

remarkable accomplishment at a time when religious differences still threaten to divide us from one another and from other nations.

I first met Imam Antepli last September at a meeting of Islamic study scholars in which he participated, and I was immediately struck by enthusiasm, his intellect and his readiness to engage. Throughout his career, he has truly exemplified the notion of faith in action and has made a habit of practicing the values of tolerance, understanding and respectful dialogue, which he preaches.

So, Madam Speaker, I am pleased on behalf of all of our colleagues to introduce and welcome Imam Abdullah Antepli to the House here today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SERRANO). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

AFGHANISTAN, TO STAY OR TO GO

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

Mr. KUCINICH. I am a proud Member of this institution. I believe in this Congress, and I believe in the Constitution of the United States. And I think moments arise in the history of this institution when we have to take a stand for the Constitution. That's why this Thursday I will introduce a privileged resolution that will call for Congress to reclaim its power under Article I, Section 8 as to whether or not we stay in Afghanistan.

Now, some people here may believe in that mission. I don't. Some people here may believe in the surge. I don't. Some people here may believe that we should stay there for as long as it takes to do whatever we want. I don't. I believe that Congress, though, needs to speak and to have a debate on Afghanistan and to be able to decide in our wisdom, if we so choose, to get out of Afghanistan, which is what I hope that we do.

But whether you're for it or against it, Congress finally will have a chance to have that debate because the privileged resolution is being introduced on Thursday. It will lay over the week, and next week we will finally have a debate over whether to stay in Afghanistan or leave. And I hope we vote to leave.

HOME DEPOT PROMOTES JOBS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Monday I will participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Home Depot's Rapid Deployment Center. Located in the midlands of South Caro-

lina, this Rapid Deployment Center will not only create new jobs for South Carolinians, but it will also give Home Depot stores more flexibility to control the products on their shelves and keep these products in stock.

Detailed by Home Depot, the new Rapid Deployment Center is a 465,000 square-foot facility located in West Columbia. It will provide 220 full-time jobs at startup; and as more stores are added to the program, this will increase to 400 jobs. I want to thank Home Depot for their continuing economic contributions to our State, and I welcome these in addition to the positions of 2,660 Home Depot associates already in South Carolina. In these tough times, it's important for lawmakers to give businesses like Home Depot the tools they need to help small businesses create jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism. The prayers of America are with the people of Chile.

CBO'S RECOVERY ACT ASSESSMENT

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, at a recent hearing of the Joint Economic Committee, the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, Douglas Elmendorf, testified that CBO's latest assessment of the Recovery Act found that it had increased our real GDP by as much as 3.5 percentage points, increased the number of people employed by between 1 million and 2.1 million people, and lowered the unemployment rate by as much as 1.1 percent. In short, the stimulus spending bill worked, but we need to do more to grow jobs now.

He also testified that one of the most powerful generators of job growth would be an employer tax credit for businesses that increased their payrolls similar to one I proposed in H.R. 4585 and to one Congress intends to send to the President. These historically difficult times and this growing, but fragile, economy cry out for us to take action, help create more private sector jobs, and get our economy working again for everyone.

THE THIRD FRONT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the war against international terrorism continues in Iraq and Afghanistan, I bring you news from the third front, the U.S.-Mexico border, the real inconvenient truth. Recently, the U.S. consular office in the border town of Reynosa, Mexico, closed indefinitely. U.S. officials are barred from the area. The reason, because there are kidnappings and murders and Old West-

style shoot-outs in the streets, all on account of violent drug lords fighting over turf on the poorest border.

The United States is not doing enough to stop the international drug cartels and the human smugglers. The greatest Nation on Earth is failing the American people by not adequately protecting the border. Drugs and people are going north, and money and guns are going south. The border has become a war zone that affects good people on both sides of the border. We're sitting on a powder keg that we ignore at our own peril. While we have troops overseas to protect the borders of foreign countries, we should be just as concerned about our own sovereign border.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO'S LOBO MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand on the House floor today to congratulate our University of New Mexico Lobos men's basketball team for winning the 2010 Mountain West Conference Championship. In this truly remarkable season, the Lobos tied the school record for consecutive conference wins. This is the second consecutive year that the Lobos have won the conference championship. And the team recently cracked the Nation's top 10 in both the AP and ESPN/USA Today polls, a feat not accomplished in more than a decade.

To all the team members and to the academic all-American and team leader, senior Roman Martinez, and to all the UNM students, faculty and staff, I want to congratulate you on a tremendous season, and I look forward to your continued success in the rest of March Madness.

Finally, I want to wish the team good luck tonight in their game against TCU, and I join the rest of the Lobos nation in declaring, "Everyone's a Lobo. Woof, woof, woof."

HONORING CARLOS ARAGON

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. America lost one of its finest. Carlos Aragon, 19 years old, from Orem, Utah, was killed while serving as a Marine in the Helmand province. It's so sad when you hear these reports. Your hearts and your thoughts and your prayers go out to the family. But at the same time, your heart is filled with pride that these young men and women will step up at such a young age to fight and protect this country and fight and protect for the good of the United States of America.

I hope we do more to recognize these young men and women. I thank that family. May God bless them, and may God bless the United States of America.

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, the clock is ticking. Too many American families still don't have access to health care. We are at the goal line and we need to take the ball across the line on behalf of the American people. A step-by-step approach is not the answer, especially when families in my district face 14 percent unemployment and many are without health coverage.

In my home State of California, Anthem Blue Cross raised our premiums up to 39 percent. This must stop.

We must pass health care reform that ends discrimination based on pre-existing conditions; that makes health insurance affordable; that creates greater accountability on health insurance companies; that cuts the deficit by \$100 billion over the next 10 years; that allows doctors and patients, not insurance companies, to make important health care decisions; that does not break the bank for small businesses.

I urge my colleagues to stop partisan politics and deliver health care reform. We need it now and for generations to come.

FEDERAL LAND GRAB

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

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, where will it all end? First the EPA decides to regulate breathing, and now we learn that the Department of the Interior is planning a land grab that is so brazen that it is difficult to believe.

By misusing the Antiquities Act, the White House is planning to lock up more than 13 million acres of land in 11 Western States, including more than 2.5 million in Montana alone, much of which is privately owned. And they can do it without so much as one single public hearing or a vote in Congress.

Some of that land belongs to private citizens who have no idea that the Federal Government is planning to kick them off their ranches. If the government can do this to them, what can it do to you?

When policies like cap-and-trade, government-run health care, and establishment of new Federal lands are unpopular, you don't merely bypass Congress or change the rule to ram it through. Americans are sick of secret bureaucratic overreach and Washington, D.C., tricks.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, Monday marked the kickoff of Women's History Month, and in celebration, every day of this month the House will be opened by a woman Member. As co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues, I am honored to be a part of the largest number of women ever to serve in the House of Representatives. It is 76; still too few.

It is a testament to the women's rights movement that my female colleagues represent the full political spectrum, bringing a diversity of thoughts, ideas, and opinions to the House.

Women have made great strides in the last decade. Fifty years ago, high school and college students across the country were not given support for their sports activities; and yet last week, women of Team USA, our Olympiads, brought home 13 medals from Vancouver.

It was not long ago that girls were discouraged from obtaining a degree in higher education. Today, 57 percent of graduating undergraduates in this country are women; and according to the Center for American Women in Politics, the number of women serving in State legislatures has more than quintupled since 1971. And this is not just a trend in the United States. Women across the globe are breaking barriers.

We have a long way to go, but we need to celebrate how far we have come.

NO GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, as most people know, Warren Buffett was an early adviser to President Obama. Just this week, Buffett said the President should scrap the health care bill and start over. He noted the American people are not behind this bill. He said the goal is to lower cost. I completely agree with Mr. Buffett. The American people don't want a trillion dollar government takeover of health care. Also, people don't want to raise taxes, cut Medicare, and giveaways to Washington special interests.

We need to reduce costs by taking a few simple steps: one, medical malpractice reform; two, increase competition; three, sell insurance across State lines; four, expand health savings accounts. That is a prescription the American people will support.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, my mother, Nancy Kanchelian, was born in 1915

in Fresno, California, the same year the Ottoman Empire began its systematic killing and deportation of millions of her fellow Armenians and members of her own family.

A year ago this week, my mother passed away at the age of 93. And for her entire life on Earth, her country, the United States of America, refused to officially acknowledge what we know to be true. Our own Ambassador to Armenia at the time, Henry Morgenthau, informed the Secretary of State: "... excesses against peaceful Armenians is increasing, and it appears that a campaign of race extermination is in progress."

Mr. Speaker, the facts here are not in dispute. The one thing left to question is not whether the Armenian genocide took place but, rather, if we in this Chamber have the moral and political backbone to stand for truth. The House Foreign Affairs Committee will have the opportunity this week to pass H. Res. 252 and stand up for truth.

FEEDING NEW ORLEANS' SOUL

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

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Black History Month to recognize Ms. Leah Chase. Known as the "Queen of Creole Cuisine," Ms. Chase is a chef, a television host, a cultural ambassador, and the owner of the famous Louisiana landmark Dooky Chase restaurant. Dooky Chase is located in the historic Tremé neighborhood of New Orleans and was immortalized in the television show "Frank's Place." But, it was established as a spiritual, cultural, and historical landmark long before television producers came knocking.

During the 1960s, Dooky Chase was a meeting place for civil rights activists and NAACP members coming from all around the region. And during segregation, notable African American artists such as Ella Fitzgerald and Lena Horne dined there.

When Hurricane Katrina flooded the restaurant, forcing it to close its doors for the first time since 1941, Ms. Chase could have left, leaving behind all of the history and prominence of this historic spot. But she returned, rebuilt, and reopened to serve, nourish, and inspire the bodies and souls of future generations.

Today, I am proud to recognize Leah Chase for her unwavering commitment to the recovery of Orleans and Jefferson parishes.

ENERGY EDUCATION LOAN FORGIVENESS ACT

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, this week I introduced the Energy Education Loan Forgiveness Act, a bill to provide student loan forgiveness to