

Recently, again, according to the Times, agents stopped a vehicle in Douglas, Arizona, and drug traffickers on the Mexican side of the border laid down suppressive gunfire to pin the U.S. border agents down, which allowed the smugglers to retreat to the Mexican side of the border with their drugs intact.

The Tucson sector alone reports about 25 assaults a month on border patrol agents.

□ 1945

Madam Speaker, there seems to be an all-out border war between the drug cartels and the Mexican-U.S. law enforcement personnel. But not much is being said about this border war.

Madam Speaker, this border war is real. Our government should protect our Nation from these gun-toting drug smugglers. Our border protectors should be given enough personnel and equipment to fight these violent cartels, including being able to use the National Guard. Our border protectors should also know that our government will support them in their lawful protection of our border, and when a violent conflict occurs, be more concerned about our border protectors than the outlaw drug smugglers.

In other words, we must not let more agents suffer an unjust fate like Border Agents Ramos and Compean, who were persecuted and prosecuted for political reasons for shooting a drug smuggler they believed to be armed.

The violence on the border will continue to grow unless the likes of Joaquin "El Chapa"—"Shorty"—Guzman and his border bandits know the United States will not go away into the darkness of the desert night and simply surrender our border to them by silently doing nothing to prevent their unlawful invasion into the United States.

And that's just the way it is.

AMERICA'S TRADE DEFICIT IS AGAIN ON THE RISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, today the United States announced that America's trade deficit is back on the rise. The 2008 annual trade deficit topped \$677 billion. That is three-quarters of \$1 trillion, knocking several points off of economic growth in our country, and yet in response to today's announcement of the growing deficit, U.S. Trade Representative KIRK said we need to work more on new and pending free trade agreements. But trade agreements based on the NAFTA job outsourcing model are what helped get us into this mess of rising unemployment and heavy borrowing in the first place.

Take Mexico, for example, which is the red on this chart. When NAFTA was signed back in 1993, the United States had a trade surplus with Mexico of \$1.3 billion. But in 2008, our deficit

with that country had surged to more than \$367 billion. This year, in only 3 months, we have already seen a \$9.7 billion deficit with Mexico.

Indeed, in every single year of NAFTA since 1993, more imports have come in here from Mexico than our exports there. The biggest U.S. export to Mexico has actually been our jobs. Good jobs.

In an article published in 1993 in Fortune Magazine, the self-proclaimed economic geniuses who urged NAFTA's passage, including Gary Hufbauer and economist Jeffrey Schott, said at that time that if that treaty passed, the United States would maintain, and I quote them, "an annual current account surplus with Mexico of about \$10 billion throughout the 1990s." Boy, were they wrong. Could they have been more wrong? Dead wrong. Consistently wrong.

Since NAFTA was enacted, the United States has accumulated more than \$1.2 trillion in trade deficits to both Mexico and Canada. The orange is the Canadian deficit. And this means lost jobs in our country and lost income to both Mexico and Canada. That \$1.2 trillion of lost wealth in this country could pay for better health care. It could pay for better roads and bridges. It could pay for a better-protected soldier abroad and for police forces here at home. But instead, we shift these dollars and hundreds of thousands of jobs across our borders every single year leaving our home communities devastated and costing our taxpayers ever more.

People ask: Why is President Obama spending money to try to re-engage our economy? And the answer is: What other choice does he have? Doing nothing in an economy with double-digit unemployment numbers is absolutely cruel. At a time when our home districts are straining to make ends meet, millions of people are facing foreclosure and pink slips are coming day after day, why would we want to send more of our jobs and dollars abroad working on new, and I quote the trade ambassador, "new and pending free trade agreements," as Ambassador Kirk suggests, instead of focusing our time and energy on remedying the broken banking and economic system of our country? We have to fix that. We have to fix the foreclosure crisis. And we have to create well-paying jobs right here in our own neighborhoods rather than weakening America further by shipping out more jobs and wealth abroad.

Congress needs to stop making it easier for U.S. jobs to go to these far-flung, slave-wage havens, as in China, in Mexico, and in Panama. And by the way, countries like Panama are corporate tax havens as well.

We need banking reform. We need help for homeowners. We need modern infrastructure, and we need lots more good jobs right here at home. Ambassador Kirk, won't you join us in the fight for America's economic pros-

perity? Why send more of our jobs away from our communities that need them most, particularly when you are staring in the face of reality, which is \$1.3 trillion of trade deficit since NAFTA's inception, both with Mexico and with Canada, and not a single year in the black? Invest in the United States. We can leave Panama and Mexico to another day. It is time to reclaim our wealth and bring it back home where it belongs.

I think the American people intuitively know something is really wrong, and they are trying to figure out why all this has happened. And I would say to some of the very institutions on Wall Street that have caused the deep harm to this economy, you are the very institutions that have helped to finance the outsourcing of these jobs.

H.R. 1701, THE PTSD/TBI GUARANTEED REVIEW FOR HEROES ACT

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. Madam Speaker, almost 2 million American servicemembers have served our Nation in Afghanistan and Iraq. Unfortunately, many are returning home with symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries. An April 2008 study by the RAND Corporation found that nearly 20 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans had symptoms of PTSD or major depression.

The study also found that many servicemembers do not seek treatment for psychological illnesses because they fear it will harm their careers. Of those who do seek help for PTSD or major depression, only about half receive treatment that researchers consider minimally adequate for their illness. If our government and the military fail to address problems associated with PTSD, the situation will only grow worse in future years.

Tragically, the worst cases can result in a servicemember causing harm to themselves or others. Most recently, a United States Army sergeant who had done at least three tours in Iraq had been charged with murdering five of his fellow servicemembers at Camp Liberty in Baghdad. A defense official confirmed that the sergeant had been a patient at the stress treatment center where the shooting occurred. When some servicemembers suffering from PTSD or TBI are not properly treated, they end up self-medicating or experiencing other changes in behavior. This can lead to serious legal issues and a threat of separation from their service without benefits or treatment.

One marine stationed at Camp Lejeune, in my district, fell victim to this problem and has been pending involuntary administrative separation due to misconduct. His fitness report shows that he was an outstanding marine prior to his deployments. His medical board report states, and I quote

the board, "His service in the Marine Corps caused his PTSD and indirectly his incidents and legal problems. The Marine Corps' failure to treat him in the past and treat him appropriately has done nothing but worsen the problem."

Madam Speaker, that is not my comment. That is the comment by the Navy doctors at Camp Lejeune. If this marine would be administratively separated from service, he would have no chance of being eligible for TRICARE benefits. He would have difficulty attaining a job, and it is unlikely that a university would accept him as a student. Luckily, the Marine Corps has decided to give this marine another chance, and he will be transferred to a naval hospital for PTSD treatment.

However, this is not an isolated problem. Many servicemembers may have already lost their benefits due to an administrative separation from the service. For this reason, I have introduced H.R. 1701, the PTSD/TBI Guaranteed Review for Heroes Act. This legislation attacks this issue from two angles. First, it creates a special review board at the Department of Defense for servicemembers who were less than honorably discharged. And secondly, the bill would mandate a physical evaluation board prior to an administrative separation proceeding if the servicemember has been diagnosed with PTSD or TBI by a medical authority.

Ultimately, this bill will help preserve the benefits of the servicemembers upon leaving service. H.R. 1701 has already been endorsed by the National Association for Uniformed Services, the National Military Family Association, the Military Officers Association of America, the Air Force Sergeants Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Marine Corps League.

Madam Speaker, this is a very impressive group of American service people who endorse this bill, H.R. 1701. I am grateful to have Congressman GENE TAYLOR as a lead cosponsor as well as BILL PASCRELL and TODD PLATTS, both cochairs of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force. I hope that many of my House colleagues will join as cosponsors of this important legislation for our Nation's military heroes, and I look forward to working with the leadership of the House Armed Services Committee to advance this much-needed change.

And, Madam Speaker, before I leave, I have done this so many times over the past few years, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform, and ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform, and ask God in His arms to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. And I close three times, Madam Speaker, by asking God, please God, please God, please God, continue to bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

A TRIBUTE TO BILL HOLM

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

Mr. WALZ. Madam Speaker, every time I get the privilege to speak on this floor, I am truly humbled. I am humbled by the knowledge of what we, as a Nation, have done. Each one of us in this body realizes that the strength of this Nation and our democracy lies in the extraordinary nature of our people.

I come from the heartland of this great Nation, the places where the Great Plains begin and the Mississippi River begins to flow. Mankato, Minnesota, is my home town. That was the "big town" where the Ingalls family went to shop for school clothes in Laura Ingalls Wilder's "Little House on the Prairie." My congressional office is located at 227 Main Street in Mankato. That is just a couple of blocks down from where America's first Nobel laureate, Sinclair Lewis, lived when he wrote his novel "Main Street." Minnesota is also the home of F. Scott Fitzgerald. And I feel truly blessed to have the friendship of Garrison Keillor and his iconic "Prairie Home Companion."

Each of these writers had a special gift to describe a place. As a child of the prairie and a geographer, place is something I have spent my entire life trying to understand. I teach high school geography, and invariably whenever I tell people that, they flash back to some really bad memories of having to memorize capitals. And I explain to them, that is location, and it is only a very small part of geography. Place, on the other hand, is knowing the people and what is in their heart.

Minnesota recently lost another great writer. He was one of the most thoughtful and insightful tellers of place I have ever seen. Bill Holm was born in Minneota, Minnesota, in 1943. Minneota is a small town in southwest Minnesota where my father-in-law, Valgene Norwood Whipple, is still the high school boys basketball coach.

Bill was of Icelandic descent, and he never lost his love for his proud ancestral home, spending his summer in Iceland. He went to college in St. Peter, Minnesota, at the great Swedish College of Gustavus Adolphus, named for the Swedish King and patron of literature and learning.

Bill went on to the University of Kansas, became a Fulbright Scholar in Reykjavik, as well as a Bush Foundation fellow. He taught at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, Minnesota, and he wrote several books and volumes of poetry. That is his biography. What Bill truly did was

tell the soul of a northern people, a proud stoic people, who not only settled the harsh prairies of Minnesota, but built the vibrant culture and strong unique communities.

One of Bill's works that touched me the most was a small volume called "The Music of Failure." It is a journey of place and people that leaves one feeling incredibly thankful for family, friends, neighbors and this Nation, and puts into perspective what is truly important.

I would like to spend a minute or so and let Bill's own words from "The Music of Failure" tell a little of his place.

□ 2000

"Farmers go to bed early, or at least they used to when I was a boy. Small towns in Minnesota close by 6, the cafes frequently by 4. People eat at home where you can save money. By 10, the streets are silent, only the liquor store is open, its lonesome Hamm's sign proclaiming a few that are still up. Nothing but blue flickering TVs behind drawn blinds, and a random pattern of yard lights stretching off into the prairies. By midnight, nothing. Drive on these county roads, and you can imagine that trolls have kidnapped the entire human race, leaving only electricity behind. Your headlights are a ship's beacon, lighting up a few breakers on the grass ocean, as the car rocks along toward whatever port you have business in. I like driving late at night on these roads without traffic. It provides me with a valuable corrective against human arrogance."

Bill understood place and he understood what made this Nation so strong: it was the people and their resilience.

He also understood that not all of us saw the world the same way.

There are two eyes in the human head—the eye of mystery, and the eye of harsh truth—the hidden and the open. The woods eye and the prairie eye. The prairie eye looks for distance, clarity and light; the woods eye for closeness, complexity, and darkness. The prairie eye looks for usefulness and plainness in art and architecture; the woods eye for the baroque and ornamental. Dark old brownstones on Summit Street in St. Paul, they were created by the woods eye; the square white farmhouses and the red barn are the prairies eye. Sherwood Anderson wrote his stories with a prairie eye, plain and awkward, told in the voice of a man almost embarrassed to be telling them, but bull-headedly persistent to get the meaning of the events. Faulkner, whose endless complications of motive and language take the reader miles behind the simple facts of an event. He had a woods eye. One eye is not superior to another, just different.

When he wrote his book and the book I am reading from today, "The Music of Failure," he was trying to get at the heart of what this Nation was about, what the soul was about, and he talked often about when he was a young man