

American dream, and the estate tax tears that fabric apart. This punitive tax inflicts great harm on the hard-working families of America. The estate tax costs small business owners thousands of hours in manpower and millions of dollars in legal counsel. It is time to eliminate the estate tax.

Madam Speaker, I urge Congress to prioritize the quick and permanent abolition of the Federal estate tax in order to accelerate our economic recovery and foster a greater environment for business and rural development.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

□ 1630

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS BRANDON M. STYER, U.S. ARMY, OF LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Private First Class Brandon M. Styer of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

On October 15 of this year, Brandon lost his life from injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Kandahar province, Afghanistan.

Brandon exhibited a willingness and enthusiasm to serve and defend his country by joining the United States Army. He understood what it means to live a life with purpose. He served a cause greater than himself. He served the cause of liberty. He gave his life so that we might be safer.

Brandon told his father that he loved the camaraderie and excitement of serving in the Army. He enlisted just last year, his senior year at Conestoga Valley High School. Upon graduation, Brandon completed his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and

Fort Benning, Georgia. He then was transferred to Fort Carson, Colorado, for additional training.

In March of 2009, Brandon deployed to Iraq for 7 weeks before being transferred to Afghanistan. Assigned to the 569th Mobility Augmentation Company, Fourth Engineer Battalion as a combat engineer, Brandon worked to dismantle, remove, and destroy improvised explosive devices. The 569th MAC Company has a storied history of participating in campaigns in World War II and Vietnam and, more recently, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. It is entirely fitting that Brandon joined their ranks.

As an exceptional young man, Brandon was determined to serve our country and keep his fellow soldiers safe from roadside bombs. It is tragic that one of these bombs claimed his life.

Brandon was also a noble and selfless friend and family man, a compassionate son, brother, and uncle. He leaves behind a family proud of all that he accomplished throughout his distinguished life and career in the military. His valor and service cost him his life, but his sacrifice will live on forever among the many dedicated heroes this Nation has sent abroad to defend freedom.

Brandon earned a number of awards throughout his brief career in the Army, which demonstrates his professionalism and his outstanding ability as a soldier. His awards include the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon and Bar, and the Weapons Qualification Badge.

Posthumously, Brandon received the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the NATO Medal, and the Combat Action Badge.

May God grant to Brandon's family the peace that surpasses all understanding. Our prayers and most heartfelt gratitude go out to them, and I offer them my deepest condolences.

I am humbled by the dedicated service and sacrifice of their loved one.

Brandon joins the revered ranks of the many thousands of men and women throughout American history who have gone before him in battle to secure the freedom of the people of United States of America and people around the world.

He is an inspiration to us all.

AMERICANS DESERVE MORE THAN OVER-THE-TOP RHETORIC

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, in recent floor speeches and in numerous media appearances, some Members of Congress continue to repeat the mis-

taken idea that a significant number of people will die automatically because of lack of access to health insurance. Now, as Franklin Roosevelt said, "Repetition does not transform a lie into truth." The American people deserve better than this kind of rhetoric. The American people deserve a Congress that can work together to find solutions to our most pressing problems.

This argument is based upon a questionable study conducted by biased researchers, inaccurate characterizations, and faulty ideas. Oftentimes these Members quote from a Harvard study, which estimates that 45,000 deaths per year in the United States are associated with the lack of health insurance. What they neglected to tell you was that the two authors of this study, Dr. Himmelstein and Dr. Woolhandler, are cofounders of the Physicians for a National Health Program. And what do they support? This program supports government-backed, single-payer health coverage.

In fact, Dr. Woolhandler testified before the Energy and Commerce Committee, where I serve on the Health Subcommittee, on June 24. What did he testify on? On the absolute need, in his opinion, for a single-payer system. So he is totally biased. This report reflects his demand and his desire for a one-payer system. It's clear that this study was conducted by researchers who knew what they wanted the outcome to show before they even conducted the study.

Furthermore, this study used questionable methodology to reach its conclusion. According to analysis by John Goodman of the National Center for Policy Analysis, the authors of this Harvard study "interviewed the uninsured only once and never saw them again. A decade later, the researchers assumed that participants were still uninsured"—this is after 10 years they assumed it—"and, if they died in the interim, lack of insurance was blamed as one of the causes." Obviously, that's faulty logic.

Yet, like unemployment, uninsurance happens to many people for short periods of time. It happens to a lot of people. Most people who are uninsured again regain insurance within 1 year, yet they forgot about this statistic. The authors of this study did not track what happened to the insurance status of the subjects over the decade examined, what medical care they received, or even the causes of their death. How can they make those claims?

In Massachusetts, for example—the public option here in Congress is patterned after Massachusetts. It has the highest percentage of its residents insured in the United States at 97 percent. We can see the effects of a government-run health care system by looking at Massachusetts. According to a 2009 survey by Merritt Hawkins & Associates, there is a 63-day wait to see a family medical doctor in Boston, the longest of the 15 cities surveyed. This

long wait is, in large part, due to Massachusetts' health care initiative. So, instead of waiting over 2 months to see a doctor, patients are flooding the emergency room since they cannot find a doctor, and this is putting a major strain on already overburdened and crowded emergency rooms. Obviously, these supporters of the public option here in Congress don't tell you how many people would die waiting for a medical doctor.

The United States has the best health care in the world, especially in comparison to countries that have a one-payer system. In 10 of 16 specific cancers, American patients have statistically better outcomes than their European counterparts. A new report released found that up to 15,000 lives could be saved every year if patients in Britain's National Health Service received the same type of quality care that patients in the United States receive. British Government responded by saying it's going to give patients the "right" to see a cancer specialist within 2 weeks of diagnosis.

I could go on. There are horror stories all around this world from countries that are practicing socialized medicine. From 2001 to 2003, the British health system would only allow doctors to prescribe a treatment to preserve vision for those suffering from age-related macular degeneration after the patient had lost vision in one eye. Only after they lost one eye. A woman with epilepsy in the United Kingdom faced a 56-week wait to see a doctor. Also, in the United Kingdom, Christine Preuth, 72 years of age, was told she was too old to receive treatment for a head injury at a 24-hour walk-in center. While walking in, she tripped and fell on the pavement. Bleeding from the head, the nurse said she was not able to receive full treatment because she was over 65 years of age and her complaint was a head injury.

We need to support health care reform that provides greater access to private insurance, lowers costs, and allows people who like their insurance to keep it. The public option does not allow that. Unfortunately, Democrats believe that the government-run health care system, spending over a trillion dollars, will solve the problem. The facts in all socialized countries do not bear that out. The numbers just don't add up, and future generations will be on the hook for paying for this dangerous Democrat health care experiment.

#### CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY FOR THE FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. KOSMAS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, we're going to utilize our 60 minutes this evening on the floor so as to have

Democrats speak to jobs as they relate to this energy rethinking so that we can address the energy reforms that are essential for the strengthening of this Nation, to embrace our intellectual capacity, and to provide opportunities in job growth by promoting a strong sense of energy security, enhancing our energy independence, and therefore addressing favorably, Madam Speaker, our national security. All of these fine dynamics are met as we think outside the barrel, if you will, on energy policy.

How do we create these jobs? Well, there is just a sampling in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that, when passed in early February, spoke to the creation of a half million jobs. That will now be invested through the Department of Energy, other resources, other agencies on the Federal level of government to make certain that we grow these opportunities through research and development investment, through energy efficiency, through renewables that are available through wind, solar, and the Earth, through geothermal; making certain that we can go forward with a progressive agenda so as to speak to a cleaning up of the environment and the security strengthener for the American economy by growing less reliant on fossil-based fuels. That gluttonous dependency that this Nation has on those fossil-based fuels is driving down our economy, and we have the potential here to enter a clean energy race, a global energy race, and win that race.

I am joined this evening, Madam Speaker, by two of our colleagues who have asked to participate so as to insert their thinking and to share their enthusiasm with the American audience and those here in the House about the job potential as it relates to energy reforming and energy transformation. We're joined by Representative JAY INSLEE from the State of Washington, the First District of the State of Washington, and we're also joined by Representative BEN LUJAN from the Third District in the State of New Mexico. Both are outstanding Representatives as it comes to energy transformation but also outspoken voices about job creation, job retention as it relates to energy policy.

Representative INSLEE, because we are all, the three of us, partners in this new developed SEEC, the coalition that is provided for a Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition, a group that has brought together soundness of thinking and the advancement of progressive policy. You serve as a cochair of that panel on which both Representative LUJAN and I serve. And so this evening if you would just share your comments with us about job potential as it relates to energy as an arena.

Mr. INSLEE. Well, with 10 percent unemployment, we know this country needs to act and we need to act quickly, and we need to act quickly in the job front of jobs that just won't be temporary and just won't be make-

work jobs but will be part of the transition of our Nation to a Nation that can lead the world in the clean energy economy of the future. And we know that we have to get in that race for those jobs right now. We have bills pending, as we have already passed in the House the energy bill, which is now pending in the other Chamber; the stimulus bill, which is still in the process of being implemented; and we may have another bill on the floor of this House within the next month. All three of those bills are ways that we can jump-start the job growth in this economy by putting people to work on the jobs that are going to be the long-term jobs.

I want to note something. Our President was in China yesterday. I believe he's still there today. I was there about 4 months ago meeting with Speaker PELOSI, the President, and the Premier of China, and I will tell you the risk our country really has is that there is a country across the Pacific who fully understands where the jobs of the future are going to be. And when we talked to the President and Premier of China, they made very clear that they were going to try to dominate these industries and dominate job creation in building electric cars, electric motors for electric cars, wind turbines, solar voltaic plants, solar thermal plants. The Chinese are spending about \$12 million an hour on renewable energy job creation. They spent three times as much on their stimulus bill as we did on ours in job creation in clean energy. They want to dominate the job creation of the future. And we are determined in this Chamber to get in that race both in the energy bill we passed in August and in this job creation bill we hope to be considering in the next month on the floor to continue this job creation.

I just want to mention two things that I think we ought to do very quickly. Number one, we should be putting thousands of Americans to work in retrofitting our homes and our businesses and our public buildings and our schools to make them energy efficient.

□ 1645

We started down that road in the stimulus bill, but there's more we can do to put people to work putting insulation in our homes, putting new windows on our homes, putting more energy efficient heating and cooling systems in our homes, in our schools and our buildings; and we will be proposing to leadership in the House, actually, this afternoon of this Sustainable Energy and Environment Caucus four or five ways to promote that type of job creation.

Second, we hope to use the Tax Code to continue incentive for Americans to make these kind of investments. We have a tax credit for homeowners right now, but it's just a credit you could take at the end of the year. We want to make that an advance so homeowners