

to lose their jobs or by intercepting them or driving the prices up because of what they intercept.

We're never going to stop all drug abuse. And every Border Patrol agent knows he can't. But what he knows is he can intercept large numbers that would have gone to the streets and the homes of America and would have resulted in huge problems in crime and family safety in America.

So maybe we don't want to call it the war on drugs anymore. Instead we call it a disease, and for those who get addicted, it is a disease. But in fact unlike doctors and nurses who fight cancer, or researchers who fight cancer or people who fight lupus or diabetes, the Border Patrol agents are getting shot at and they die.

So whether we want to call it a war or whatever we want to call it, the individuals who use these illegal narcotics do not wake up one morning and suddenly discover that a heroin needle got put in their arm or that somehow they were snorting crack in their sleep or snorting cocaine in their sleep. In fact, it is somewhat different. And I want to make sure that our men and women of the Border Patrol understand that there is bipartisan support to making sure that we keep our border secure; that we continue to block illegal narcotics; that we continue to block terrorists; and you are our first line of defense on our huge borders, and we cannot thank you enough for risking your lives for the rest of us.

I yield back.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from Indiana, my ranking member on the subcommittee that oversees all of the border issues for America. He's been a strong advocate for the Border Patrol as well as for all of the agencies, really, that sit within our jurisdiction. And so I thank him for taking the time tonight to be down here and helping to work on this bill.

You know, the Border Patrol just doesn't work at the southern and the northern border. As was mentioned, we'll see them in Puerto Rico and some other areas, and also we send them to other countries to train people as to the whole issue of border patrol and how to take a look at what's coming in. In fact, in Iraq we've sent several to help to set up some of the border patrol issues out there in that country.

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So we have a large group of men and women who come to work every single day, love America, and work very hard on behalf of the American people. And for this reason, Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly support House Resolution 498, honoring and congratulating the Border Patrol on its 85th anniversary, and I urge the rest of my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 498,

which honors and congratulates the U.S. Border Patrol on its 85th anniversary.

Much has changed since 1924, when Congress formally established the U.S. Border Patrol and charged just 450 officers with securing our Nation's borders.

Today, more than 18,000 Border Patrol agents patrol 8,000 miles of international borders with Mexico, Canada and the coastal waters around Florida and Puerto Rico.

Previously, the Border Patrol was responsible only for stopping illegal aliens and contraband from crossing our borders—an enormous challenge on its own.

But in the wake of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Border Patrol's mission was expanded to include preventing terrorists and their instruments from entering the United States.

One thing has not changed in the last 85 years, however.

The men and women of the Border Patrol continue to risk their lives serving the American public with vigilance, integrity and professionalism.

As Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, I have been to our borders and seen firsthand Border Patrol agents serving our Nation, often under very difficult conditions.

That is why I am pleased to support this resolution, in honor of all those helping to secure America's borders today and throughout the Border Patrol's 85-year history.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would thank the gentleman from New Mexico, Mr. TEAGUE, for authoring H. Res. 498.

His congressional district includes Artesia, New Mexico, home to the Border Patrol Academy, where thousands of new Border Patrol agents have been trained.

Mr. TEAGUE'S constituents are fortunate to have a strong advocate for that fine facility and for the Border Patrol as an organization.

Again, I urge all of my colleagues to support this very worthy resolution, and join in honoring and congratulating the U.S. Border Patrol on its 85th anniversary.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in support of H. Res. 498, a resolution honoring and celebrating the United States Border Patrol on its 85th Anniversary.

The United States Border Patrol is a federal law enforcement agency within U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), a component of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The Border Patrol was founded on May 28, 1924 as an agency of the United States Department of Labor to prevent illegal entries along the Mexico-United States border.

The Border Patrol's mission remains as the deterrence, detection and apprehension of illegal immigrants and individuals involved in the illegal drug trade who generally do not enter the United States through designated ports of entry.

Ever since its founding, the U.S. Border Patrol has been there defending our borders and homeland. They were there to prevent Ahmed Ressam, also known as the "Millennium Bomber," from entering this country and killing our citizens with explosives he intended to detonate at the Los Angeles International Airport during the holiday season prior to the 2000 millennium. They were there to apprehend Richard Goldberg, a suspected child molester, after he was arrested in Ottawa, Canada. Goldberg was on the FBI's "Top 10 Fugitive List" and was featured on "America's Most Wanted." Further, just this month, they were there to seize close to \$1.5 million in cocaine and marijuana along the Southern border.

The Border Patrol is this nation's first line of defense against many threats. They patrol over 8,000 miles of international borders with Mexico and Canada as well as the coastal waters around Florida and Puerto Rico.

The brave men and women of the Border Patrol work tirelessly to secure and facilitate trade and travel while enforcing hundreds of U.S. regulations, including immigration and drug laws. They keep our country safe from threats such as terrorists, illicit drugs, weapons, and criminals. Today over 18,800 Border Patrol Agents risk their lives in defense of our country. These brave men and women join thousands of others who have served our country in the Border Patrol over the last 85 years.

America can rest assured that its borders and homeland will be protected by the courageous men and women of the U.S. Border Patrol. I commend the U.S. Patrol on its proud and distinguished history of protecting the United States and strongly urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 498.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO ACT OF 2009—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111-46)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on the Budget and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Today I am pleased to submit to the Congress the enclosed legislative proposal, the "Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2009," or "PAYGO," together with a sectional analysis.

The deficits that my Administration inherited reflect not only a severe economic downturn but also years of failing to pay for new policies—including large tax cuts that disproportionately benefited the affluent. This failure of fiscal discipline contributed to transforming surpluses projected at the beginning of this decade into trillions of dollars in deficits. I am committed to returning our Government to a path of fiscal discipline, and PAYGO represents a key step back to the path of shared responsibility.

PAYGO would hold us to a simple but important principle: we should pay for

new tax or entitlement legislation. Creating a new non-emergency tax cut or entitlement expansion would require offsetting revenue increases or spending reductions.

In the 1990s, statutory PAYGO encouraged the tough choices that helped to move the Government from large deficits to surpluses, and I believe it can do the same today. Both houses of Congress have already taken an important step toward righting our fiscal course by adopting congressional rules incorporating the PAYGO principle. But we can strengthen enforcement and redouble our commitment by enacting PAYGO into law.

Both the Budget I have proposed and the Budget Resolution approved by the Congress would cut the deficit in half by the end of my first term, while laying a new foundation for sustained and widely shared economic growth through key investments in health, education, and clean energy. Enacting statutory PAYGO would complement these efforts and represent an important step toward strengthening our budget process, cutting deficits, and reducing national debt. Ultimately, however, we will have to do even more to restore fiscal sustainability.

I urge the prompt and favorable consideration of this proposal.

BARACK OBAMA,
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 9, 2009.

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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AIR FORCE LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARK E. STRATTON, II

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, noble sacrifice dominates the character of a man who so willingly dedicates his life for others. There are none who understand that any better today than the men and women in our U.S. military. They personify the very essence of what it means to be an American.

Today, under the morning sky at Arlington Cemetery, myself and other Members of Congress—ROB WITTMAN from Virginia, JO BONNER from Alabama, and Senator SESSIONS from Alabama—joined several hundred other family members and friends as a 21-gun salute and “Taps” was played for United States Air Force Lieutenant

Colonel Mark E. Stratton, II. The somber silence of the grave sites was broken with this tribute.

Colonel Stratton trained as a navigator on an Air Force KC-135. In his honor, one of these massive aircraft flew low and slow over Arlington Cemetery, over the flag-draped coffin of one of Air Force's finest. He gave his life helping the Afghan people to know dignity of a life lived in freedom.

He was assigned to the Joint Staff at the Pentagon here in Washington, D.C. and he served as the commander of the Panjshir Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan. On May 26, 2009, Mark died near Bagram Airfield of wounds that he sustained from an improvised explosive device, what we call an IED.

Mark had strong Texas ties. He graduated from Texas A&M University in December of 1991 with a degree in political science. And while at Texas A&M, he was a member of Squadron 1 in the Corps of Cadets. He received his commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1992. He has numerous Air Force commendations, including the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

He is remembered by friends as a man of unquestionable character and loyalty. He was a patriotic individual who exemplified the spirit of the American airman.

Lieutenant Colonel Gil Delgado, Mark's former roommate at Texas A&M, described Mark as a man who passionately loved God, his family, his friends and his country, and it showed in everything Mark did.

Through his heroic work in Afghanistan, Mark lived a life helping other people. His time was spent building roads and clinics, schools and canals for the Afghan people. He was an ambassador for the American spirit. He described the job to family and friends as the best he had ever had in his entire career. When he was killed, Mr. Speaker, the villagers in Afghanistan had a memorial service in his honor.

Mark held a deep sense of tradition. Just a few weeks prior to his death, Mark made a special effort to share his Texas Aggie spirit with the Afghan friends that he had met. Mr. Speaker, each April 21, the day Texas gained independence, Aggies from Texas A&M observed what is called Aggie Muster. This occasion is where all Aggies gather in all parts of the world to honor Aggies who have died the previous year.

Even though Mark was the only Aggie within 100 miles of his forward operating base, he convinced the Panjshir Provincial Governor and his security detail to join him atop a nearby mountain to observe the very special occasion of Aggie Muster. One Aggie Air Force colonel and Afghan villagers paid tribute to Americans who died the previous year; that must have been a sight to see.

Texas Aggies have a long tradition of military service. In fact, during World

War II, Texas A&M produced over 14,000 officers, more than came from West Point or Annapolis combined. Mark was a proud Texas Aggie.

Mark is survived by his wife, Jennifer, and their three children, along with his mother, stepfather, and his brother, Michael. Mark's late father and namesake served as an Army captain in the Vietnam War. His stepmother, Debby Young, lives in southwest Houston. Mark's brother, Michael, and stepbrother, Steven, also live in the Houston area.

A great testament to Mark's life is the lives he forever changed through his work; every structure, every canal and road well traveled. Every school Mark helped build will offer generations of Afghan children the opportunity that comes from education. Every clinic he helped build will be a place where sickness will be cured, where human suffering is relieved, and where lives are being saved every day.

Mark has left a noble legacy as he has come to the end of this Earthly journey. It is for others now to pick up the torch he used to light a way for the Afghan people in the rugged mountains and deserts of this remote nation.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said, “The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example.” Next year, on April 21, at Aggie Muster, Lieutenant Colonel Mark Stratton's name will be called. His name and life will be remembered by Aggies and other grateful Americans and by his Air Force buddies. But no doubt the people of Afghanistan will also remember the man from America, the Air Force colonel who built their schools, their water wells, and their villages. And maybe those villagers will return once more to that mountaintop and pay tribute to this American hero, Lieutenant Colonel Mark Stratton.

And that's just the way it is.

EQUAL RIGHTS FOR HEALTH CARE ACT—TITLE 42

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 2744, the Equal Rights for Health Care Act—Title 42. The concept of equal rights is a pillar of our Nation and the reason why so many immigrate here to the United States.

Indeed, the U.S. was founded on the principle that all Americans should have the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. In order to enjoy this blessing of life and liberty, however, one must be healthy, and that means they have the benefit of equal treatment and research.

For example, men and women have different symptoms when it comes to heart disease. Unlike men, most women do not experience chest pain. Instead, 71 percent of the women report