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 731, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am proud that my resolution, House Resolution 731, is being considered by the full House on this, the last day of National Preparedness Month, 2009.

I thank Homeland Security Chairman Mr. BENNIE THOMPSON of Mississippi, along with Ranking Member PETER KING of New York, for cosponsoring House Resolution 731 and for their great help in moving this resolution through committee and to the House floor for consideration. I also want to thank the other cosponsors of this resolution too numerous to name at this time.

Our committee has come together in a bipartisan manner to show support for this important resolution. After all, emergency preparedness is not a partisan issue.

House Resolution 731 supports the goals and ideals of National Preparedness Month, a nationwide, coordinated effort held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps in their homes, businesses, and schools to prepare for emergencies of all kinds.

This month marked the 6th year that the Department of Homeland Security has observed September as National Emergency Preparedness Month. In promoting the month, DHS partnered with over 2,400 organizations, including the American Red Cross and the Ad Council, to launch a series of Web, radio, television, and outdoor public service announcements. The PSAs highlight simple steps everyone can take to prepare for disasters. The campaign also utilizes new media resources such as Twitter and Facebook to reach up to over 80 percent of Americans.

One of the most important lessons from the tragic attacks on September 11, 2001, and Hurricane Katrina is that we all must be vigilant about preparing for an emergency. Recent wildfires, floods, tropical storms, and tornadoes have given us the opportunity to observe whether those lessons have since been corrected.

The dedicated employees of the Department of Homeland Security, under the new leadership of Secretary Janet Napolitano, and other Federal agencies successfully coordinated with State and local officials, first responders, and the private sector to assist with the