

When the new Government Motors put hundreds of their dealerships out of business, it hurt the local strip malls, restaurants, dry cleaners, grocery stores, sandwich shops, gas stations, on and on, and that causes financial struggles for the industries who supply these small businesses.

Madam Speaker, America's small businesses offer the best hope for new job creation. The government needs to get out of their way. Stop sucking the oxygen out of the economy with higher taxes and higher energy costs. Let America's entrepreneurs keep more of their own money to pull the country out of this mess. That says it in a nutshell: let them keep more of their own money.

Taxocrats want to control America's economic engine; however, they want to seize the wealth created in this country and spend it on their special friends and special interest groups. America's economy doesn't work that way. No economy ever has. If the government seizes the wealth it created, that these businesses created, however, it kills any incentive to create wealth. Just ask the former Soviet Union. Why do you think they went out of business? Why would anybody in their right mind invest money, blood, sweat, and tears to build a company from scratch only to hand the fruits of their labor over to the government? Governments don't create anything. They just seize it. They don't create jobs. They create taxpayer programs.

America's economy is the most successful in the history of the world, and the reason is easy to figure out: freedom. Freedom to create and grow an idea into a company, a dream to make it a multinational corporation. It makes no sense at all to kill the greatest economy on God's green earth, along with the freedom and liberty that created it. You cannot help the poor by economically killing the rich. It's been said, You don't make the poor rich by making the rich poor. Madam Speaker, taxes are the root of all Federal mischief.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1730

WE MUST SUPPORT AND DEFEND ISRAEL

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

Mr. MCMAHON. Late Thursday, Madam Speaker, the House stood in support of our friend Israel and the greater global community by providing \$2.2 billion towards Israel's regional security and counterterrorism efforts. More importantly, this appropriation bill takes a firm stand against the active state sponsorship of terror by Iran by cutting off U.S. export credits to foreign companies that help to provide gasoline and other refined products to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Now I stand by the administration's decision to engage Iran through negotiations. However, the United States must have something concrete to negotiate with first. For this reason, I have strongly advocated for the use of sanctions to wean Iran away from its nuclear ambitions.

As for Israel, it is our fellow democracy, our tried and true ally. Supporting it is essential to the stability and future not only of the Middle East, but of the world. And any democratic nation that has chosen to treat Israel as a suspect state, to impose on Israel embargoes and daunting deadlines for a peace agreement, should know that its actions ultimately do damage to the shared values that all democracies espouse.

Our alliance with our European partners should be held in high regard—and it is. Yet, we must consistently work to maintain this relationship. Yet, a recent decision by the United Kingdom to revoke a number of arms export licenses to Israel following the Gaza war may trigger similar decisions by other EU nations, and comes at a crucial time for Israel's security.

Following the failed Iranian elections in June, the Iranian regime has had its legitimacy wounded and its paranoia increased. Many observers expect the regime to take a posture of increased repression at home and antagonism abroad. In that dangerous environment, Israel's leaders have every right to be concerned for their country's safety.

While hope still exists for a free Iran, Europe, Israel, and the United States must undoubtedly prepare for a more dangerous Iranian regime in the near term. We must be ready for the possibility that Iran will intensify its pursuit of nuclear weapons to overcome the embarrassment of the recent elections.

Incredibly, there seems to be a certain line of thinking in the international community that Iran poses no threat. For example, the day after Iran tested a 1,200-mile range Ashura ballistic missile and displayed the video footage to the world, a group of experts at the East-West Institute released a report on Iranian capabilities that made this astounding statement: "There is no reliable information at present on the state of Iran's efforts to develop solid-propellant rocket motors and therefore no basis to make this assessment."

It is this very shocking failure to prepare that puts Israel and the entire international community at risk. In this light, our European allies' decision to place an arms embargo on Israel does not merely represent a double standard, it is decidedly harmful to a democracy faced with the very real prospects of a destructive nuclear neighbor.

Madam Speaker, I urge this Congress and the United States to make the Iranian regime pay a higher cost for its nuclear weapons pursuit. If we needed

any further reminder, the protests in the streets of Tehran have made clear that words and actions mean very little to Ayatollah Khamenei. The threat from Iran demands an effective policy response—and our European allies are well-placed to formulate one with us.

You see, even though Iran is an oil exporter, its economy is highly dependent on imported gasoline and other refined petroleum products. We need to embargo this trade. European companies are heavily involved in the Iranian gasoline business. Policymakers need to stop this trade to end this nuclear threat. If the Iranian regime faced damaging economic pressure from a significant reduction in gasoline supplies, it may indeed change its course and an ever-present threat to Israel and to global security may be alleviated.

I think we are all encouraged by the joint statement that came from the G8 Summit in L'Aquila, Italy, expressing concern over Iran's belligerence. And I hope by the next G8 summit in December, the deadline set by the world leaders—our European allies included, we will see real international collaboration to curb the threats of Tehran.

Nothing endangers peace more than a refusal to face facts. Even as we set deadlines for when discussions with Iran might begin, let's remember that they continue to enrich uranium and that a deadline with real consequences must be considered, along with engagement. Otherwise, engagement will be manipulated as a mere tactic for delay.

I am glad that this House chose to face Iran and support Israel with its vote on Thursday, and I have high hopes that the international community will do the same. We must support and defend our friend Israel and end the nuclear threat of Iran.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

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, I'm pleased to report that 304 of my colleagues in the House, from both parties, have joined me as cosponsors of H.R. 24, legislation to redesignate the Department of the Navy to be known as the Department of the Navy and the Marine Corps.

I'm grateful to Chairman IKE SKELTON, who included the language of H.R. 24 in the National Defense Authorization Act, which passed the full House last month. This is the eighth year in a row that language to properly recognize the Marine Corps has been included in the House version of the bill. Unfortunately, each year the language has been stripped in the Senate.

This year, I'm grateful to have the support of Senator PAT ROBERTS, a former Marine, who introduced the same bill in the Senate, S. 504. With his

help, I'm hopeful that this will be the year that the Senate supports the House position and joins in bringing proper respect to the fighting team of the Navy and Marine Corps.

Madam Speaker, some people might ask, Why is the change so important? Isn't renaming the Department just symbolic? What's in a name?

Well, Madam Speaker, the name of the Marine Corps represents more than two centuries of service alongside the Navy.

What's in a name? The flag raising at Iwo Jima. What's in a name? Scarlet and gold; honor, courage, and commitment; and Semper Paratus. What's in a name? More than 1,000 Marines who have given their lives in serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As symbolic as a change in the name might be, this is a matter of respect and gratitude to the Marine Corps. The Marines do not serve beneath the Navy. They are one fighting team. That is, the Marine Corps and the Navy as equal partners.

This legislation is not about changing the responsibilities of the Secretary of the Department, reallocating resources, or altering missions. General Carl Mundy, the 30th Commandant of the Marine Corps, summed up the need for this change when he said, "This action will accurately align the Secretary's title with his present-day authority and responsibilities. As is, the title is confusing. It is inconsistent with the status of the four Armed Services in the Department of Defense. And it acknowledges only two-thirds of the uniformed servicemembers in the Department."

Over the course of the Marine Corps' history, including their present-day service around the world, those three words, "and Marine Corps," have been earned through blood and sacrifice.

When the Department of the Navy writes the families of Marines who have been killed, their families deserve to receive the letter from the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps.

Madam Speaker, the Marines fighting today deserve this recognition, and those who are part of the history of the Marine Corps deserve that recognition as well.

Madam Speaker, I want to close my comments by first saying to those in Iraq and Afghanistan, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. And I ask God in his loving arms to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Madam Speaker, I close three times 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 gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

HONORING THE CAPE COD BASEBALL LEAGUE

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

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today so that my colleagues in the House of Representatives can join me in recognizing the Cape Cod Baseball League of Massachusetts on its 125th anniversary.

Recognized as "the" summer collegiate league in the Nation, the Cape Cod Baseball League today consists of 10 franchises in two five-team divisions. In its early years, during World War I and World War II, the league was populated largely by young GIs fresh from their service. The modern era of the league began in 1963, when it was officially sanctioned by the NCAA.

Throughout its existence, the League has promoted to the big time—"the bigs"—several Cy Young and Most Valuable Player Award winners, as well as Major Leaguers who achieved Hall of Fame status, as well as decorated scouts and managers, all of whom got their start on the fields of dreams on Cape Cod.

Entering its 125th season, the League continues to offer the most talented baseball players from across the country the opportunity to demonstrate their skills in front of Major League scouts. As the pioneer among the Nation's summer leagues—including, by the way, the use of wooden bats—the Cape Cod Baseball League is truly America's League.

Young players learn the importance of sportsmanship and teamwork not only on the diamond and in the dugout, but also through the generosity of Cape Cod families who open their homes to host these young men during the summer season.

At a time when the integrity of the game is at risk, the Cape Cod Baseball League continues to embody the golden American tradition of wholesome entertainment. Our national pastime has been kept alive in its most pure state, owing to the effort of this volunteer organization, which enables fans to enjoy games at no expense; where visions of striped socks, crackerjacks, and lemonade evoke feelings of nostalgia for the bygone days of America's favorite sport.

The Cape Cod Baseball League stands out as a national treasure that can captivate any spectator through an exciting, competitive, nine-inning baseball game.

On this historic occasion, I am proud to honor the Cape Cod Baseball League for its 125 years of success and for its well-established, beloved reputation among the Cape Cod family, both residents and tourists alike. Congratulations to the players and to the volunteers in that organization, and may you forever be "Where the Stars of Tomorrow Shine Tonight."

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

tleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

HONORING MR. JACK H. JONES

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I rise today to honor Mr. Jack H. Jones, who was recently elected Imperial Potentate of Shriners International, which makes him the highest-ranking Shriner in the world.

I want to share with my colleagues, many of whom may be unfamiliar with the work of the Shriners, what they are all about. Shriners International is a fraternity based on fun, fellowship, and the Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth. There are approximately 375,000 members from the 191 temples, or chapters, in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Panama.

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I am proud to be a Shriner and support their ongoing charitable efforts. Shriners International supports Shriners Hospitals for Children, a one-of-a-kind international health care system of 22 hospitals dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing specialty pediatric care, innovative research and outstanding teaching programs. Since 1922, Shriners Hospitals for Children have significantly improved the lives of more than 865,000 children.

Mr. Jones has been involved with Shriners for more than 30 years. He has served as Imperial Recorder, part of the body that governs the Shriners. Prior to his election to that position, he served on the Elected Divan of Egypt Shriners in Tampa, Florida. His Masonic affiliations include Egypt Shriners, Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 F.&A.M., Tampa York Rite, Tampa Scottish Rite, Red Cross of Constantine, Royal Order of Jesters, and National Sojourners. He also is a 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason.

Mr. Jones has earned many awards for his service with the Shriners, including the Benjamin Franklin Award for the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, the Henry Prince Medal from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, and the Andrew Jackson Medal from the Grand Lodge of Tennessee. In 2006, he was presented the Imperial Potentate Award of Merit, which is the highest honor in the Shriners fraternity.

In his new position, the Imperial Potentate will serve as chairman of the Board of Directors for Shriners International and Shriners Hospital for Children. I am certain that his immeasurable talent and experience will greatly help the Shriners and the many people who benefit from their work.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all of our colleagues to congratulate Mr.