

and kidnapped and murdered by these hitmen. They're after our Border Patrol agents.

And recently, as recently as today, we've learned that there is a \$250,000 bounty on our Border Patrol agents for their murder and for their kidnapping. The drug cartels are putting out these hits on our Border Patrol agents because they are enforcing the rule of law and keeping the drug cartels out of this country to the best of their ability.

This is serious. This is violence. And it's being perpetrated by the drug cartels against Americans, both in Mexico, Mexicans in Mexico, and Americans in the United States.

Unfortunately, too many people in Washington, D.C. are closing their eyes to reality. They don't see that the violence has already spread into the United States.

Madam Speaker, there are 14 counties in Texas that border Mexico. And recently I called each of those 14 sheriffs and asked them this question: How many people in your county jail are foreign nationals charged with crimes in the United States, other than immigration violations? How many are charged with felonies, misdemeanors, crimes of violence? And they told me that 37 percent of the people in the border county jails in Texas are foreign nationals charged with crimes, not immigration violations. So we see that the crime in Mexico on the border is coming into the United States and affecting our border counties.

And these counties are not rich, wealthy counties. They don't have the money to try, prosecute and house these individuals.

We shouldn't wait till something tragic happens before we do something about it. There are border incursions every day by these criminal drug cartels, and now there are reports that the drug cartels are cloning Border Patrol vehicles so that they can bring drugs into the United States. Recently, there were two incursions by Mexican military helicopters across the Texas-Mexico border into the United States, and their intentions are still unknown.

So it's important, Madam Speaker, that we do what is necessary to protect the dignity of our Nation. The first duty of government is the national security to protect the people.

The Texas Governor and other Governors asked for the National Guard to go to the border to help secure and protect the dignity of our Nation. I think we should send the National Guard to the border. We need to do what is necessary because it is the duty of government to protect the people. And that protection starts at the border. And it's time we wake up to the reality of the way the world is, that the drug cartels are serious about being violent and about being criminals.

And that's just the way it is.

## HONORING THE LEADERS OF POLAND KILLED IN THE PLANE CRASH OF APRIL 10, 2010

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, this past Saturday, one of America's longest and strongest allies, the Republic of Poland, suffered a horrendous loss. A plane carrying 97 passengers crashed in Russia, including Polish President Lech Kaczynski; First Lady Maria Kaczynski; Ryszard Kaczorowski, who led a government in exile during the Communist era; Jerzy Szmajdzinski, the Deputy Speaker of Poland's Parliament; Aleksander Szczygło, the head of the National Security Bureau; Andrzej Kremer, the Deputy Minister of foreign affairs; Franciszek Gągor, the Army Chief of Staff; along with the president of Poland's National Bank, and a host of other public servants, including Anna Walentynowicz, the brave worker and opposition activist whose dismissal at the Gdansk shipyard in 1980 started the strike that led to the formation of solidarity.

All modern leaders of the Polish nation, they were mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, proud Poles all, now lost to this life but not to history.

But yet again, the Katyn forest embraces the collective tragedy of Poland's precious leaders. In the most morbid of ironies, the doomed plane was flying to Russia to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Katyn massacre, when more than 22,000 Polish officers and leaders were murdered at the hands of Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Army in and around that forest during World War II. Their bodies were buried and the truth hidden for seven decades. That is the truth of their slaughter. That history still must be made whole.

As the former President of Poland, Lech Walesa, stated, the crash marked "the second disaster after Katyn. They wanted to cut off our head there, and here the flower of our nation has already perished," he said.

"Buttons," a poem by Polish poet Zbigniew Herbert, written in memoriam of the Katyn massacre, contains one stanza which captures this modern-day tragedy as it does this Polish tragedy of 70 years ago for which it was originally penned.

"When only the metal buttons of the soldiers remain as they work their way to the Earth's surface from below, after decades where history has been masked. Now again a bird flew over, a cloud is passing, a leaf is dropping, a mallow grows, heavens above are filled with silence; the Katyn forest smokes with fog."

However, as the smoke and fog clears the Katyn forest this time, Poland will stand and prevail as a stable democracy. After this tragedy, Poland again will be led by valiant Poles and will not be occupied by foreign nations.

After an unimaginable loss of leadership such as this, a lesser country

would crumble, but not Poland. As the Polish expression reminds us, "So long as we are alive, there will be a Poland."

The nation of Poland is free and strong today. Against a backdrop of oppression, partition and heartbreak, it has emerged as one of the most freedom-loving, vibrant countries in Europe.

The United States stands in solidarity and support of her ally during this time of sorrow and mourning. The House of Representatives will honor the souls who were lost last week and remember those who were killed 70 years ago with a Special Order tomorrow.

We extend our condolences to the friends and families of those who perished, to the people of Poland, to the nation of Poland, and to the people of Polish heritage throughout the world.

This is a terrible catastrophe that brings to mind the many tragedies that have befallen Poland in the past. Yet, as we mourn, we must remember and honor what the Polish people have endured and overcome. They will do so again. We hold them in highest respect. And even through our tears, we can see clearly that Poland's best days are still ahead.

## HONORING TARA SCHIPHOF, JUNIOR MISS NORTH CAROLINA

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work and dedication of a young woman I recently met back home in North Carolina. Tara Schiphof was crowned the 2009/2010 Junior Miss North Carolina last summer at the age of 11.

When I met Tara over the Easter break, I was impressed by her poise, intelligence, and talent. Tara's a sixth-grader at Chestnut Grove Middle School in Stokes County and a student at the University of the North Carolina School of the Arts in the preparatory dance program.

What impressed me most about Tara was that in the midst of her busy life of dancing festivals, volunteering and giving back to her community, she remains dedicated to her studies and being a strong positive role model to her classmates.

So not only is Tara an award-winning competitive dancer; this sixth-grade girl is a real North Carolina role model.

□ 2015

She's very committed to her studies and is an honor student at Chestnut Grove. She's also raised money and volunteered for many organizations, including the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford, North Carolina, the Stokes County Arts Council, and the American Heart Association.

I'm proud to represent a fine citizen like Tara. Tara's family and friends

should be proud of her hard work and accomplishments. I salute her today for working so hard at making her life about serving others and working in her community.

### TAX CUTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, thank you so very much for the opportunity to address the House on a rather important matter.

I got a call from my accountant, and he said, Are you going to get your tax information in so we can actually get you filed by the 15th? I said, I will do my best.

So we're in the process of doing that. So I suspect most Americans are also thinking seriously about taxes. And what I want to talk about tonight and share with my colleagues from Wisconsin, Ohio, and New York is the tax issues that have come about over these last 15 months.

I left California this morning to fly here to Washington, D.C., and this session, and as I picked up the Sacramento Bee, on the front page was a headline that said, Tax refunds the largest ever, 2,600 and some dollars per family in California. I said, Whoa, how did that happen? I thought taxes had gone up. I looked into it and asked my staff to dig out some information, and, in fact, taxes have actually gone down in a very, very serious way here as a result of the stimulus bill that was passed.

Now, one of my, I guess, sad situations is I wasn't here to vote for the stimulus bill. I was just elected in November of 2009, so I didn't have the opportunity to really vote for what turns out to be one of the largest middle class tax cuts in American history. So when I arrived here in Washington, I asked some of my friends and colleagues help me understand and explain how it came to be that these incredible and important tax cuts actually happened.

The first thing they said was, Yes, the stimulus bill did it. We voted for these tax cuts, I think over \$300 billion, and not one Republican voted for the tax cuts. I'm going, That is not true. All they talk about is tax cuts. You mean they didn't vote for the tax cuts?

No. Not one Republican voted for the tax cuts.

I asked my colleague, Dr. KAGEN from Wisconsin, to share his insights and his perspective on what took place with the stimulus bill, which was 14 months ago.

Dr. KAGEN.

Mr. KAGEN. Thank you for yielding and thank you for bringing up this subject about tax cuts. But really the American people have to pay attention, because they have to ask the question,

Whose side are you on? Whose side are we on, and how did we get into this mess?

We fell into an economic ditch. We were driven into it by a number of different factors, but, first and foremost, it was a failed economic policy. It was a policy wherein we had two wars at the same time and haven't paid a single dime for them. We have had two tax cuts to the very rich; haven't paid a penny for those either. We also had, in the last administration, a \$400 billion handout to big drug companies, not paying for a penny of that either. All deficit spending, not paying our way.

And then we fell into this terrible situation of the mortgage fiasco where people were buying things that didn't really exist. Fell into another \$10 trillion hole. And at the tail end of the last administration, their friends asked them, in the administration, to open up the door to the Treasury, and the Wall Street banks looted our Treasury for nearly a trillion dollars. Again, we haven't paid a dime for that.

And then came a great recession. Not just here in the United States, but this great recession took us all the way around the globe. It wasn't just the United States that began to see the tremendous loss of jobs. Last year, January, over 700,000 people lost their job. This year, much less.

So we're beginning to move up, but we are moving up, first and foremost, by living within our means. We didn't have, during the Bush administration, the laws we did have on the books during President Clinton. We handed over to the Republican Party a surplus, a budget surplus that would amount to over \$5 trillion. And what did they do? They spent us into a ditch. We have re-instituted pay-as-you-go rules so we can't bring a bill to the House floor and consider it for anything unless we show how we're going to pay for it by either raising revenue or reducing other programs.

So along came the Recovery Act, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and in February, we passed it through the House, the Senate, and the President signed it. And this \$787 billion investment in America was aimed at providing middle class families—the hardworking people who have really created prosperity in the past—the biggest tax cut in American history. And I thought tonight we should have a conversation about eight of these tax cuts that are available right here and right now giving the American people an opportunity to see that we are on their side.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Let's do that. We will go through those eight specific tax cuts that really helped American families, middle class families. And I would like to have our colleague from New York, Mr. PAUL TONKO, take up and tell us the New York piece of it. And then in a few minutes, our colleague from Ohio, BETTY SUTTON, will join us.

So, Mr. TONKO.

Mr. TONKO. I think the important thing here with the tax situation is

that, you know, Representative KAGEN is exactly right. What we were targeting, what we were focusing, is the bulk of American workers out there, middle-income Americans who were requiring some kind of relief. And as we made it our task in a laser-sharp, focused way to stop the bleeding of this recession, we wanted to make certain that there was some more purchase power for America's working families.

And one of the very first measures was the Making Work Pay tax credit, which we will speak to, at least a \$400 benefit for an individual or, for those filing jointly as a couple, \$800. Now, this an incremental benefit that began in 2009 and continues through 2010. And I think it's important for us so as to get that buying power out there to encourage people to perhaps pick up some of the purchasing that they wanted to do that they were not able to do.

It's important for us to make certain that if you've done your taxes, if you missed this opportunity in 2009, make certain you're asking those who may prepare these taxes for you to check out these benefits. You should file under Schedule M of the 1090 form to make certain that this particular credit is taken advantage of. It is putting a great benefit out there for some 110 million working families.

And I believe that the working Americans who are going to be benefiting from this, the dollars that are saved, the benefit that is provided here, was nearly a hundred billion dollars into the pockets of our Americans that are of that category. So I think this is an important benefit that comes at a time when we needed to strengthen that purchase power.

And I think that you're absolutely right that we need to share this message with Americans out there, especially as they come to the close of their tax prep work. Be mindful also that you can further amend if you miss some of these benefits, because they were geared specifically for those categories of individuals we address here this evening.

Mr. GARAMENDI. There's a heads-up for all of the taxpayers, all the working men and women out there that may not have taken advantage of this \$400 per person or \$800 per family, to make sure that in their tax return they actually reach out and get that benefit. So that's a significant reduction in their taxes.

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely. And Representative GARAMENDI, I would commend you for bringing us together tonight so as to alert people to these benefits. They are part of the Recovery Act. The Recovery Act has been, you know, driving a very strong outcome for so many American families out there, and we just want them to know of the benefits associated with the act.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Thank you, Mr. TONKO.

I know the normal greeting on the floor is "the gentlewoman from Ohio," but I've watched this Representative