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We need to divert resources away from troop deployment and toward programs that will empower the Afghan people and bolster the capacity and competence of their government, a government that works for their people and with the international community.

At his press conference with President Karzai, President Obama said that "Afghans are a proud people who have suffered and sacrificed greatly because of their determination to shape their own destiny." Mr. Speaker, that is undoubtedly true, and that's why they deserve better than government by cynicism, and American troops also deserve better than to shed blood for a corrupt and dysfunctional regime.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's time to bring our troops home and launch a smart security plan, and it's important that we do it today.

HONORING JUANITA WORSLEY WILLIAMS ON HER 98TH BIRTHDAY

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. Mr. Speaker, there are not many Members of Congress that have the honor to wish a beautiful lady a happy 98th birthday, especially when the lady was present at his birth. Mrs. Juanita Worsley Williams, from my hometown of Farmville, lived next door, and she and her husband, Dr. Roderick Williams, were good friends of my parents. In fact, Juanita Williams assisted her husband in delivering me on February 10, 1943.

Juanita is the daughter of Lula Lee Blake Worsley and William H. Worsley. She was born in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, at Park View Hospital in 1912.

Mrs. Williams and her husband raised their children in Farmville and lived next door to my family for years. She was very good friends with my mother, and I often played with her children.

Juanita and Dr. Roderick Williams have three children: Nan Williams Gibson, Dr. Roderick Williams, Jr., and Lu Williams Leonard. She also has eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

When Juanita's husband died in 1964, she began working at the Sam D. Bundy Elementary School as a secretary. She loved her job, and everyone loved her in return.

Friendship and community service have always been important to Mrs. Williams. She was very active locally and statewide in the Daughters of the American Revolution and Girl Scouts. She also organized the CAR, Children of the American Revolution, in our hometown of Farmville. Because of her love for the youth of our community, Mrs. Williams, who was also a devoted member of the First Baptist Church, participated in Sunday school, vacation Bible school, and youth fellowship meetings.

Mrs. Williams just returned from a trip to the Panama Canal. While there, she visited with nephews and nieces and had a wonderful time. Juanita was very pleased that the canal will be widened and not replaced.

Juanita Williams has given her life to making her community of Farmville a better place to live, whether it be by organizing the Meals on Wheels program or helping with the Girl Scouts. She is a true American who believes and lives the traditional values of placing God, home, and country first in her life.

Juanita Williams always has two wonderful things to say to everyone: "I love you," and "God bless you." She always says that her secret for longevity is love, love for others and love for God.

I'm truly honored to know such a wonderful lady and have this opportunity to honor her on this special day. I want Mrs. Williams to know how much she meant to the Jones family and that we love her.

May God continue to bless Juanita Williams, her family, and our country. And may God continue to bless America.

HONORING THE CHATHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a resolution that was on the floor earlier which I introduced with my friend Congressman DAVID PRICE and which honors the historic and community significance of the Chatham County Courthouse in Pittsboro, North Carolina. I would like to thank Majority Leader HOYER, Judiciary Committee Chairman CONYERS, Subcommittee Chairman JOHNSON, and really the entire North Carolina delegation, each of whom helped bring this important resolution to the floor.

On March 25 of this year, a tragic fire struck and almost totally destroyed the Chatham County Courthouse, which has been a beacon of justice and the rule of law for over 100 years. Anyone who has ever driven through Pittsboro, around the traffic circle surrounding the courthouse, can attest to its beauty and how central its presence has been to the Pittsboro community, the county, and the State of North Carolina. The entire community rose to its defense as the fire blazed and even now is working to rebuild it. Thanks to the heroic actions of the firefighters, first responders, community leaders, and Chatham County citizens, I am confident that Pittsboro will again have a courthouse that the town and the county can be proud of.

I would like to particularly recognize some of the leaders who were instrumental in managing and alleviating this unexpected tragedy and really kept the building from being totally

destroyed: Thomas Bender, who is the Chatham County fire marshal; Daryl Griffin, Pittsboro fire chief, and all of the adjoining fire departments that came to help; David Collins, Pittsboro police chief; Richard H. Webster, sheriff of Chatham County; Randy Voller, mayor of the town of Pittsboro; Larry Chisolm, Chatham County district attorney; Allen Baddour, superior court judge, Chatham County District 15B; and the entire Chatham County board of commissioners who rallied, who stood the streets, who brought the community together.

I ask my colleagues, as this resolution comes to the floor, to join me in honoring these North Carolina leaders and those who love the community of Pittsboro and the Chatham County Courthouse, a cultural icon and a landmark that will not easily be forgotten. By supporting this resolution, it will be rebuilt by the people of Chatham County.

IS PRESIDENT CALDERON HYPOCRITICAL?

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. Mr. Speaker, Mexican President Felipe Calderon says he thinks Arizona's new illegal immigration enforcement law will open the door to "intolerance, hate, discrimination and abuse in law enforcement." Calderon's coming to the White House to talk to our President about it tomorrow. I wonder if they'll discuss whether or not Calderon supports his own country's immigration policy.

Mr. Speaker, writer Michelle Malkin recently published some really interesting research on Mexican immigration laws. The Mexican Government bars any foreigner from immigrating to Mexico if they upset "the equilibrium of the national demographic." I wonder if President Calderon thinks that's racial or ethnic profiling. Mexican law further bars immigration unless a person enhances Mexico's "economic or national interests." Immigrants are not welcome in Mexico if they're not "physically or mentally healthy" or if they show "contempt against Mexico's national sovereignty or security." Imagine that.

Immigrants to Mexico must have squeaky clean criminal histories. And to apply for Mexican citizenship, immigrants have to show a birth certificate, and they have to provide a bank statement that proves that they are economically independent. In other words, you can't go to Mexico and live off the Mexican Government. And they also have to prove they can pay for their own private health care.

What are the penalties for failure to comply with Mexican immigration laws? Illegal entry into the country is equivalent to a felony punishable by 2 years' imprisonment. Document fraud is subject to fine and imprisonment; so

is alien marriage fraud. Evading deportation is a serious crime in Mexico. Illegal reentry into Mexico after deportation is punishable by 10 years' imprisonment in a Mexican jail. Foreigners may be kicked out of the country without due process; that means without even being given a hearing. Mexico kicks out illegals without a deportation trial.

Law enforcement officials in Mexico at all levels, by national law, must cooperate to enforce Mexico's immigration laws, including illegal alien arrests and deportations. That means Mexican states must enforce federal law, interestingly enough, yet President Calderon is a hypocrite and indignant that the State of Arizona would enforce U.S. immigration law. The Mexican military is also required to assist in immigration enforcement operations. Imagine that. And native born Mexicans—this is interesting to me—are empowered to make citizens' arrests of illegals in that country and turn them over to the government.

In Mexico, get ready to show your papers. Mexico's national Catalog of Foreigners tracks all outside tourists and foreign nationals. A national population registry tracks and verifies the identity of every member of the population who must carry a citizens identity card, and visitors who do not possess the proper documents and identification are subject to arrest as illegals.

All of these provisions are enshrined in Mexico's General Law of the Population and were revealed for the world to see in 2006 in a research paper published by the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Security Policy. But there's been no public outrage from the open borders lobby for Mexican "comprehensive immigration reform." You see, pro-illegal alien free speech in Mexico is illegal. Under the Mexican constitution, political free speech by foreigners doesn't happen because it's banned. Noncitizens cannot "in any way participate in the political affairs of the country." They can't march in the streets in protest. Foreigners are barred in Mexico from participating in everything from education to even owning firearms. Foreigners in Mexico have severely limited private property and employment rights, if any.

Mexico has long been doing the job of illegal alien deportation, and it seems to me it's hypocritical of Mexico and President Calderon to criticize the United States or Arizona for enforcing our illegal immigration laws. They are far less severe than Mexico's illegal immigration laws. So when President Calderon comes here tomorrow to complain about America and America's illegal immigration policy, perhaps Calderon would prefer America adopt Mexico's immigration policies.

And that's just the way it is.

OIL SPILL IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to speak about the unfolding catastrophe in the Gulf of Mexico. It's painfully clear that British Petroleum's oil spill could dwarf any environmental disaster in our Nation's history. This horrific tragedy has claimed 11 lives and contaminated gulf waters with millions of gallons of oil. It's still belching thousands of barrels of oil into the water every day, and now the oil has reached the shores of Louisiana. It's impacting the livelihoods of millions in the Gulf Coast States and threatens even more.

The first steps, of course, are to stop the leaks, contain the spill, and attend to the devastating aftermath on the people and their environment. The Obama administration deserves high marks for its swift response from day one to the BP disaster. It mobilized the government's resources to minimize the harm on the health, the economy, and the environment of the Gulf Coast.

Last week, the President sent to Congress legislation that would do three things: First, provide additional resources to mitigate the damage caused by the spill; second, provide assistance to the people and the businesses affected most by the crisis, and; third, to ensure that companies like BP that are responsible for oil spills are the ones that pay for the harm they cause, not the taxpayers.

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In addition, Interior Secretary Salazar is conducting a top-to-bottom reform of the Minerals Management Service. He has proceeded splitting the MMS into two distinct agencies: one responsible for leasing and collecting royalties; and one responsible for inspections and safety. He has also ordered immediate inspections of all deepwater operations currently in the gulf, and he announced that no new permits for drilling new wells will go forward until a safety and environmental review is completed.

Finally, the Obama administration is closing loopholes that allowed some oil companies to bypass critical environmental reviews, and is examining all of the environmental procedures on oil and gas activities.

While these are important and necessary steps, I believe that more must be done, and that's why I strongly support President Obama's announcement that he will establish an independent commission to investigate the BP oil disaster. This commission, which he will create by Executive order, will mirror legislation that Mr. MARKEY and I introduced earlier this month, the BP Deepwater Horizon Inquiry Commission Act.

I believe this commission should have four goals. First, it should exam-

ine the causes of the current spill, as well as the adequacy of oil spill containment and cleanup measures. Second, it should determine whether and how such spills can be avoided in the future. Third, it should assess the implications of its findings for drilling in, or adjacent to sensitive or ecologically important areas, including in the Arctic. And four, it should make recommendations on how to strengthen laws, regulations, and reform agency oversight in order to keep this from happening again.

This commission will serve as an important long-term addition to the Obama administration's excellent short-term efforts to investigate and respond to the oil spill.

Mr. Speaker, I have lived in Santa Barbara, California, since 1964. I saw firsthand the devastating consequences of the blowout on platform A just a few miles off our coastline in 1969. That was 40 years ago. That spill dumped millions of gallons of oil into the Santa Barbara Channel. It killed untold amounts of wildlife and polluted our beaches for years. But it also galvanized a burgeoning environmental movement, and it spurred the first Earth Day. It was true then, as it is true today, our response to this disaster cannot be that we simply have to keep drilling in the gulf and other offshore areas because we have no alternative.

The truth is we do have options that can move us further and faster toward energy security. Today our economy stills relies on fossil fuels for energy, and every day we pay a price in volatile prices, source instability, and in unnecessary pollution. The best way to beat this addiction is by reducing overall demand, by promoting renewables, and developing alternatives.

And since America is not exactly awash in oil, reducing our dependence on it would be good not only for our environment, but for our economy and, perhaps most importantly, for our national security. That's exactly what Democrats have done. We have enacted legislation, the Energy Independence and Security Act, and we have passed the Recovery Act to provide an immediate jolt to the clean-energy economy.

The House has also passed comprehensive legislation that caps global warming pollution and invests in clean-energy solutions that create jobs here in America. Developing clean power and energy-efficient technologies, while combating global warming, these are the initiatives that will meet our goals.

As bad as things are—and may yet become—the disaster in the gulf will be even more tragic if we fail to learn from it. Some of our colleagues continue to claim we have to choose between endangering our precious coast and relying on oil imports from dangerous regimes. I believe it is time to reject that false choice. Let's pass comprehensive energy legislation so America can take control of our energy situation.