

Mueller, who was killed in action on October 26 during military operations in Afghanistan.

In 2002, a graduate of Little Chute High School, Sergeant Mueller was a member of the U.S. Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, stationed in Savannah, Georgia.

And after serving 2 years in Korea, Sergeant Mueller became crew chief on an elite Chinook helicopter unit, known as the Night Stalkers, whose duties included inserting and taking out our troops from dangerous territory.

That Sergeant Mueller was several times decorated is not surprising to those who knew him. In high school, he was a member of the Mustangs' football team and wrestling teams. He was a regular participant. He was the king of homecoming in 2001.

That he was entrusted with the highly technical responsibilities of a crew chief is not surprising either. Nick is remembered by his family and friends for his fearless willingness to accept any challenge.

On behalf of the people of northeast Wisconsin, we offer our deepest condolences to his mother and father, Sharon and Larry Mueller, and his brother, John.

Sergeant Nick Mueller shall not be forgotten.

NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

(Mrs. HALVORSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, I stand today in support of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I stand today to recognize the thousands of individuals who have bravely fought this tragic disease. I stand today to also remember those who didn't make it.

There isn't a single person who doesn't know someone affected by this disease. I will always remember my mom's fight with breast cancer. I will never forget the doctor's visits and the medication, or my parents' struggles fighting doctor's payments when she was just trying to fight the cancer. Today, there are so many just like her who must suffer through this alone and without the resources necessary to win their battle.

It is up to us to be there for them and to support them through their tough times and it is up to us to encourage early screenings and to fight for better care. This month will come and go, but we must always recognize those afflicted with this disease and help them fight for what they need and for their lives.

PATRIOT ACT

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, in just the last few weeks, we have seen the

FBI and local law enforcement thwart five separate terrorist attacks. Clearly, radical Islamic terrorists continue to be a serious threat to the safety and security of all Americans.

In one FBI sting, Hosam Smadi thought he was about to blow up a 60-story office tower in Dallas. When asked whether he wanted ear plugs, he declined saying that he wanted to hear the blast clearly. Not only was Smadi willing to take thousands of lives, he wanted to revel in the experience. To facilitate the arrest of Smadi and other terrorists, the FBI used surveillance enabled by the PATRIOT Act.

By the end of this year, three key surveillance provisions in the act will expire. If we want to ensure that the FBI is able to continue their critical mission of identifying and arresting terrorists before they strike, we must not take away these critical tools. Our law enforcement agencies are working hard to keep America safe, and the PATRIOT Act ensures that they are able to track and follow individuals who are working toward violent ends.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, as we approach election day for many local and State elections across the country, I want to make certain that the issue of campaign finance reform is at the forefront of discussion on creating a cleaner and more accessible election system in this country. There is no doubt that our democracy here in the United States is the greatest in the world, but we need to make sure that we allow access to as many qualified citizens as possible to engage in this process.

Why should a candidate be judged on the quality of a television advertisement over the quality of their ideas to fix our Nation's economy or improve the flow of traffic through local town squares? Candidates should be elected based on merit, not on money.

In the last decade, an alliance of advocacy groups, the Fair Elections Coalitions, has been working to implement a public campaign finance system on the State level known as Clean Money, Clean Elections. Across the country, candidates have been elected based on this system, and I would hope that we can pass legislation here in Congress to reform the system fairly across the board.

As Members of Congress, we need to remember that we serve the people of this country based on issues, not dollars, and I would ask that my colleagues join me in a push toward campaign finance reform.

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, it seems that the Obama administration has set its sights on yet another target of political dissension: the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber represents roughly 3 million businesses with more than 96 percent of its membership being comprised of small businesses of 100 employees or fewer, the very backbone of our economy.

The Chamber has expressed concern regarding various proposals, such as the regulation of greenhouse gases and a government-run health care plan, policies that, if enacted, would ultimately devastate small businesses across this country.

It appears that the Obama administration is actively circumventing the masses of members within the Chamber to try to craft side deals with a few individuals in an effort to persuade defections. It seems that it is all part of a grand strategy to marginalize a well-respected organization with legitimate policy differences.

When Barack Obama promised a new kind of politics, I don't believe a divide-and-conquer strategy based simply on disagreement with the American people is what the American people had in mind.

I encourage the Chamber to continue to stand up against any business policies, regardless of political pressure. The millions of businesses, many of which are located in my State and congressional district, will be grateful for their resolve.

ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ADDICTION

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, we have an elephant in the middle of our Nation's living room. That is alcoholism and drug addiction. This country's medical system does not deal with one of the major issues in this country, and that is alcoholism and drug addiction and depression and mental illness.

If we are going to do something about our health care system, we better incorporate treatment for these illnesses in order to make sure we prevent other diseases. If you have one of these illnesses, your cost for health care goes up four times. Seventy percent of the trauma care in this country is as a result of drug addiction and alcoholism. Car accidents, stabbings, gun shots, domestic violence, many of the things you see in our emergency rooms is as a result of drugs and alcohol.

That is why we need to make sure that we have early intervention and screening and treatment reimbursement in our health care bill.

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce represents more than 3 million businesses that employ millions and millions of Americans. The overwhelming majority of these businesses are small business, the engine of our economy.

So it is more than a little surprising that the administration will be attacking this pro-job, pro-growth organization at a time when our economy is in the worst recession in 80 years. Shouldn't we be working together to create jobs and pull our country out of this economic mess? Shouldn't the Congress and the administration and the private sector all have a singular purpose of restoring America's economy and leading the worldwide economic resurgence?

Yet reports that I have read in recent weeks indicate a constant attacking of the Chamber and discrediting the Chamber of Commerce.

As a former chairman of the Florida Chamber of Commerce, we represented 139,000 small businesses in my home State of Florida. I urge the administration to drop its attack mentality and work together with the very groups responsible for creating jobs and growth in the United States of America.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, after World War II when our parents and, in some cases, our grandparents returned from victory, our country stayed to rebuild the countries of our former enemies and our friends. Each of these countries, with our help, established a national health care plan for their people. Our country did not since huge numbers of Americans at that time received health care through their employers. That is not true today.

My Texas district has the highest number of uninsured adults under 65 in the country. We need a national health care plan for all Americans. If you have Medicare or employer-based insurance, that's great.

Next week, let's do what we did after World War II for our enemies and our friends. Let's provide national health care for all Americans.

NEWSWEEK GIVES PRESIDENT FREE ADVERTISING

(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, the poster to my left is the winner of the Media Fairness Caucus' "Worst of the Week" award for media bias.

The poster says, "Yes, He Can," a variation of the President's campaign slogan. While it appears to be a campaign poster, it actually is this week's

cover of Newsweek magazine. The poster provides an astounding example of the national media's liberal bias. Newsweek is the same magazine that during the Presidential campaign featured then-Senator Obama on its cover three times as often as Senator McCain.

No wonder 7 out of 10 Americans say the national media are intent on promoting the Obama administration, according to a recent public opinion poll. The national media should report the facts, not provide free advertising for the White House.

WHAT REFORM MEANS FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, 23 percent. That is the percentage of those living without health insurance in my district, the highest rate in New Jersey. My constituents are looking to me and this Chamber to accomplish health care reform this year. We must finish our work, not only for those without insurance, but for the other 77 percent that have insurance but are finding coverage more expensive.

For those without insurance, we want to offer you affordable health care coverage. A new exchange will be created as a one-stop comparison shopping marketplace, including a public option to create competition for better prices and better coverage. To ensure coverage is within your means, affordability credits will be offered to help you buy insurance.

Our plan will end discrimination for preexisting conditions and require coverage for preventive care without copays. To ensure no one goes broke because they get sick, a yearly limit will be placed on how much you can be charged for out-of-pocket expenses. And if you lose or change jobs, you will be able to get your own affordable insurance.

This Nation deserves a more affordable, secure health care system. We cannot wait any longer for these reforms.

THE HONOR FLIGHT FROM OCALA, FLORIDA

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, as a veteran, I am especially proud of my involvement with Honor Flight, which brings veterans of World War II to Washington, D.C., to see the memorial and other cherished sites.

There are obviously many memorials and monuments in Washington, D.C. However, for too long, there was a glaring omission: no memorial to the men and women who defeated the Axis powers. I am pleased that this oversight was corrected with the World War II Memorial which was dedicated in May of 2004.

Today, Honor Flight is bringing over 100 World War II veterans from my hometown of Ocala, Florida, to Washington, D.C. I will meet them this afternoon at the World War II Memorial, and we will lay a wreath at the Florida column.

Our veterans have earned our respect, and they deserve to see that their sacrifice is still honored. I am proud to join in supporting the noble cause of Honor Flight.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2996, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 876 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 876

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2996) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes. The conference report shall be considered as read. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the conference report to its adoption without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate; and (2) one motion to recommit if applicable.

□ 1030

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from San Dimas, California (Mr. DREIER). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only, Madam Speaker.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 876.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, H. Res. 876 provides for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2010. The resolution waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The resolution provides that the conference report shall be considered as read. Finally, the resolution provides that the previous question shall be considered as ordered without intervening motion, except for 1 hour of debate and one motion to recommit, if applicable.

This conference report makes available the necessary resources for the