

says that every fund has a story—from nursing to music to rewarding scholarship.

I would like to commend foundation president Judith Manno Stager and all associated with the foundation for their phenomenal work in helping both donors and recipients.

I wish them another productive 10 years of service.

RULEMAKING REGARDING HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we were to have a hearing in my Committee on Energy and Commerce about the companies in the United States that restated their earnings as a result of us passing the misguided health care bill last month. These companies were performing under requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission and under the Federal Accounting Standards Board.

Some of the restatement of earnings you see here on this poster, the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce thought that these restatement of earnings were simply done to embarrass the President on the signing of the bill. In fact, this was a loophole that was closed by a Senator on Christmas Eve and the loophole was to undo the Federal Government and these companies partnering together in order to prevent retirees from losing prescription drug benefits. It was a win-win situation for the employer and for the retiree.

Unfortunately, there are many things like this in this health care bill that are going to be coming forward. This hearing was canceled after it was pointed out to the chairman that in fact these companies were just simply restating earnings as they were required to do under the law. But many of the other provisions in this bill are going to be coming out over the next several months. We're just now entering into phase B, the rulemaking part, over at Health and Human Services.

It behooves this Congress to exercise its oversight authority over the Department of Health and Human Services as these rules are written.

RECOGNIZING ISRAEL IN HONOR OF HER 62ND BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize our great ally, Israel, on the 62nd anniversary of their nation.

As the standard bearer for democracy in the Middle East, Israel is of critical importance to the United States. Since the declaration of the State of Israel in 1948, they have consistently shown the power of democracy in a very volatile part of the world.

Their achievements cannot be understated. The per capita annual GDP in Israel is nearly \$30,000 and the average life span is over 80 years. Israel consistently keeps its citizens safe, despite the security threats that occur on a daily basis. The fact that Israel continues to grow in population at an annual increase of 1.8 percent is a strong signal of the nation's strength.

So today let us recognize Israel and their many achievements and let us always remember the unending bond between the United States and Israel that must continue to be protected.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF WEST FORK FIRE CHIEF MITCH MCCORKLE

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mitch McCorkle, who has devoted his life to protecting the citizens of West Fork, Arkansas and is now retiring after 50 years of serving as the only fire chief in West Fork.

During his time as fire chief, Mitch has demonstrated his ability to innovate time and time again by building fire trucks that are uniquely suited to the landscape of northwest Arkansas. The longest serving fire chief in all of Arkansas, Mitch was a visionary in terms of what can be done with a volunteer department. Mitch's pride in doing his job and serving his community is an example to be followed and has made West Fork a better place.

West Fork will undoubtedly be losing an amazing fire chief. I commend Mitch for his service as the fire chief of West Fork, his passion for protecting our citizens, and his continued commitment to our safety. I wish him continued success in his endeavors and today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mitch McCorkle, a fire chief whose continued devotion to the Third District of Arkansas has not gone unnoticed and will never be forgotten.

REGARDING THE HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I asked if I could borrow this display here which really should have minuses in front of all these numbers because essentially these companies had to file in their financial reports the losses that they will incur immediately as a result of the passage and signing into law of the health care reform bill.

Now that's bad enough, but even worse was the initial response by this House to them following the law. And it was to receive a letter commanding their CEOs come before a committee of this House, a subcommittee of this

House, with all of their internal documents as to how they could come up with this position.

Now think about it. This is one of the concerns many of us expressed about having the government take over medical care in this country to the extent this bill allows it: if you criticize the government, you will be called to heel before a committee of the House.

Now it is true that that call has been removed, but they have received a letter which told them the Congress will continue watching. This is not democracy. This is not independence. This is what we fought against.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

A "NEW START" TOWARD A NUCLEAR WEAPON-FREE WORLD

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, for those of us who want to live in a world without nuclear weapons, there was very little good news, very little to celebrate over the last decade or so. The previous administration showed barely any interest in eradicating the nuclear threat. But now finally, with the recently signed START treaty between the United States and Russia, there is cause for optimism and hope for further progress.

In negotiating this agreement, I am pleased that President Obama has embraced the principles of the "no-nukes" resolution, House Resolution 333 that I have introduced in the Congress, and the SMART Security approach I've championed for years.

Much of the attention paid to arms control issues focuses on North Korea and the looming possibility of a nuclear threat from Iran. And of course these are gravely important matters to grapple with. But the fact is that more than 90 percent of the world's nuclear capability rests with the two Cold War superpowers. So a serious commitment to nonproliferation must begin with a bilateral U.S.-Russia approach.

This pact, the New START, mandates a 30 percent reduction in the allowed number of deployed strategic warheads, from a maximum of 2,200 down to 1,550 for each country, the most significant step toward disarmament in years. The treaty is far from perfect. In fact, I am disappointed that it places no restrictions on the development of missile defense programs which have delivered little bang for the taxpayer buck over the last several decades. But it is crucial that our Senate colleagues move quickly to ratify this treaty. Hopefully the partisan obstructionism that we've seen over and over again on the other

side of the aisle will be laid aside on this vital matter of national security.

We now have momentum on this issue. The President seized it this week with important breakthroughs at the Nuclear Security Summit he hosted in Washington. Tomorrow, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs will convene an important hearing to discuss stopping the spread of nuclear weapons and combating nuclear terrorism.

We cannot let up, Mr. Speaker, because there is difficult work ahead, and because the New START treaty with Russia really doesn't go far enough. We can't be satisfied with incremental steps. 1,550 nuclear warheads is still 1,550 too many. Just one of them has the power to leave carnage so devastating it would make 9/11 look like a minor traffic accident.

In an op-ed written for the Tampa Tribune, the leaders of the group Physicians for Social Responsibility reminded us in vivid terms what a nuclear strike would mean, and I quote:

"A single Hiroshima-sized bomb detonated by terrorists in New York City could kill over 250,000 people and cause somewhere between \$2 trillion and \$10 trillion in damage."

They continue:

"A large-scale nuclear exchange with Russia would kill more than 100 million Americans in the first half-hour. Clouds of dust and soot would block out the sun, and in a matter of days the average temperature across the globe would plummet 18 degrees Fahrenheit, to levels not seen on Earth since the depth of the last ice age. In this nuclear winter, agriculture would cease to exist throughout the northern hemisphere, and billions of people would starve in the following months."

□ 1930

Mr. Speaker, nothing less than the future of the human race hangs in the balance here. That's why the New START must be the start and not the end of our commitment to eliminate nuclear weaponry once and for all.

MEXICAN MILITARY HELICOPTER INCURSIONS INTO U.S.

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

Mr. POE of Texas. I bring you news from the third front, that being the southern border with our neighbor Mexico, the first front being Iraq, the second front being Afghanistan. We are engaged in three conflicts, three wars. And the third front is the conflict on our border, the border war with the drug cartels.

The \$40 billion-a-year illicit drug trade in Mexico has resulted in a vicious wave of violence in northern Mexico and the United States. President Calderon of Mexico has said in the last few years 23,000 Mexicans have been killed and murdered on the streets of Mexico. To put it in perspec-

tive, that is over twice the murder homicide rate in 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. Those incursions were about 3 weeks apart. Some here in Washington questioned whether these astonishing reports of Mexican military helicopters actually were true.

Well, here is a photograph, Mr. Speaker, that was taken by some individuals in Zapata County, Texas. That is on the border with Mexico. This is an RV park. And this is one of those Mexican military helicopters. It is a Russian-made, built helicopter. It has the word "Marine" on the side, that being the Mexican Navy's helicopter. And this photograph was taken by more than one individual. Photographs of the first incursion were also taken. And the question remains why is the Mexican military helicopter coming into the United States, and why is our government silent about their intention? We do not know.

The international criminal drug cartels are just that: they are international. They are connected to terrorist organizations worldwide, and they make money selling drugs to fund their narcoterrorism. Which begs the question, Why are Americans allowing Mexican military helicopters to invade our airspace? I wish we had an answer from our government. Are they protecting drug shipments into the United States? We don't know. Are they doing something else? We don't know.

This photograph, by the way, this helicopter is over two miles into the United States. The Texas-Mexico border is not like Arizona and New Mexico and California. There is a river in between. It's hard to miss the river when you fly over it. So it's obviously not a mistake on the part of whoever is flying this helicopter.

You know, the primary duty of government is to protect the people. But the Federal Government, our government, has gotten so big and stuck its nose in so many places it doesn't belong it's no longer, in my opinion, performing its primary duty, protecting the people. Congress seems to be a little bit more concerned about steroids in baseball than they are concerned about protecting our border from people who come across without permission.

At the El Paso sector of the Border Patrol in Texas, our agents now are being targeted by the Azteca hitmen of the Juarez drug cartel. What that means is this: the Juarez drug cartel is bringing dope into the United States. Our Border Patrol is doing an excellent job, best that we will let them do, of preventing that from occurring. So they have hired their own hitmen, the Azteca hitmen to target our Border Patrol agents. Our Border Patrol agents have a \$250,000 bounty on their heads for being Border Patrol agents, for trying to do their job. And they are being

targeted for kidnappings or murder. It makes no difference. I think that ought to upset some of us here in Washington, D.C.

You know, the Azteca gang works for the Juarez drug cartel. They protect drug shipments that are brought into the United States. It gets bad down in Texas on the Texas-Mexico border. I recently asked a Texas Ranger, I said, What's it like after dark on the Texas-Mexico border? And he made this comment: It gets western. That's right, Mr. Speaker, it gets western. It's like the old West shootouts. You know, we have heard about all the shootings in northern Mexico. And it's only a matter of time before they shoot their way across the border into the United States.

This is serious. This is violent. And it's being perpetrated by the drug cartels against Americans both in Mexico and the United States, but it's also being perpetrated against Mexican nationals that live in Mexico.

You know, we shouldn't wait until something worse happens before we do something about it. It's important that we protect the dignity of our Nation because it's the first duty of government to protect the people of the United States. We should be sending the National Guard down to the border. This has been talked about before, yet nothing has happened. The Texas Governor and other State Governors have asked that the National Guard be deployed on the border. Why not?

It's interesting, Mr. Speaker, we protect the borders of other nations with our military, but we don't protect our own border with the National Guard. The question is, Why not? You know, it's time that we act, otherwise we delay at our own peril, Mr. Speaker.

And that's just the way it is.

ON THE PASSING OF DR. DOROTHY HEIGHT

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my comments on the passing of Dr. Dorothy Height be included with those of the Special Order that Congresswoman DIANE WATSON will be anchoring this evening.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman's 5-minute Special Order will appear in that portion of the RECORD.

There was no objection.

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

MEXICAN MILITARY HELICOPTER INCURSIONS INTO U.S.

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