

Later today, thousands of people will gather in California to do just that, celebrate his life and pay tribute to him.

PROTECTING PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Many Americans don't have access to affordable health care, and we can and need to do better for all Americans. I support a system that gives Americans more affordable health care choices so they can pick the coverage that best fits their needs. The core part of the Democrat proposal is a new government-run program that will not only put bureaucrats between you and your doctor but would force more than 100 million people, Americans, out of the health coverage they currently receive through their jobs.

We need a plan that really does let Americans who like their health care coverage keep it, a plan that doesn't add new taxes or new mandates or drive up costs or drive people out of health care. We must give all Americans the freedom to choose their health plan, not force them into a government-run, one-size-fits-all plan. Private plans are great. Let's protect them.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAFETY IN DEFENSE CONTRACTING ACT OF 2009

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

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Safety in Defense Contracting Act of 2009. When our servicemembers or civilian personnel put their lives at risk while deployed overseas, they should not have to worry about the safety of their living and working quarters. Unfortunately, due to shoddy contractor work, they do. American personnel have been injured or killed by electric shocks. That same deficient work has resulted in hundreds of fires, one which destroyed the largest dining hall in Iraq. Gross negligence by contractors is unacceptable.

That is why I am introducing the Safety in Defense Contracting Act to protect our military and civilian personnel by debarring grossly negligent or reckless defense contractors found guilty of causing death or injury to our personnel. Such contractors do not deserve further government contracts worth millions of dollars for performing the same work.

To make matters worse, defense contractors who are guilty of dangerously deficient work have been receiving award and incentive fees. My bill denies them these fees. They should no longer be rewarded for poor perform-

ance at the expense of the taxpayers. It will take time to rebuild our contractor oversight capabilities, but I ask my colleagues to join me in this bill.

CLEAN ENERGY—NUCLEAR POWER

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, many countries, including China and European nations, are continuing to move to clean energy, such as nuclear power. The United States, the nuclear power pioneer, lags far behind in the development of new generating plants. The United States could and should move to the licensing and development of more nuclear power plants.

Nuclear power is an efficient and a cheaper way of providing clean energy to America's manufacturing sector. We should streamline the long cumbersome process of power plant applications that use safe reactor designs, designs that have already been approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Progress, safety and costs have advanced to a state that America can safely store spent nuclear fuel rods and also recycle fuel. One of America's most impressive plants is the North Anna Nuclear Station here in nearby Virginia. Nuclear power is responsible for 20 percent of our energy, but in France 80 percent of their energy comes from nuclear energy. Nuclear power will keep jobs in America and help free us from the shackles of foreign control of our energy.

And that's just the way it is.

OUR CLEAN AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURE

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, global warming is no longer an academic question for scientists to ponder. It's a very real crisis that requires our leadership. This is not a political issue. This is a critical generational responsibility that will take a commitment from Congress and from every person in our society. We have a real opportunity this year to prove our commitment by voting for H.R. 2454, the American Energy and Security Act.

The renewable technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions exist. The societal will and desire to go clean have been demonstrated, and the political climate to finally create sound public policy is now present. The cost of inaction on this critical challenge is unacceptable and the price too high. A recent study concluded that unchecked effects of climate change could result in a cost of \$271 billion per year by 2025. Failure to act is intolerable when considering the economic and job creation opportunities a clean energy economy presents. The American Energy and Security Act provides a path that leads

us to a clean, sustainable energy future.

THE REPUBLICAN ANSWER TO THE ENERGY CHALLENGES WE FACE

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

Mr. PENCE. The American economy is hurting. Gasoline prices are on the rise. Utility rates threaten to go higher, imposing even greater hardship on working families. The American people are looking for answers in these times to the challenges we face in energy. The Democrat answer you have just heard is a national energy tax that will lead to higher energy prices and massive job losses for the American people.

The President said it best a year ago when he said, if the cap-and-trade plan were to pass, utility rates—his words now—would, quote, necessarily skyrocket.

Some estimates suggest job losses between 1.8 and 7 million. Well, Republicans have a better plan, the American Energy Act. It's an all-of-the-above plan that offers energy independence, more jobs and a cleaner environment without imposing a national energy tax. Our energy solution focuses on more domestic exploration for oil and natural gas, a renewed commitment to build 100 nuclear power plants in the next 20 years, investments in renewables, alternative energy technologies and creating incentives for conservation. You can read all about it on the editorial page of the Wall Street Journal today.

The American people want energy independence and a cleaner environment without a national energy tax. The American Energy Act offered by House Republicans is the answer the American people are looking for.

EXPRESSING OUTRAGE FOR THE MURDER OF OFFICER STEPHEN T. JOHNS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, as an advisory board member of the Holocaust Museum of Houston, I rise with a deep sense of sympathy and outrage for the terrible tragic incident that happened, as The Washington Post reported, at a monument of sorrow and also a standing edifice for peace.

I offer my deepest sympathy to the family of Security Officer Stephen T. Johns. As a believer and an advocate of our Constitution and our First Amendment rights, I stand here in outrage to express my opposition to the idea that protected speech equals protected violence. This was a dastardly act, and we don't know how many other targets this hateful-minded person might have been engaged in.

We must continue to stand against hate. We must continue to promote the

passage of the hate crimes legislation; but frankly, we must say to those who we mourn, by putting forward a Holocaust Museum, many across the Nation and in my town of Houston, that we stand with them in solidarity.

To my good friend Peter Berkowitz and Fred Zeidman, who chairs the Holocaust Museum here in Washington, a Houstonian, you have my deepest sympathy, my respect, and I stand in solidarity with you.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE STATE CHAMPION NEEDVILLE BLUE JAYS GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Needville Blue Jays, who defeated the Celina Bobcats 3-1 at McCombs Field in Austin to win the Texas class 3A girls high school championship last week.

The Blue Jays played their hearts out and have made all Texas proud. Only 3 years ago, six members of the Needville team played in the 2006 Junior Softball World Series, where they finished third overall. This State championship victory was the result of exceptional teamwork and years of practice and dedication.

The Blue Jays' defense was superb in the finals. Celina had five hits, but Needville made no errors and kept the Bobcats' base runners in check.

I would also like to compliment the coach of the Blue Jays, C.J. Mazac. The best teams are always the result of exceptional coaching, and Coach Mazac has clearly inspired and motivated his players.

I would like to send a big congratulations to the graduating seniors, and I would also like to recognize all of the team members who made this victory possible. Great job to each of you.

The Blue Jays' final record for the season was an impressive 34-8. All residents of Needville and Fort Bend County, Texas, are extremely proud of our Blue Jays, and I extend my congratulations to these talented young athletes.

SOLVING THE CRISIS IN AMERICAN MEDICINE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Forty-nine years ago, the 1960 October Harpers Magazine cover story was "The Crisis in American Medicine." Well, we are still in crisis, but change is in the air.

The facts are clear: High costs, more procedures, tests, and hospitalization is not better care; it is a symptom of poor care. Every major Nation spends less, and most have better outcomes than the United States.

Getting 50 million Americans health insurance and giving the rest of Ameri-

cans with insurance, stability, will cost more, but about half of this cost can be achieved by reforming the system, and having the government pay the balance will cost far less for business and people with insurance over the next 10 years than business as usual.

With a President who gets it, a Congress listening to what the people want and a public plan to keep the system honest, it means that there won't be a cover story 50 years from now about American medicine still in crisis.

A LACK OF BIPARTISANSHIP IN HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, an overhaul of our Nation's health care system is under way, and I am glad that people in my district are engaged in this critical issue. Unfortunately, the Democrats have shared very few details of the plan, except that there will be a public plan, which I have to tell you most people are frightened of.

While I realize that we are in the minority party, I still have nearly 1 million constituents to represent, including more Medicare beneficiaries than any other Member of Congress. My Republican colleagues and I have made numerous attempts to reach across the aisle to share our ideas on how to improve the health care system and make it more affordable. So we are drafting our own bill.

When President Obama invites Members of Congress to the White House to craft health care bills, he invites only Democrats. He has met with industry representatives but never with Republicans. Recently, the President sent a letter saying he expects a bureaucratic-run health system to be included in the final option, but again, he sent the letter only to Democrats. Hardly a gesture of bipartisanship.

THE NEED FOR PASSING HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, like Representative JACKSON-Lee before me, I was shocked at hearing of the shooting at the Holocaust Museum yesterday. Indeed, it is a place of special reverence and a place where you wouldn't think violence would occur, but deranged minds do deranged things, and the man who did the shooting had a history of hate towards African Americans and toward Jews and toward our government, it appears, even though he served in our Armed Forces.

It reminds me of the need for passing hate crimes legislation because hate today still exists in people's hearts, and when people hate any group, they generally hate all different minorities.

They don't understand the America of tolerance and inclusion that we celebrate and upon which we were founded.

It also reminds me of the need to have a COPS bill passed to have more protection, and the cops that were approved in the ARRA protect our society from these types of attacks.

Yesterday there was to be a play debuted at the Holocaust Museum by Janet Langhart Cohen, wife of former Secretary of Defense Bill Cohen, about an imaginary conversation between Emmett Till and Anne Frank. It will debut on Friday at George Washington University and talk about tolerance and peace and the results of hate.

SUPPORT AN ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE ENERGY PLAN

(Mr. BROWN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, for years my Republican colleagues and I have focused on implementing an all-of-the-above energy plan to cut the ties of foreign oil and create affordable American energy. However, the Democrat cap-and-tax plan will actually serve as a national energy tax, resulting in fewer jobs and more government control.

More than \$3,100 will be added to the annual energy costs of American families, a financial hardship that will greatly impact the poor, who spend a large part of their income on energy. These taxes will directly impact farmers in South Carolina as everyday costs of fuel and fertilizer become too expensive for them to afford.

Additionally, our State's clean-energy production will be excessively taxed, forcing companies to move to countries with less stringent standards, resulting in little progress towards protecting our environment. The relocation of these businesses could result in the loss of up to 7 million jobs, increasing unemployment and placing further economic strains on the American families, all for a policy that won't even achieve its initial goal of reducing carbon emissions.

Americans are sick of this energy roller coaster. I encourage my colleagues to support an all-of-the-above energy plan that will not tax us to death.

COMMENDING HODGDON YACHTS OF EAST BOOTHBAY, MAINE

(Ms. PINGREE of Maine asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Madam Speaker, I want to talk to you this morning about Hodgdon Yachts of East Boothbay, Maine. Hodgdon Brothers opened for business in 1816 and is the oldest continually operated shipyard in the United States. Tim Hodgdon is a fifth-generation boat builder, continuing a long and proud tradition.