

Security Act goes to markup next week, citizens around our country will be looking forward to legislation that not only addresses the crucial issues of energy independence and climate change but also does not greatly increase our costs.

Americans understand that we are at a crucial point with the high and unpredictable costs of energy, global warming, and its direct impact on our health, wellbeing, and national security must be addressed. The people of the insular areas understand this in a more acute way as we have the highest energy costs in the Nation, geographic locations that are susceptible to the ill effects of climate change, and economies that can be easily affected if the goals of energy independence and environmental sustainability are not reached.

As we work to move our country into a new clean energy economy, we look forward to our full inclusion in legislation that will create jobs in our communities, encourage the production of cleaner renewable energy resources, decrease the pollution that has damaged our air and water quality and impacted our health, and produce entrepreneurial opportunities for both large and small businesses.

We look forward to a new direction and a new clean energy and green economy.

□ 1015

TAKE CARE OF OUR SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, last Monday a tragic event occurred in Iraq when five servicemembers were killed at the Camp Liberty Combat Stress Control Center. It points out the importance that we need to pay attention to with posttraumatic stress disorder, acute stress disorder, and a wide range of other mental illnesses which can occur after prolonged combat or exposure to severe stress.

We need to understand and communicate with our soldiers and their officers that these problems are real and they are treatable and you can get a soldier back in emotional shape. It is not a sign of weakness. It is not a sign of failure on the part of the soldier or the officer, but they need to get help.

Over the centuries in our military, the uniforms have changed, the weapons have changed, the ships have all changed, but the soldier remains the same, brave and strong and true. But Congress must, nonetheless, provide substantial funding to take care of our soldiers and their families and keep them in mental health shape and physical shape and to get them back on their feet strong and ready.

Congress and our Nation must continue to support them. There is hope,

there is treatment, and we need to continue and support our soldiers in that endeavor.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AMERICORPS WEEK

(Mrs. CAPPAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National AmeriCorps Week. Over the last 15 years, nearly half a million AmeriCorps volunteers have served with thousands of nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based organizations across America. AmeriCorps recruits and trains millions of community volunteers to serve our country's critical needs in education, the environment, public safety, and disaster relief nationwide.

Sixty-five percent of AmeriCorps alumni go on to pursue a career in public service. In my home State of California alone, almost 8,000 people this year will participate in one of more than 7,500 AmeriCorps programs throughout the State. One such program is coordinated by the Santa Barbara County Education Office in my district.

This program provides daily tutoring and reading for over 700 at-risk students. It recruits volunteers for additional educational programs, and it works to increase disaster preparedness in the schools of Santa Barbara County.

The over 700 million hours served by AmeriCorps members have bettered our communities and touched the lives of countless Americans. These individuals dedicate their time and energy to help meet the needs of our local communities, and during these tough economic times, we need them now more than ever.

To all these incredible participants in AmeriCorps, I commend you and thank you for your service.

NOT RELEASING DETAINEE PHOTOS IS THE RIGHT DECISION

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say thank you to our President. I am grateful that he has reversed his decision on releasing the alleged detainee abuse images.

It was the right decision to come to. It was the right decision to make, and I congratulate him. I thank him. I think we are all grateful to him.

I am glad to see that he listened to his team of national security advisers and realized that releasing those images is not in our national interest.

It does not make this Nation more safe. It makes it less safe. It does not help our troops in the field. It makes their job more difficult, more dan-

gerous, and it makes their lives less safe every day.

Having Fort Campbell in my district, with troops just returning, having our Tennessee National Guardsmen just now deploying to Afghanistan, what we need to do every day is say thank to you these men and women and make certain that our service honors their service. And I thank the President for joining us in reversing his decision.

PAY MORE ATTENTION TO FRAYING ECONOMY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, today we have a \$96.7 billion bill that expands supplemental funds for more war in Iraq, ratchets up U.S. military presence in Afghanistan, and allocates a minimum of \$400 million for nation building in Pakistan where corruption is the norm.

We must ask how competent is our government to transform a world beyond our borders that speaks Arabic, Pashtun, and Farsi? Not even a handful of our military does.

Those majorities practice religions largely foreign to us, and their governments, if you can call them that, are undemocratic, weak nation states with vast legions of poor people and corrupt governance. Pakistan alone has 163 million impoverished people, and Afghanistan's largest export is heroin. So we are going to inject ourselves into that situation even deeper, with almost no multinational support.

What have we achieved politically in Iraq? Spending our Nation into endless debt, we have transformed a secular dictatorship into a divided Nation separating Sunni, Shia, and Kurd factions. A nation of 25 million has been upended, millions uprooted, and maybe 18 million shell-shocked people remain, while oil contracts have been divided up among multinationals. Not a pretty picture. And not a situation that will hold long term.

So, now we're going to take on Afghanistan, a country that's not a nation, with over 400 tribes, where the Taliban is strengthened by the very sight of foreign troop presence.

Madam Speaker, it is time for America to come to our senses. After \$1 trillion, isn't it time to pay more attention to the fraying economy here in our homeland and the American people?

PRESSING NEED FOR TAX SIMPLIFICATION

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, last week the House Small Business Subcommittee on Finance and Tax held a hearing on a long overdue issue: the pressing need for tax simplification for America's small business.

The IRS estimates it takes over 37 hours to complete the 1040 short form, the most basic income tax form we have. Why does it take this long? Because our Tax Code today runs over 67,000 pages.

This is a disgraceful state of affairs. We need a simpler and fairer Tax Code that rewards, not punishes, hard work and success. Small business creates 70 percent of all new jobs in America. Small business can lead us out of this economic recession and back into recovery if Congress gives them a chance.

Let's start by overhauling our broken tax system.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER CAINE

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

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor Christopher Caine's 25 years of service to one of Vermont's most important and valued businesses, IBM.

The largest private employer in Vermont, IBM has long served as a bedrock in Essex Junction in the greater Burlington community. It has proven itself to be a strong corporate citizen and has shown the world that Vermonters can compete for quality high-tech jobs.

For the past 25 years, Christopher Caine has made a major contribution to that success in such positions as public policy director and, most recently, as vice president of governmental affairs.

Like thousands of Vermonters who earn their livelihoods at IBM, Christopher has worked diligently to ensure the success of this great American company, and, in so doing, he has contributed to a key part of Vermont's economy.

Upon his retirement this year from IBM, I want to salute Christopher for his contribution to IBM and to the State of Vermont.

CERTIFY YUCCA MOUNTAIN AS PERMANENT NUCLEAR WASTE DEPOSITORY

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, nuclear power is an environmentally friendly way to meet our energy needs. Fortunately, we have a safe and ready option for permanent storage for the waste generated by this clean power at Yucca Mountain in Nevada.

But despite the fact that energy ratepayers in my State have contributed over \$375 million to the Nuclear Waste Fund, the Federal Government has refused to keep its end of the bargain and store the nuclear waste.

Nationwide, this fund has now collected over \$350 billion in fees and interest since its inception. Minnesotans

and all Americans should not have to pay for government inaction.

I have introduced legislation that would require the President to certify Yucca Mountain as a permanent nuclear waste depository; and if it's not certified, the bill would return billions of dollars from the Nuclear Waste Fund to ratepayers across the country.

Madam Speaker, let's quickly pass the Rebating America's Deposits Act.

DO BETTER TO GIVE VETERANS SUPPORT

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Madam Speaker, we owe our Nation's brave men and women in uniform a debt of gratitude. However, after speaking with so many families, it's obvious that we must do better to give veterans the support that they have earned. None of our troops should end up on the streets after serving their country, and all of our troops should have access to treatment for conditions such as posttraumatic stress syndrome.

This is why I rise today to announce my strong support for the Veterans Bill of Rights. This new bill of rights pledges three things.

One, we will increase the Veterans Administration's direct support for homeless veterans. No veteran should ever go hungry.

Two, we will make counseling services for PTSD available in every veterans center in America.

And, most importantly, three, we in Congress will make veterans a number one priority in all public policy decisions. We owe this to them and much, much more.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of Veterans Bill of Rights.

ENERGY

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, during the campaign, President Obama pledged 95 percent of taxpayers would not see their taxes increased one single dime. Unfortunately, the President has broken this promise.

The President's budget included a cap-and-trade policy, otherwise known as cap-and-tax, that will hit every home utility bill and inflict more pain at the pump. Every American will be impacted by this dangerous policy. American households, on average, can expect to pay an additional \$3,100 a year in energy costs.

The American people still live with the memory of \$4 a gallon for gas and the hardship it inflicted on their family budgets. Even our Democrat colleagues say this.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD from North Carolina is quoted today in Roll Call as saying, "The cost of everything is going to go up."

The cost of everything is going to go up. This is the wrong direction for this country.

VISIT LAS VEGAS

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, this week is National Tourism Week. Tourism is the sixth biggest industry in America.

As the congresswoman from the entertainment and tourism capital of the world, fabulous Las Vegas, I want to encourage all of my fellow citizens to enjoy the remarkable diversity of options the tourism industry provides.

Come to Las Vegas. Enjoy our great hotels, fabulous shows, superb restaurants, water sports, Grand Canyon tours, great shopping, and our other wholesome family entertainment. Memorial Day weekend is right around the corner. Make your reservations now.

I promise you will have slots of fun.

SALUTE TO ROBBIE BEANE

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a sheriff's department veteran from Beauregard Parish in my Louisiana district who was recently killed in the line of duty.

Detective Robbie Beane had dedicated 14 years of his life protecting and serving the good people of Beauregard Parish. On May 5, he died in an accident while on duty with three of his fellow officers.

During his 14 years as a member of the Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Department, Robbie Beane worked his way up to detective and had become a volunteer member of the SWAT team and the SWAT diving team.

Detective Beane was an active member of his church and volunteered in civic organizations. He was slated to be the next president of the Deridder Lion's Club.

Detective Beane is the first member of the Beauregard Sheriff's Department to be killed in the line of duty.

He leaves behind his wife, Nikki, and their daughter, Joslynn. This is a tragic loss, and I want to express my sincere condolences to his family and thank Robbie Beane for his service to our State.

21ST CENTURY GREEN HIGH-PERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KRATOVIL). Pursuant to House Resolution 427 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2187.