

not have abusive power over our individual lives. It's really not about health or health care. It's about power, and it's about control, government dictating how we live.

In the name of "saving the planet," government wants to tell us what kind of light bulbs we use or how much water is in our toilets or what type of energy we may or may not use. It doesn't matter if those intentions are good; government does not have that authority or right. It's abusing the power we granted to it.

Our government, in my opinion, is out of control, borrowing and spending and taxing and taxing, doing things it has no business doing for us that it has turned into doing things to us. The American people know that their freedom and liberty are being crushed. Has government broken free of its constitutional restraints?

In town hall meeting after town hall meeting across the country, Americans have made it clear: Leave us alone to live our lives. Liberty over tyranny. Stop spending money we don't have. Government is taking our money in the name of government power. The people have had enough. They do not want to be treated like subjects of government control.

And that's just the way it is.

#### WISHING MRS. RUTH LINCOLN A HAPPY 112TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. SNYDER. Madam Speaker, today, September 30, is the birthday of Mrs. Ruth Lincoln. I say today is her birthday because, unfortunately, she passed away 2 weeks ago, but she had been looking forward to turning 112 years old today.

This is a picture I took of her about a year ago. This is my son Penn Snyder. This is Mrs. Ruth Lincoln. She was born in 1897 as Ruth Myers. What I like about this picture is Mrs. Lincoln, born in 1897, spans the 20th century with my little boy who was born in 2006. It's a 21st century little boy connecting with the 19th century.

She was born in a log cabin in Oklahoma in 1897. She married Ben Lincoln. Her first vote, her first Presidential election vote was the election in which women in this country were allowed to vote for the first time, and despite her efforts, President Warren Harding was elected President over her vote for Mr. James Cox.

She graduated from college from Oklahoma A&M, which became Oklahoma State. I had visited several times with Mrs. Lincoln in the last several years. She loved growing old. She told me how she loved growing old, and it became very important to us to find out exactly how old she was growing; meaning, was she the oldest person in Pulaski County? Was she the oldest person in Arkansas? Would, at some

point, she become the oldest person in the United States? She loved that aspect of growing old.

She loved Bridge and was an avid player until late in her life. She had loved her family, and she had a lot of family. In fact, many of you know Senator BLANCHE LINCOLN, who is married to Mrs. Lincoln's grandson Steve.

It is difficult to say that someone who was 2 weeks short of turning 112 died unexpectedly, but a lot of us in central Arkansas looked forward to Mrs. Ruth Lincoln's birthday. She would always do something special. I remember one a couple of years ago. I think it was her 110th, when she prided herself on going out in the middle of a bridge we call, in Arkansas, the Big Dam Bridge that crossed the Arkansas River and had quite a festivity out there when she walked some on the bridge after being helped out of her wheelchair.

In the last few months, she had been dwindling. Her daughter was quoted as saying that she knew it was her time, but I know Mrs. Lincoln well enough to know she was hoping that her time would be several years from now. She was proudly hoping that perhaps she could become the oldest person in the world. Today we celebrate the memory of Mrs. Ruth Lincoln on what would have been her 112th birthday.

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 addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### CONGRATULATING DARREN ZHU FOR BECOMING A DAVIDSON FELLOW

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, today I had the privilege to meet Darren Zhu, an exceptional student from North Carolina's Fifth Congressional District who is a freshman at Yale University. Darren is in Washington today to receive a prestigious scholarship from the Davidson Institute for Talent and Development.

At the age of 17, he has already made impressive contributions to his community and in the fields of science and math. Darren is a resident of Winston-Salem and a 2009 graduate of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, where he pursued his interests and developed his skills in math and science.

After meeting him today, I understand why he was honored as a Davidson Fellow by the institute. The project that helped him win this scholarship award struck me as the sort of work you would find graduate students doing. In his research, he worked to de-

velop more efficient data storage technology by exploring nanofabrication methods for spintronics, which are a type of powerful electronics. I'm told that his work has applications in the nanotech industry, especially in the field of nanolithography.

The scholarship he won comes from the Davidson Institute. I would be remiss if I didn't highlight their program, the Davidson Fellows program that recognizes the accomplishment of gifted students like Darren.

The Davidson Institute seeks to nurture and support extremely gifted young people through its many programs and scholarships. The Davidson Fellow Scholarship that Darren received recognizes students under the age of 18 for making significant contributions to society in either science, technology, mathematics, music, literature, philosophy, or any other graduate-level work considered outside the box. Since 2001, the institute has awarded \$3.1 million in scholarships to 127 students.

The institute also runs a public school in Nevada for profoundly gifted middle and high school students. In addition, the institute provides a wealth of resources for teachers and parents of highly gifted students. This organization is to be commended for its strong commitment to helping our Nation steward one of our most precious resources, our young people.

I congratulate Darren Zhu for the amazing work that helped him win this important scholarship from the Davidson Institute. I look forward to hearing how he continues to develop his gifts as he pursues his college education.

#### HONORING THE LIFE, SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS WILLIAM "LEE" MEREDITH OF VIRGINIA BEACH

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

Mr. NYE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, service, and sacrifice of Private First Class William L. Meredith of Virginia Beach, Virginia, who was killed in action while serving our country in Afghanistan on September 21, 2009.

Private Meredith, or Lee as his friends called him, grew up in Virginia Beach where he attended Ocean Lakes High School. Lee was a kind and thoughtful young man who was close to his friends.

As the oldest of three brothers in a military family, he often spoke of joining the military himself. In April of 2008, Lee enlisted in the Army and was assigned to the 569th Engineer Company, 4th Engineer Battalion, stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado.

The mission of the 4th Engineers is both critically important and highly dangerous. They specialize in locating and disposing of bombs in order to keep supply routes open. With IED attacks

continuing in Iraq and on the rise in Afghanistan, their skills are in high demand.

In February of this year, Lee's unit shipped out to Iraq, but in April they were redeployed to Afghanistan as part of the renewed effort to defeat the Taliban.

Last Monday, just weeks after his 26th birthday and 10 days before he was scheduled to return home on leave, Private Lee Meredith was tragically killed in action in Kandahar when a roadside bomb detonated near his vehicle.

Lee was proud to be in the Army and to wear our country's uniform. In the 7 months that he served overseas, Lee earned both the Afghanistan and Iraq Campaign Medals, the Combat Action Badge, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart.

As a soldier, a brother, a son, and a friend, he made a lasting impact on those who knew him, and as an American hero, his service and sacrifice will always be remembered.

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO BE ACCOUNTABLE

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

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, when you travel around the country today, one of the things that we see is that a lot of people are divided over different issues. But one thing that they all seem to be in unison about is the need for our government to be accountable, the administration to be accountable to the House and to the Senate and for us to be accountable to the people that we represent.

Oftentimes, we spend hours on this floor debating just how we're going to bring about that accountability, and that's why it's so disappointing at the end of the day to realize it doesn't really matter what we put in the statutes because the administration is determined that they're just not going to comply with it.

This year, Madam Speaker, when we're looking at one of the largest budgets we have, the defense budget, the Secretary of Defense issued a gag order prohibiting hundreds of members of the Pentagon from doing what they do every year, and that is to just communicate with Members of Congress, to tell them where cuts were being made and where moneys were going to various programs. It's one thing if they want to stop them from talking to Members of Congress, but then when they failed to comply with the statutes

that dictate that they send us information so that we can make those independent assessments, Madam Speaker, that's where it becomes even more frustrating.

The statute that's passed by this Congress, signed by the President, says that the Secretary of Defense, when he sends his budget over, has to give the Armed Services Committee a shipbuilding plan. It makes common sense. It makes good sense that we know how many ships we were going to build, how many ships we were going to have so we could compare them with other nations. And then he has to certify that the budget he sends over meets that plan.

He has to do the same thing with an aviation plan, required by law that he submits to us an aviation plan telling us which planes we are going to build, how many planes we're going to have, and a certification that the budget complies with that aviation plan.

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This year he just refused to do it. When we asked him about it, he responded with no information at all. So the Armed Services Committee, on a bipartisan basis with every member of the Armed Services Committee agreeing, every Democrat, every Republican, passed a congressional inquiry mandating that the Secretary of Defense comply with the law and send us the shipbuilding plan and the aviation plan by September 15 so we would have those figures before the conference committee came back on the Defense authorization bill. And, Madam Speaker, to date he has refused to submit those plans to the Armed Services Committee.

So, Madam Speaker, the difficulty we have is this: How do you as the Secretary of Defense look at our men and women in uniform across the world who are defending this country and say to them, You need to comply with the law, you need to comply with the regulations that we send out of the Pentagon, but it does not apply to him and he continues to skirt the law?

Madam Speaker, the American people deserve better, and we're going to continue to fight until we get that information to hold the accountability that we think they need.

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.)

#### URGING SUPPORT FOR H. RES. 782, A RESOLUTION DEMANDING IRAN DISCLOSE FULLY AND ALLOW UNFETTERED INSPECTION OF ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Resolution 782. This is a resolution that I have introduced and which demands that Iran fully disclose its nuclear facilities, its nuclear development facilities, and also allow unfettered international inspection of its nuclear program.

The elimination of nuclear weapons is an issue that is certainly very close to my heart, and I would like to see that nuclear weapons actually are removed from the face of the planet. So it certainly goes in the wrong direction were we as a Nation to tolerate another nation, especially Iran, acquiring the technology to develop nuclear weapons.

What's troubling is last week the whole world learned that Iran has concealed construction of an enrichment facility near the city of Qom. And they did that without knowing that our intelligence community already knew that the facility was over there. It just had not been publicly disclosed, as it was last week. I guess one of the motivations for not disclosing it prior to last week was to just see how deep in the bad faith bucket would Iran pull its water from. They had no intention of revealing it. It was secret. They exercised deception to conceal it. So our country's announcement last week I'm sure was not a happy time for the Iranian leadership.

Having set the model for how they will deal with the international community insofar as nuclear enrichment and from that acquiring or building a nuclear weapon, we have to make sure that we reverse that bad faith into good faith if at all possible. One of the ways of doing that is through continued tightening of sanctions and to isolate the country of Iran for continuing to be deceptive about its nuclear intentions and its nuclear program.

So while my resolution, H. Res. 782, does not impose sanctions, it just merely puts the House of Representatives on record, as we approach the Geneva talks coming up on Thursday, that we want to have disclosure immediately, immediate international inspections, and immediate access by inspectors to its nuclear facilities. That's what this resolution does.

My friend Chairman HOWARD BERMAN of the Foreign Affairs Committee has a number of options that he is considering with respect to sanctions. So in no way would I want this bill to interfere with other measures that will be coming forward out of his committee. But this is necessitated by haste because of the approaching deadline for the Geneva talks to begin.

We have got wide bipartisan support, and I hope my colleagues will join the 39 Members from both sides of the aisle who have already cosponsored it.