

enjoyed may be a little dull. My daughter is a little bit older than 12 or 15 or 20 or 25, and at that point I will stop for fear of her commentary on me giving her age. But I will say that I am honored to stand and support the Girl Scouts and the congressional coin in honor of them for the very special reason that I had the pleasure of watching my daughter grow up as a Girl Scout, but more particularly carry around those Girl Scout cookies in my Taurus station wagon and compete against the other mothers to make sure that we sold the most. And I would say to you that all of them were gourmet, because whichever box was left over, we told the person who was buying it it's the best bunch of cookies you could ever buy.

□ 1930

This is very special because this is a combination of two wonderful people, Juliette Gordon Low and Sir Robert Baden-Powell. Mr. Baden-Powell was a war hero and a founder of the Boy Scouts. What a perfect combination. So he encouraged his wife, or she was encouraged by him, and sought his help to establish the Girl Scouts in 1912. So in 1912 they started, and so 2012 they will have their 100th year.

But I really want to focus on why the Girl Scouts were so important, what they did for my daughter, Erica Shelwyn Lee. The interesting thing is that the Girl Scouts was founded even before women had the right to vote. They were the early underpinnings of giving girls leadership skills, how special that can be. And now we find there are 236,000 troops—and they're called "troop leaders" by the way—and there are 10 million girls today around the world that are made up of Girl Guides, and Girl Scouts, and Girl Scouts of the United States of America, all part of a worldwide family of 10 million girls and adults in 145 countries. What a success story.

And so this is an important affirmation of how important Girl Scouts have been to the building of character of women.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the distinguished gentleman.

This is an affirmation of what leadership skills can do for America. Girl Scouts have grown up to be many outstanding leaders here and around the world. But one thing I think is very important. It teaches young girls team partnership, the ability to work together, the ability to succeed together and fail together and not give up.

So I am very glad to rise and salute the Girl Scouts of the United States of America but also to applaud this legislation of H.R. 621. I congratulate my friend from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) and my good friend Mr. FOSTER from Illinois for this great legislation, and all of those sponsors, and I am pleased to advocate for its passage.

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, if I could ask an inquiry of my friend from Texas.

Now, you have not said which cookie is your favorite. You did kind of sidestep it, saying they were all gourmet, but Mr. FOSTER and I just want to know.

I yield the gentlewoman 2 minutes on this very important issue.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I do remember them coming in big brown boxes, and I had them all stuffed in my station wagon going from door to door. But the shortbread ones have to be the best.

I know you all had all of the mint and the Samoas, but the shortbread was the tastiest. I love the shortbread. Texas likes it big and simple, and shortbread did the job.

Mr. KINGSTON. I would ordinarily tell my friend I am a little disappointed. However, inasmuch as you have explained it so eloquently, I will say we'll give the shortbread honorable mention here.

And I saw Mr. GINGREY raised his hand as a shortbread guy himself.

I yield to the gentlelady.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. This is the true spirit of bipartisanship, and I am delighted that we are rising today to support this very fine bill to honor the Girl Scouts of America with this gold coin.

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, we have no other speakers. I was going to finish a statement real quickly and then yield back the balance of our time.

And I wanted to say with Ms. JACKSON-LEE here and Ms. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN that these are two of our Girl Scout Members. I have a list of other Members who I will be submitting for the RECORD.

But also, Madam Speaker, I want to say that this bill also contains a pair of coin-related technical corrections, one of which allows an extension in the sale of the proof set contained in the 2009 Abraham Lincoln bicentennial one-cent coins because of a manufacturing glitch which slowed down the production of approved sets. Taken together, though, this bill is still budget neutral.

The Senate counterpart bill has more than 70 cosponsors, and I expect swift consideration of this bill there as well.

And so, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSTER. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 621, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IRAN SANCTIONS ENABLING ACT

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 1327, the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act.

The United States has found itself at a crossroads when it comes to Iran. As we pursue an engagement strategy, we must also prepare for the worst. If Iran fails to comply with their commitments, we must have tools to compel them to change their behavior. This is what we're doing here today with this bill.

I would like to thank Congressman BARNEY FRANK for his continued and sustained leadership on this issue. The Iran Sanctions Enabling Act is one of many steps that Congress can and should take to isolate Iran, which we are working on.

I am proud that my home State of Florida was the first in the Nation to pass the law to divest from companies that conduct business in Iran. I would also like to acknowledge many of the activists and people in Florida that help pass this legislation. In particular, I note the accomplishment of my friend, State Senator Ted Deutch, the author of the Protecting Florida's Investments Act of 2007.

Iran must not get a nuclear weapon—not on our watch and certainly not on our dime. I would certainly urge the swift passage of this legislation.

OPENING OF THE MICHAEL FUX FAMILY CENTER

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Michael Fux on the grand opening of the Michael Fux Family Center at Miami Children's Hospital.

It is with great pride that I recognize Michael's exemplary work and dedication throughout the years supporting underprivileged children. The Michael Fux Family Center is a state-of-the-art facility that will provide families with up-to-date medical information, activities, and entertainment.

Throughout the center, families can access information about their child's condition and meet and network with other parents. It truly warms my heart to know that the families visiting and the patients staying at Miami's Children Hospital will have a place to get together to share a peaceful environment.

Michael, on behalf of all south Florida and the United States Congress, thank you, thank you so much for your life of selfless giving.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded not to traffic the

well while another is under recognition.

POSTER BABY FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, might I introduce to you the poster baby for health care reform.

In Denver, a wonderful bouncing baby was denied health insurance because the baby weighed about 17 pounds and was 4 months old, and it was determined that he had a pre-existing disease of obesity.

Now, all of us know how wonderful it is to have a healthy baby who has a full and wonderful round look. We also know about something called baby fat, and for us mothers we know how a bouncing, bountiful baby can turn into that lean marathon runner. That's just the way it is.

So for all of the reports that our insurance companies are attempting to undermine the effort of ensuring that every American has access to health care and that we rid ourselves of this whole condition of preexisting disease, here's your example.

What an outrage.

IN HONOR OF THE 56TH STRYKER BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 754. It was an emotional time in Pennsylvania as members of the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team came home from Iraq to a tribute of yellow ribbons and flying flags. The homecoming elation belies the fear that always accompanies soldiers at war.

NBC correspondent Richard Engel described one of the uses of a Stryker vehicle now in Afghanistan: "We're warned about IEDs, improvised explosive devices, a somewhat desensitized way of saying bombs that can blow you to pieces and throw your body 75 feet in the air.

"Some of the Strykers, the soldier's armored vehicles, are fitted with giant rollers. They stick out in front of the big armored trucks, making the Strykers look like the machines that pick up golf balls at a driving range. The Strykers push the heavy wheels of the rollers over the sand. If the wheels hit an IED, the device will blow up; if not, the ground is safe.

"We walk in a double-file line in the tracks left by the rollers. I try to walk in the footsteps of the soldier in front of me."

This is a stark reality of the job the Stryker Brigade performs in both Iraq and Afghanistan. It is just one of the reasons we honor their service today.

HEALTH CARE BILLS ARE FRIGHTENING

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, we currently have Democratic health care reform bills under consideration. Surveyed together, our options are frightening. H.R. 3200 adds \$239 billion to the deficit, it opens the door for illegal aliens to get benefits, and it could move up to a hundred million Americans off of their current health care plan and onto the government-run option.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee bill forces a government takeover of our Nation's health care system and allows the government to sell products that all Americans must buy. The Senate Finance Committee bill cuts over \$400 billion from the health benefits of our seniors. It increases the average insurance premium for American families by \$4,000, and it still leaves 2.5 million Americans uninsured even with its \$1.8 trillion expenditure.

As bad as these bills are, what they will become once HARRY REID, NANCY PELOSI and their liberal allies in the Senate take them behind closed doors to craft a final product will be much, much worse. Personally, the last people I want deciding my family's health care are Speaker PELOSI and Leader REID.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER FRENZE OF THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Mr. Christopher Frenze, Republican House staff director for the Joint Economic Committee, who's retiring this week from a distinguished career in government service.

Chris joined the Joint Economic Committee in 1981. His career has been distinguished by his relentless effort to promote the public interest, encourage economic growth, reduce the burden of government, and respect the Constitution. His knowledge of economic policy is only one of his many talents.

He's an effective, successful manager who recruited top economists to serve the committee for many years. His work has served both Senate and House Republican Members in the majority and in the minority. He represents the very best in public service.

I know I speak for all of my colleagues in the Joint Economic Committee in congratulating Chris upon his retirement and thanking him in his dedicated and tireless service to the United States Congress.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

AFGHANISTAN IS NOT A WAR OF NECESSITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, the White House is figuring how they should treat Afghanistan, what to do about Afghanistan. As they review the situation, they must be asking themselves a lot of questions: Should our strategy be counterinsurgency or counterterrorism? Should we send in 40,000 more troops, or 20,000 more troops, or should we send in any more at all? And is the Taliban really a threat to our national security?

Meanwhile, the American people are asking the most important question of all: Is the war a war of necessity? And most Americans are coming to the conclusion that it is not. And I agree with them.

Our military presence in Afghanistan is not necessary because al Qaeda, which attacked us on 9/11, simply isn't in Afghanistan anymore. In fact, it's estimated that only about 100 al Qaeda fighters remain in the country. Our military presence isn't necessary because it will lead us into another foreign quagmire. Escalating the war will require massive numbers of troops. They will be fighting an endless war with many casualties, no exit strategy at this point, and the American people will not put up with that.

This war is not necessary because it will cost hundreds of billions of dollars. That's the money we need to put the American people back to work, Madam Speaker, and to get our economy back on track. And finally, this war is not necessary because we have better alternatives.

First and foremost, these alternatives include smart security. Smoking out and stopping the violent extremists in Afghanistan requires the effective surgical tool of smart security, not the blunt instrument of massive military occupancy. Smart security calls for strengthening our intelligence and surveillance capabilities. That's absolutely essential because the best way to stop the extremists in Afghanistan is to penetrate and disrupt their networks.

Smart security calls for improvements in civilian policing. A well-trained police force is a highly effective counterinsurgency tool because it's right there in the communities where the extremists are. Smart security calls for a regional diplomatic surge. Afghanistan's neighbors have an interest in stabilizing the country just