

a God and Country award from the U.S. Navy Armed Guard, a formal proclamation from the Las Vegas City Council and keys to the city, and a Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Political Action Committee. His efforts have been recognized, both formally and informally, by countless organizations and individuals, too many to list here.

Mr. Brown served our country admirably in the United States Navy during World War II while our Nation was fighting to rid the world of tyranny and hatred. At a time when our Nation needed heroes, Ken Brown stepped up. He answered the call.

Since his service in our Nation's armed services, Ken has dedicated his life to improving the lives of other veterans in southern Nevada through his advocacy and his own example.

Mr. Brown has also written a poem which was dedicated to our Afghan and Iraq veterans, U.S. Navy Armed Guard, and the U.S. Merchant Marines. The words of his work ring true today as our brave men and women serve valiantly throughout the world to protect our Nation.

LIFE

Dedicated to Afghan and Iraq Veterans and United States Navy Armed Guard
United States Merchant Marines, 36,000 died in WWII

For love and money, our lives we pay, Baubles we earn with a whole soul's tasking; Tis heaven alone that is given away, Tis only God may be had for the asking; No price set on the lavish summer, And June may be had by the poorest comer.

Whether we look, or whether we listen, We hear life murmur, or see it glisten; Every clod feels a stir of might, An instinct within it that reaches and towers, And, grasping blindly above it for light, Climbs to a soul in grass and flowers.

Now the heart is so full that a drop overfills, We are happy now because God so wills it; We may shut our eyes, but we cannot help knowing That the sky is clear and the grass is growing.

Joy comes, grief goes, we know not how; Every thing is happy now, Every thing is upward striving Tis as easy now for the heart to be true As for grass to be green or skies to be blue,—Tis the Natural way of living.

We must always remember that life is precious and the veterans of the great national paid with their lives for your freedom.

Madam Speaker, today we flew a flag over the Capitol in honor of Ken Brown. I want to thank Mr. Brown again for his lifetime of dedication to the United States of America and to our heroes, our men and women in the armed services.

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 4849

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

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight in opposition to H.R. 4849, the Small Business and Infrastructure Jobs Act.

This bill will raise taxes by as much as \$16 billion and will limit business'

ability to expand and create new jobs. This massive tax increase will deal a devastating blow to the Nation's and South Carolina's already struggling economy.

Democrats say they are trying to introduce legislation that will help foster job creation; but if that is truly the case, then why does H.R. 4849 place new taxes on companies doing business in the U.S. during an economic downturn?

Eighty percent of the bill's funding goes to growing State and local governments, which we all know will not solve our Nation's abysmal unemployment rate. Our Nation's economy is already on life support, Madam Speaker. We cannot afford to enact any legislation that further jeopardizes job creation.

It is time to put an end to excessive taxing and runaway spending. Instead, we should focus on the time-tested principles, such as extending the 2001 and 2003 tax relief provisions which will, just by chance, expire at the end of this year.

Madam Speaker, I came down to the floor this evening because someone has got to stand up for America and small businesses. In fact, there are other places I am really supposed to be right now, but this is exactly where I need to be right now: defending American jobs.

The truth is, this bill will not strengthen our economy or create more jobs. Instead, it will create unnecessary financial hardships for businesses that are already struggling to survive.

For months, Democrats have been pushing job-killing legislation, everything from stimulus to a government takeover of health care. It is time for Congress to stop spending and taxing excessively.

We should start working together on creating viable solutions that create more private sector jobs that our country and especially South Carolina so desperately need.

LEARNING THE SMART LESSON FROM THE IRAQ ELECTIONS

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, as the drama was building towards this body's passage of health care reform this week, many of us may have forgotten that Friday was the seventh anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. It has been 7 years since we were assured that Americans would be greeted as liberators from the moment they touched down in Baghdad; 7 years since we were told democracy in Iraq would blossom naturally, like spring flowers; and 7 years later, with more than 4,300 Americans having been killed and hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars wasted. The truth remains: the simple act of self-governance is still a life-threatening proposition in Iraq.

To be sure, in the recent parliamentary elections many Iraqis once again

showed enormous courage by going to the polls amidst violence and unrest. The problem is that it is hard to call a democratic election a success when citizens are taking their lives into their hands just to exercise their most basic democratic right.

Despite the resolve of so many Iraqi citizens, the fact is that voter turnout declined from the last national election in the year 2005.

The New York Times described the atmosphere as one of a country under siege, noting that, and I quote, "Iraqis prepared for the election the way that Americans do when battening down for a hurricane." Not exactly the festival of civic pride we normally associate with an election day.

As it is, even before Iraqis voted, this election was marred by chaos, disputed candidacies, corruption, arrests, even assassinations. Jon Stewart on the "Comedy Channel" joked that to call this election a success with just a "few" candidates assassinated is setting the bar pretty low.

What is really unsettling, Madam Speaker, is that there was a pretty aggressive propaganda campaign to convince us here in the United States that election-related violence wasn't really all that bad. In public, top military brass told us not to worry our "pretty little heads," that there were hardly any incidents at all. They dismissed journalists who had witnessed the carnage.

But then someone leaked to the news media the real story, the military's internal numbers: 37 people killed as part of 136 attacks in conjunction with the elections.

And the disputed outcome of the elections could mean that the worst is yet to come. With no clear winner, and with accusations of fraud and vote-rigging being thrown around, we could see an aggravation of ethnic rifts in Iraq, some of the worst sectarian violence in Iraq to come since the inconclusive 2005 elections.

Complicating matters is the electoral strength shown by the followers of the radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, because the Sadrists despise the American occupation, have a history of violent nationalism, and enjoy ties to Iran.

I can't help but wonder if we had implemented the principles of what I call "SMART security" a long time ago, maybe it wouldn't be so dangerous just to cast a ballot in Iraq. If we had deployed fewer soldiers and more democracy-building experts; if we had fired fewer guns and had emphasized greater diplomacy and reconciliation, then maybe Iraq could have a genuinely peaceful and successful election.

We cannot learn the wrong lesson from the violence surrounding the Iraqi election. We cannot delay the planned redeployment of our combat troops out of Iraq.

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

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

HELP CUBA BE FREE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, last week the Cuban tyranny sunk to an all new low as the communist thugs brutally attacked a procession of mothers, daughters, and wives of Cuban political prisoners collectively known as the Ladies in White, Las Damas de Blanco.

Their crime? Walking. Walking to commemorate the seventh anniversary of the dictatorship's March 2003 crackdown against human rights and pro-democracy activists, a grim event known as the Black Spring.

Many of those imprisoned at the time continue to languish in squalid jail cells and endure unspeakable suffering at the hands of their oppressors.

The processions of the Ladies in White was led by Reyna Luisa Tamayo, whose son, Orlando Zapata Tamayo, died only a few weeks ago at the hands of the Castro regime. Carrying flowers and wearing their white clothing as symbols of peace, they were suddenly and viciously confronted, beaten, and some temporarily detained by agents of the dictatorial regime.

Reyna described the confrontation, explaining, and I quote, "They dragged me. I am all bruised. They beat me. They cannot be forgiven."

Further reports indicate that nearly one-third of the Ladies in White marching that day had to seek hospital treatment for the attack. The cowardice of the regime's agents could not be more obvious in the wake of this attack.

Confronting the nonviolent actions of these women in such a vicious and hateful manner makes it clear: the dictatorship fears these women because the regime officials fear the truth.

The repression by the regime knows no boundaries. Now they are even attempting to deny the people of Cuba the right to mourn the loss of their loved ones.

For anyone who had doubt, these attacks make it clear: the regime has no conscience. There is no limit to its abuse and its indecency.

I was pleased, however, to see the European and the Chilean parliaments deliver strong statements of condemnation and reproach following the regime's actions last week. However, responsible nations must do more.

The newly inaugurated president of Chile understands this moral obligation. He recognized the suffering of the Cuban people, that it must come to an end, and that free nations must lead the charge. President Sebastian Pinera said, and I quote, "The government of Chile will do everything it can so that

in Cuba there is a process of peaceful recovery of democracy and a full restoration of respect for human rights and individual freedoms."

But where is the rest of the world? Why are regional leaders silent on the regime's gross human rights violations in Cuba and the abuses of power? Where is the Organization of American States? On the wrong side of history.

It was almost 1 year ago when the OAS voted to reincorporate the Cuban tyranny into the Inter-American system. What a mistake. The United States made a mistake then by shepherding such an effort.

But it is not too late to do the right thing by the Cuban people and take up the cause of freedom for the island nation. The U.S. Ambassador to the OAS should immediately call for consideration of a resolution condemning the tyranny in Cuba for its attack on the Ladies in White and demanding that all political prisoners be immediately released.

The U.S. should call on the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to immediately convene a meeting to hear testimony on the systematic violations of human rights and the universal freedoms by the Castro dictatorship.

The U.S. must request an investigation by the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression in our Western Hemisphere on the assaults of independent journalists.

It is time for the world to admit the full brutality of the butchers in Havana and to provide the people of Cuba the solidarity and the support that they deserve. It is time for the people of Cuba to have the rights and liberties they deserve and for which they fight every day.

Let this Congress pave the way, Madam Speaker. I ask my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 252, a resolution I introduced to recognize the life of Orlando Zapata Tamayo, and calling for a renewed focus on the promotion of human rights and democracy in my native homeland of Cuba.

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1586. An act to impose an additional tax on bonuses received from certain TARP recipients.

IN RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT OF COLORADO GEAR UP

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

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition and support of Colorado GEAR UP because college access and success is more critical than ever for making our economy strong and competitive and to give every child the access to the gateway of opportunity that an education provides.

Each and every day, Colorado GEAR UP helps us meet the President's goal to lead the world in college graduates by 2020. It prepares our State's low-income students for college. It's funded by the U.S. Department of Education and managed by the Colorado Department of Higher Education. Unfortunately, way too many students are left behind across the country, both in secondary and postsecondary education. Designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter into and succeed in postsecondary education, GEAR UP provides 6-year grants to States and partnerships to provide services at high-poverty middle and high schools, and funds are used to provide college scholarships.

Colorado GEAR UP's vision is to engage, encourage, and enable Colorado's low-income students, including first-generation college-goers and new immigrants to get on a pathway to college so they can reach their potential and pursue their dreams. With its current grant, Colorado GEAR UP has served over 2,500 students in 8 middle schools and 12 high schools across Colorado.

Colorado GEAR UP is an effective tool for helping students to close Colorado's Achievement Gap by preparing students to meet rigorous expectations and to level the playing field for Colorado's low-income students. Beginning in the seventh grade, Colorado GEAR UP selects cohorts of students in 10 middle schools and 8 school districts Statewide. Pre-collegiate advisors follow their students through high school, where they empower students and families with the information, resources, academic, and cultural support that they need to finish high school and enroll in college.

A vital element of the program is the connection between students and their advisors. Advisors have a lower student-counselor ratio, and meet with their students at least twice a month. If a student is struggling academically, culturally, or socially, the counselors meet with the student even more often than twice a month. Data drives the programmatic decisions. They enter all data about meetings in a data base and they provide monthly reports to the principals of the school. Colorado GEAR UP also measures success through an annual online student survey that takes place each spring.