

not only in this town but in America, and for his country.

LETTER FROM GREG HOLLOWAY

(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. Mr. Speaker, as part of a nationwide effort to pass the right kind of health care reform, a constituent from Austin, Greg Holloway, has written an open letter to Congress. He represents the organization Common Sense Texans:

“My name is Greg Holloway. I speak not only for myself and my family but also for over a hundred thousand other Texans with whom I collaborate and who I know share my views.

“You tell us that you are concerned about health care for our disadvantaged citizens. We are too. We wrote a plan, published by the Austin American-Statesman, that would immediately allow up to \$100 billion annually to be sent directly to private health care and health insurance for the needy without a raise in taxes. You ignore any of our alternatives and instead raise taxes, increase costs, and draft a bill that excludes millions and provides no meaningful health care benefits until 2013.

“Stop this bill and give us health care reform that will help, not hurt, our country and its citizens.”

JOBS

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

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, the holiday season should be a joyous time for all as we celebrate with our loved ones and count our blessings.

Unfortunately, many families have been hit hard by the downturn and are feeling the pinch during this special time. Far too many people in my district are out of work and even more are making due with less. It will be a challenge for them to make sure their children have a memorable holiday. I am confident they will make do and remind their families what's really important: faith, family, and health.

But this should remind us how important it is for Congress to help create jobs. Partisan bickering cannot stand in the way of creating jobs and helping these families.

There is much we can do to create new opportunities in Arizona and across the country, and we can't just wish for things to get better. We must actively work to make things better, and that must be our top priority.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF MICHELIN'S LEXINGTON COUNTY PLANT

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, 30 years ago on November 28, 1979, I was honored to help break ground on the Michelin Tire Corporation plant in Lexington, South Carolina, recruited by Governor Jim Edwards.

Michelin, the French tire manufacturer, has annual sales of \$7.25 billion, and they employ close to 18,000 American workers. Over 7,000 of those jobs are in my home State.

For over 30 years, Michelin plants have been successful due to hard-working South Carolinians, and today they specialize in world-class car and Earth-mover tires. In addition to providing jobs, Michelin is an involved corporate citizen.

Another extraordinary achievement, yesterday we broke ground on the Ameresco biomass cogeneration project at the Savannah River site. CEO George Sakellaris has pioneered the development of alternative energy projects.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

THE ESCALATION IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Today our President will announce an escalation in Afghanistan: as many as 35,000 additional troops, costing an additional \$35 billion to prop up a government which most acknowledge is indefensibly corrupt.

We need to redefine our national security. Our national security will not be found in occupations which fuel insurgencies. Our national security will not be found through paying off contestants in Afghanistan who are with us one day and who shoot at our soldiers the next.

We can secure our borders without expanding them across the world. And we can redefine our national security by making sure that every able-bodied person in America has a job, by helping people save their homes and protect their savings and their investments and their retirement security.

We need new thinking and a new course of action, not further into Afghanistan but out. Not further away from the concerns of the American people, but focusing on what's important here at home.

CONGRESS MUST REPEAL THE DEATH TAX

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, the estate tax, also known as the death tax, has been a drag on America's family-owned small businesses for

decades. It threatens our Nation's farms and ranches, the very businesses which produce 86 percent of U.S. agricultural products.

Farmers and ranchers work their entire lives to build their land and equipment for their operations; yet the existence of the death tax could take it all away.

The death tax impedes economic growth because it lowers incentives for small family businesses to invest capital in their own economic endeavors. In other words, it punishes success.

This flies in the face of the very principles upon which our country was founded.

The estate tax is inappropriate, and it needs to be eliminated once and for all. Doing so in the right way would lift a tremendous weight off the shoulders of America's family-owned small businesses, farms, and ranches.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF THE TOWN OF WAKE FOREST, NORTH CAROLINA

(Mr. MILLER of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 100th birthday of Wake Forest, North Carolina.

The State legislature officially chartered the town on February 20, 1909; but the community really dates from 1832 when Dr. Calvin Jones sold 613 acres of land to the North Carolina Baptist Convention to establish the Wake Forest Manual Labor Institute to train future ministers. The institution later became Wake Forest College.

Dr. Jones described Wake Forest as “one of the best communities in the State. The inhabitants, without, I believe, a single exception, are sober, moral, and thriving in their circumstances, and not a few are educated and intelligent.”

That is still true of Wake Forest. Although Wake Forest College moved to Winston-Salem in 1956, the Southern Baptist Convention located its new seminary in Wake Forest, maintaining Wake Forest's reputation as a town of higher learning and faith.

Wake Forest is now a progressive community of more than 27,000 residents. Forbes Magazine recently listed Wake Forest as the 20th fastest-growing suburb in America. The residents of Wake Forest now boast a vibrant town with more than 100 businesses and a rich and well-maintained historical district.

I join the residents of Wake Forest in their centennial celebration.

NAVY SEALS CAPTURE FALLUJAH TERRORIST

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Navy's elite commando unit, the

SEALs, have captured one of the most notorious terrorists in Iraq. This terrorist planned the murder of four Americans in Fallujah. He had their bodies burned and hung from a bridge.

But instead of celebrating and honoring their bold accomplishment, the military has decided to court-martial the three SEALs.

The terrorist they captured says the Navy SEALs punched him in the mouth. And now he's whining about a fat lip. Even if the Navy SEALs punched this murderer in the mouth, the military brass is overreacting. After all, we're in the middle of a war. Punching is allowed. So is shooting. Instead of a court-martial, the SEALs should be getting medals.

It seems the military is more concerned about this captured criminal's bruised lip than they are about the SEALs doing their job.

The job of the American military is to fight wars. They're supposed to defeat the enemy. They break things. That's what they do.

The military needs to be trying this terrorist for the murder of Americans instead of court-martialing the SEALs for successfully accomplishing their mission.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1415

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR GREGORY SALAMO ON 2009 U.S. PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Gregory Salamo for being named a 2009 United States Professor of the Year. Dr. Salamo, distinguished professor of physics and a Fellow of the Optical Society of America, joined the faculty at the University of Arkansas in 1975. Since then he has regularly demonstrated extraordinary leadership and commitment to his students and area of study. He continuously works to expand interdisciplinary research and education by establishing new degree programs and courses which have provided greater educational and career opportunities for students and faculty. His research is widely published, and his hard work makes him a model of success for students as well as for fellow educators.

I commend Dr. Salamo for his passion for educating and wish him success in all future endeavors. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an educator whose accomplishments and devotion to the University of Arkansas have not gone unnoticed.

IT'S ALL ABOUT MONEY AND POWER

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, according to press reports, we are now going to send 34,000 more troops to Afghanistan, in addition to the 68,000 already there. The Pentagon tells us it costs \$1 million a year for each soldier there, or \$1 billion for each 1,000. This means we will be spending over \$100 billion a year on top of the almost half a trillion we've spent on the 8-year-old Afghanistan war already.

I know that, like any gigantic bureaucracy, the Defense Department always wants more money and more employees, but this is getting ridiculous. And fiscal conservatives should be the ones most horrified by all this spending. On top of all this, we still have 120,000 troops in Iraq and are still spending megabillions there. And the Pentagon is so bureaucratic that we are told it will take several years to fully withdraw, if we ever do.

President Eisenhower warned us about the military industrial complex, but I think even he would be shocked. This is all about money and power, but we can no longer afford to lose so many lives and spend and borrow so much money.

MICROMANAGEMENT OF THE MILITARY

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I was at Fort Benning when, in 1979, the President ordered a rescue mission. But he micromanaged. He dictated. They didn't need 12 helicopters; just go in with 8. They knew if they didn't get there with six, they'd have to abort. Well, they got there with five, and the aborted mission cost us lives. Back in the 1960s, President Johnson tried to micromanage Vietnam from Washington. What a terrible mistake. And now, it appears that the President will need to fire General McChrystal, because it is imperative that the President have generals he can trust.

General McChrystal says, "The impact of time on our effort in Afghanistan has been underappreciated, and we require a new way of thinking about it." He said, "I believe the short-term fight will be decisive. Failure to gain the initiative and reverse insurgent momentum in the near-term (next 12 months)—while Afghan security capacity matures—risks an outcome where defeating the insurgency is no longer possible."

Fire him if you don't trust him. Should have been acted on 3 months ago.

HONORING WORLD AIDS DAY

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 21st annual

World AIDS Day, and to remember, reflect on those we have lost, and recommit to ending HIV/AIDS. This year's theme, "Universal Access and Human Rights," is a call to action, a sign of the continued urgency of this moral challenge, and a reminder that HIV/AIDS is still with us in a very major way. The fight to end this disease must go on. The moral case alone is reason to act, but we also know that the spread of infectious diseases, especially HIV/AIDS, can destroy the very fabric of nations and create a fury of despair.

American leadership is essential to preventing suffering and instability in the developing world. Since the first World AIDS Day in 1988, we have made enormous progress. We have dramatically increased resources for both domestic and international HIV/AIDS prevention, care, treatment, and research. These investments have provided lifesaving anti-retroviral treatment to millions of people while also taking critical steps to prevent millions of new HIV cases.

Reiterating our commitment, Congress recently passed, in a bipartisan way, and President Obama signed into law the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act, continuing this essential lifeline of care, treatment, and support for more than half a million low-income Americans living with this disease. And around the same time, the President lifted the ban on entry of individuals with HIV/AIDS into our country. This was good news for all who were concerned about the global AIDS conference that's going to be held in the United States in 2012.

When Congress and the President make the dream of health insurance reform a reality for all Americans, we will improve access to lifelong medications and open the door of high-quality medical care to more low-income, uninsured, HIV-positive individuals before they confront the nightmare of full-blown AIDS. This is better for their health and lowers costs for all of us.

Today, on World AIDS Day, we remember all that we have lost but also all that we have to hold on to, our hope, our optimism, our steadfastness, and our determination to fight against this disease, to respond to the needs of the people who have it, and one day, and hopefully that will be soon, to end the HIV/AIDS disease.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 30, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of