

Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 384) to reform the Troubled Assets Relief Program of the Secretary of the Treasury and ensure accountability under such Program, had come to no resolution thereon.

INJUSTICE OF THE IMPRISONMENT OF IGNACIO RAMOS AND JOSE COMPEAN

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my hope that the President will not leave office before using his pardon to correct one of the great injustices of our time, the imprisonment of Border Patrol officers Ignacio Ramos and Jose Compean. They are the officers who wounded a drug smuggler as he tried to escape. The drug smuggler got immunity; Ramos and Compean got lengthy prison sentences.

This injustice sends a chilling message to Border Patrol officers who are heroically trying to defend the integrity of our borders against enormous odds and with inadequate resources. It is an injustice that cannot be allowed to stand.

Thank you.

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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.

MORAL CLARITY—ISRAEL VS. HAMAS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the fighting in the Middle East rages on, many in the media and the elites in Europe have asserted with self-righteous indignation that Israel's response to Hamas' acts of terror is not appropriate, and Israel should unilaterally cease all military operations. They cite inflated numbers of Palestinian civilians killed in this war and blame Israel for the death; never mind the fact that the coward of the desert, Hamas, uses Palestinian men, women and children at mosques, schools and hospitals as shields; never mind the fact that before bombing a military target in Gaza, Israel calls the area and advises the civilians to leave; and never mind the fact that since 2000 more than 8,000 rockets have been fired by Hamas into Israel civilian settlements. Mr. Speaker, Israel must defend its people from these attacks.

The truth is, Mr. Speaker, that the moral differences between Hamas and

Israel could not be clearer. Hamas worships death, Israel worships life. Hamas supports terrorism, Israel supports liberty. Hamas oppresses women, Israel honors women. Hamas destroys, Israel builds. Hamas believes in the pursuit of misery and Israel believes in the pursuit of happiness. Hamas supports crucifixion, Israel supports mercy. Hamas honors murder, Israel honors the sanctity of life. Hamas kills people with different religious beliefs, Israel embraces the freedom of religion. Hamas incites hatred, Israel believes in tolerance. Hamas is racist, Israel believes in the equality of all. Hamas believes in chaos, Israel believes in justice. Hamas promotes anarchy, and Israel promotes peace. The moral canyon that separates Israel from Hamas is best described by Hamas' own motto, and I quote, "We love death more than the Jews love life."

Hamas not only doesn't care about killing Jews, it doesn't care about killing Palestinians either. They use living Palestinians as human shields. Hamas prevents humanitarian aid from Israel from reaching Palestinians in Gaza.

The international community has begun calling for an immediate ceasefire, especially the Europeans, asking and telling Israel they must unilaterally stop this war. Mr. Speaker, some in Europe don't believe that anything is worth fighting for, but some things are worth fighting for. The basic human right of liberty is worth fighting for whether Europeans believe in it or not.

The last thing Israel ought to agree to is another phony peace. Israel did that 3 years ago with Lebanon and look what happened; the U.N.-mandated disarmament of Hezbollah failed miserably. Hezbollah has rearmed, and in fact just last week began firing more rockets on Israel.

There can be no peace in this war as long as Hamas is allowed to murder in the name of religion. Rather than bending to the pressure of world opinion, Israel ought to continue to protect her right to exist and the rights of her people to live free. The world must demand that Hamas cease all rocket fire and smuggling of arms from Egypt into Gaza.

Hamas needs to leave Israel alone. Just today, Osama bin Laden issued a 20-minute recording calling for a jihad against Israel. Jihad is another phrase for a holy war against Israel for its actions in Gaza. All the eyes of the world, especially the moderate Arab states, are looking to this conflict to see whether Iran and its hired guns, Hamas and Hezbollah, are victorious.

Hezbollah and Hamas, these twin tribes of terror, must be stopped. Unless they are, Iran will be encouraged to be more aggressive in the region and assert its influence over moderate Arab states. You see, Iran and the little fellow Ahmadinejad are the real threats to peace in the desert sands of the Middle East.

This is not the time to be rattled by the terrorist threats. This is the time

to stand with the only democracy in the Middle East for the right of her self-defense, Israel. It's the right thing to do. Israel's war of self-defense is morally just. And Mr. Speaker, justice is the one thing we should always find. And that's just the way it is.

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

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

ENERGY

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the only New Yorker on the Energy Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and I believe so strongly that our dependence on foreign oil is one of the greatest challenges that our Nation has ever faced. It threatens our national security, it threatens our economy, and it threatens our environment. Oil prices have recently drifted downward, but we cannot afford to let that lull us into a false sense of complacency.

I am the founder and co-Chair of the Oil and National Security Caucus, which is designed to raise awareness of the economic and security implications of America's growing dependence on foreign oil. The Caucus consists of Members of both parties united by the common goal of developing and promoting practical bipartisan ways to progress toward energy independence.

America's mission is clear: We must work to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, we must grow our economy by protecting existing jobs and creating new ones, and we must build a clean energy future that benefits all citizens.

I will also seek the development and implementation of an oil savings plan. The United States consumes 25 percent of the world's oil, yet possesses only 3 percent of the world's oil reserves. We imported 30 percent of our oil just a few decades ago. Today, we import more than 60 percent.

I introduced a plan in 2005 with Congressman KINGSTON as part of our Fuel Choices for American Security Act, and again in 2007 as part of our Dependence Reduction Through Innovation in Vehicles and Energy, which is called the DRIVE Act, to require oil savings of 2.5 million barrels per day by 2015, and increasing annually to 5 million barrels per day by 2025. In 2009, this year, I will introduce and work again to enact similar legislation to help break our addiction to foreign oil. I will also encourage the production of flex fuel vehicles by seeking passage of the Open Fuel Standards Act, which I am the leading sponsor of.

The United States transportation sector is 97 percent reliant on oil, and

it accounts for two-thirds of our Nation's overall oil consumption.

Every year, 17 million new cars are sold in the U.S., and for the most part these cars only run on gasoline. To remedy that, I introduced the Open Fuel Standards Act last year with three of my colleagues, Reps JACK KINGSTON, STEVE ISRAEL and BOB ING-LIS—and you can tell it's bipartisan again. The Open Fuel Standards Act would require 50 percent of new cars sold in the United States by 2012 and 80 percent by 2015 to be flex fuel vehicles, meaning they can run on ethanol, methanol and gasoline, similar to what all cars have in Brazil nowadays, and it would only cost about \$90 or \$100 per car to do this. We should be doing it now.

To help supply America with alcohol-based fuels for flex fuel vehicles, I plan to facilitate the importation of ethanol by introducing the Imported Ethanol Facilitation Act, which was introduced by Representative—now Senator—UDALL.

We also need to make a serious push to electrify the transportation sector for American consumers and to create new green jobs while doing it. Very little of our electricity is generated from oil, so using electricity as a transportation fuel enables the full spectrum of electricity sources to compete with petroleum; that includes wind, solar, geothermal, hydro, nuclear, and coal, among others.

I fully support our Governor, Governor Paterson's "45 by 15" program, whereby New York will meet 45 percent of its electricity needs by 2015 through improved energy efficiency and clean renewable energy. This program will help drive economic revitalization and help protect our environment.

As Congress deliberates an economic recovery bill, I believe that now is the time to jump-start investment in electric transportation. The production of electric vehicles in the United States will involve huge numbers of green manufacturing jobs. Plug-in hybrid cars is something we should consider. There are many, many things that we can do, and when we do the economic stimulus package, we should keep this in mind.

As we move towards greater use of various types of electric vehicles, there will be increased demand for the advanced batteries that will power those vehicles. We must ensure that we can meet the demand for production of these batteries here in the United States.

We must also fund the Green Jobs Workforce Investment Fund authorized under Title 10 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. I will make a continued effort to secure funding, as well as additional funding for related policies, to help American manufacturers produce advanced lithium ion batteries, hybrid electrical systems, and other components and software designs.

So let me say, in conclusion, that I am committed to breaking our depend-

ence on foreign oil and doing so in a way that grows our economy and builds a clean energy future for all Americans. I will continue to press these matters in the next weeks ahead, and I believe in our economic stimulus package we should keep this in mind.

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.)

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HONORING CORPORAL JONATHAN YALE AND LANCE CORPORAL JORDAN HAERTER

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Corporal Jonathan Yale and Lance Corporal Jordan Haerter, who grew up in different parts of this Nation but gave their lives to this country together in Iraq. Both have been nominated for the Navy Cross for their actions on April 22, 2008, and both are owed a great gratitude by this Nation for their actions.

Tony Perry—a journalist who I got to know in Fallujah in 2004—from the LA Times, who has covered this story, describes what transpired that morning best. Corporal Jonathan Yale, 21, grew up in poor rural Virginia. He had joined the Marine Corps to put structure in his life and to help support his mother and sister. He was within a few days of heading home.

Lance Corporal Jordan Haerter, 19, was from a comfortable middle class suburb on Long Island. As a boy, he had worn military garb and he had felt the pull of adventure and patriotism. He had just arrived in Iraq.

On April 22, 2008, the two were assigned to guard the main gate to Joint Security Station Nasser in Ramadi, the capital of the Anbar province, once an insurgent stronghold, and still a very dangerous place. Dozens of marines and Iraqi police lived at the compound and some were still sleeping after all-night patrols when Yale and Haerter reported for duty that warm, sultry morning. Yale, respected for his quiet, efficient manner, was assigned to show Haerter how to take over his duties. Haerter had volunteered to watch the main gate, even though it was considered the most hazardous of the compound's three guards station because it could be approached from a busy thoroughfare.

The sun had barely risen when the two sentries spotted a 20-foot long truck headed toward the gate, weaving with increasing speed through the concrete barriers to the gate. Two Iraqi police officers ran for their lives, so did several Iraqi police on the adjacent

street. Yale and Haerter tried to waive off this truck, but it just kept coming. They opened fire, Yale with the machine gun, Haerter with an M-16. Their bullets peppered the radiator and windshield. The truck slowed, but kept rolling. A few dozen feet from the gate the big truck exploded. Investigators found that it was loaded with over 2,000 pounds of explosives and that its driver, his hand on a "dead-man switch," was determined to commit suicide and slaughter the marines and Iraqi police.

The thunderous explosion rocked much of Ramadi, interrupting the morning call to prayers for many mosques. A nearby mosque and a home were flattened. The blast ripped a crater five feet deep and 20 feet across into the street. Shards of concrete shattered everywhere, and choking dust filled the air.

Haerter was dead, Yale was dying. Three marines about 300 feet away were injured, so were eight Iraqi police and two dozen civilians, but several dozen other nearby marines and Iraqi police, while shaken, were unhurt.

Mr. Speaker, we all hope that in times of great crisis, we will rise to the occasion and do the right thing. Haerter and Yale rose to the occasion and defended their fellow Marines. It is an honor to call them fellow Marines.

Major General John Kelly, Commanding General, First Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) interviewed the witnesses himself. What he learned from these interviews led him to nominate the two for the Navy Cross, the second highest award for combat bravery for the Marine Corps and the United States Navy. In General Kelly's statement in support of the Navy Cross, he writes: "Because they did what they did, only 2 families had their hearts broken on 22 April, rather than as many as 50. These families will never know how truly close they came to a knock on their door that night."

We are winning in Iraq and Afghanistan because of brave Marines like Corporal Jonathan T. Yale and Lance Corporal Jordan D. Haerter. To their families I offer my heartfelt condolences. And to Corporal Yale and Corporal Haerter, I say, Marines, job well done.

This is but one example of the bravery and sacrifice of over 4,000 men and women who have given their lives to the cause of liberty since 2001 and the over 1.5 million men and women who have served in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom and come home, and, of course, the over 150,000 that are serving now.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to include for the RECORD Tony Perry's entire article and Major General Kelly's statement in support of the award of the Navy Cross. I encourage all of my colleague and hope all Americans will read about these two brave Marines and keep their families in their prayers.