

was an abstract threat. But the events of the last month probably should convince them otherwise.

Last year, BP Oil made \$14 billion in profit. If they took one-tenth of that profit, \$1.4 billion, they could spend \$3 million in every congressional district for every election. It might be less expensive for them to buy Congress than it would be to pay the damages that they have done to this country.

You know, in Kentucky, we have a candidate, Rand Paul, who is running for the Senate. He said President Obama was being un-American when he said he wanted to keep his foot on the throat of BP Oil. Do you think Rand Paul might be getting some campaign expenditures from BP this year?

The damage that BP Oil has done to our country is not nearly as great as the damage which the Citizens United case could do to our democracy. We need to pass the DISCLOSE Act and put limits on corporations' ability to influence American elections.

□ 1030

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

HONORING WORKERS WHO PERISHED IN DEEPWATER HORIZON ACCIDENT

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1347) honoring the workers who perished on the Deepwater Horizon offshore oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana, extending condolences to their families, and recognizing the valiant efforts of emergency response workers at the disaster site.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1347

Whereas 11 workers tragically died on the Deepwater Horizon offshore oil platform following an explosion on April 20, 2010;

Whereas the Nation is greatly indebted to offshore workers for the strenuous work they perform to provide the energy that drives our Nation every day;

Whereas the Nation has long recognized the importance of safety protections for offshore workers who labor in difficult and uncertain conditions;

Whereas these men were loving husbands, sons and brothers;

Whereas these workers should be remembered for their valor and contribution to our communities;

Whereas Coast Guard and local rescue crews worked tirelessly night and day in courageous rescue and recovery missions;

Whereas the families of the lost workers have endured a great loss; and

Whereas residents of the Gulf Coast and the Nation came together to support these families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the untimely and tragic loss of the 11 workers from the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas who died on the Deepwater Horizon offshore oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana;

(2) extends the deepest condolences of the Nation to the families of these men;

(3) recognizes all employees on the Deepwater Horizon for their hard work and sacrifice;

(4) commends the rescue crews for their valiant efforts to rescue these workers and others on the platform; and

(5) honors the many volunteers who provided support and comfort for the families of these people during this difficult time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CAO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I present H. Res. 1347 for consideration. This resolution honors the 11 workers who perished on the Deepwater Horizon offshore oil platform following an explosion on April 20 of this year. We mourn their loss and extend our prayers and condolences to their families.

H. Res. 1347 was introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from Louisiana, Representative CHARLIE MELANCON, on May 11, 2010. The measure was reported to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which waived consideration of the measure to expedite its consideration on the floor today. The resolution has the support of over 50 Members of the House.

Mr. Speaker, the deaths of the 11 workers on the Deepwater Horizon offshore oil platform last month were a tragic reminder of the severe hazards that offshore workers face every day. As we mourn the loss of these men, let us take a moment to reaffirm our commitment to the safety of our offshore oil workers and all Americans who perform such dangerous and necessary work every day. Let us also take a moment to commend our Coast Guard and the local rescue crews for their tireless efforts responding to this catastrophe. Their jobs are also incredibly difficult and dangerous, and we thank them for their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, the Deepwater Horizon explosion and the ongoing crisis of the

oil spill it produced will have significant political and policy ramifications. We will debate those here on the House floor, but that is not what we are here to do today. As we are joined today by the family of one of the victims of the explosion, let us put aside all differences and offer our united, heartfelt, and profound sympathies to the families and friends of these 11 workers.

I would now like to place into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of these hardworking Americans who lost their lives in this tragedy: Dale Burkeen, Donald Clark, Roy Wyatt Kemp, Jason Anderson, Stephen Curtis, Gordon Jones, Karl Kleppinger, Blair Manuel, Dewey Revette, Shane Roshto, and Adam Weise.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure. I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for introducing it, and I also thank the chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Congressman TOWNS of New York, as well as the ranking member, Representative ISSA of California, for their support.

[From Times Online, Apr. 30, 2010]

THE MISSING MEN OF DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL RIG

(By Joanna Sugden)

Eleven men were missing presumed dead after the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded last week.

Dale Burkeen, 37 was a crane operator on the platform and was trained to lower crew members to boats in an emergency.

He had returned to the rig from Neshoba, near Philadelphia, about a week before the explosion. He and wife, Rhonda, have two children, Aryn, 14 and Timothy, 6.

Donald Clark, 49 of Newellton, Louisiana, was expected to leave the rig the day after the explosion for a three-week break. He was an assistant driller.

Roy Wyatt Kemp, 27, has two children, Kaylee, 3, and 3-month-old Maddison, with his wife, Courtney.

He loved fishing and the outdoors and attended a Baptist church in Jonesville, Louisiana, where a memorial service for him will be held today.

Jason Anderson, was a father of two from Bay City, Texas.

Stephen Curtis was an assistant driller on the rig from Georgetown, Louisiana.

Gordon Jones, 28, of Louisiana, was expecting to become a father to a second son with his wife, Michelle.

Karl Kleppinger, 38, of Natchez, Mississippi was a Desert Storm veteran who spent more than ten years working on oil rigs. He was a floorman who made about \$75,000 a year working off the Louisiana coast.

Blair Manuel, 56, resident of Gonzales, Louisiana, was a chemical engineer on the rig.

Dewey Revette, 48, from State Line, Mississippi, was a father who had worked for the company as an oil driller for 29 years.

Shane Roshto, 22, was from Franklin County, Mississippi. His family were named on law suits filed by Louisiana's fisheries industry, accusing BP and Transocean, the rig operator, of negligence.

Adam Weise, 24, of Yorktown, Texas, came straight from high school work on the rig in 2005. He loved to hunt and fish and play football. He was the youngest of four children.

[From the Houston Chronicle, May 24, 2010]
RELATIVES REMEMBER THE 11 LOST IN OIL RIG
BLAST

(By Dane Schiller)

YORKTOWN.—The hand-scrawled note on the cover of the steno pad is as simple as it is startling.

"April 20, 2010 . . . Start of Hell," wrote Texas mother Arleen Weise.

At "6:00 AM" the next morning, Weise noted, she got word of the explosion on the Deepwater Horizon, the massive oil rig where her youngest son, Adam, was working in the Gulf of Mexico when he was killed.

"I knew in my heart," she said of her son's fate as she stood beside his jumbo-size pickup parked outside his home in this tiny town near Victoria, didn't say it to anyone; I just knew."

With the pad, she has kept a record of people she has spoken with since that first phone call: Coast Guard officers discussing the search for her son. Oil company officials talking about benefits. A preacher framing a eulogy. Craftsmen chiseling a black marble headstone.

The notepad will travel with her today as she and the families of all 11 workers killed in the accident gather for the first time for a memorial service to be held behind closed doors at a convention center in Jackson, Miss.

Twenty-one of Adam Weise's closest friends and family will be flown on a charter flight paid for by Transocean, the company for which he worked.

He was one of two Texans killed.

The other was Jason Anderson of Midfield, who left behind a wife and two young children.

Anderson's funeral was held Saturday at a packed church in Bay City. One of his spare blue safety helmets and an XXL work shirt, complete with an embroidery of the drilling rig on the right breast pocket, were on a stage filled with flowers.

On one side of the church, where Anderson married his wife, Shelley, sat his family; on the other, fellow rig workers.

"We definitely do not understand why Jason is gone and the other 10 members of his rig," said Pastor Clyde Grier. "We cannot let the things we don't understand dismiss what we do."

He spoke of the burly man who played high school football, loved to hunt and was known for his Texas two-step.

Anderson, like Weise, knew of the dangers of working on a rig. But along with the physically demanding work and sweat came paychecks that could easily surpass \$50,000 annually.

LEFT TO WONDER

Arleen Weise said she doesn't know what to expect today, whether other families will be angry and confrontational or comforting. She does understand, though, that none of them will ever know what happened in those final moments, no matter what her steno notepad says.

She knows her son was in the pump room. A surviving co-worker told her so.

And she knows how many rescue flights were flown and miles covered before the search was abandoned. There were 28 flights covering 6,600 nautical miles, she said.

She has imagined her 24-year-old son—the youngest of four—plunging into the nighttime sea and flailing to untie his heavy work boots and slip out of his jumpsuit.

She decided that the explosion was so massive he never even knew what hit him.

It is comforting—no pain, no suffering," she said. "He's on the bottom of the Gulf with the Deepwater Horizon."

She and three other women—Adam's girlfriend, sister and grandmother—agreed to

talk with the Houston Chronicle in hopes that more people will know not just how Adam died but also how he lived.

Adam's older sister, Gwendolyn Weise, said that somewhere deep she still holds a glimmer of hope he'll be found.

"I just can't get over not having anything . . . him, by himself," she said.

Adam Weise loved playing football for the Yorktown Wildcats, but he wasn't the best of students in high school.

He worked on a ranch and then headed for the oil fields. He didn't like the filth but could handle the details in a world where even a dropped wrench could tumble for a mile through pipeline.

He made enough not only for his truck, which was nicknamed "Big Nasty," but the neat two-bedroom home he shared with a cat. A red Transocean jumpsuit still hangs beside camouflage shirts and jackets for hunting.

When he was back on land at home, he was a prankster.

His mother said he once used a bullhorn to make her think the police had surrounded the beauty shop where she worked.

"This is the police," she recalls hearing over the bullhorn. "Arleen Weise, come out with your hands up." She fell for it.

Remembering him makes her laugh as well as cry. She said she has had so much to do since his death that only now are some things really taking hold.

"These last few days it has hit me that my son is never coming back to me. I'm not holding it together," she said. "Now, I keep seeming to be more of a mess."

'WELL FROM HELL'

Adam Weise and his friend Caleb Holloway, of Liberty, were nearing the end of their last shift and at the end of their three-week rotation before heading home when a supervisor needed one of them to go to the pump room.

Weise took the job and told Holloway he'd see him later. Holloway survived.

If Weise had made it, he never would have been able to live with the guilt over those who died, his family said. "We'd have never had our Adam back," said his grandmother, Nelda Winslette.

Added his mother: "There is not enough counseling in the world to have brought him back."

His girlfriend, Cindy Shelton, said he had been calling her before and after every shift—unusual for him. She says he was frustrated with problems on the project.

"Everything that could go wrong was going wrong," she said. "Every time he'd call me, he'd say, 'This is a well from hell.'"

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1347. This resolution honors the workers who perished on the Deepwater Horizon offshore oil platform off the coast of Louisiana and extends our sincerest condolences to those families. It also recognizes the valiant efforts of emergency response workers and volunteers at the disaster site.

I commend my colleague and friend, Congressman MELANCON, for bringing this important piece of legislation before the House, and I extend my appreciation to him and to the rest of our colleagues in the Louisiana congressional delegation for working together to address this disaster.

Mr. Speaker, I have come to the House floor a number of times since

April 20 speaking of the ongoing impact of this tragedy on the gulf coast. Today, though, I wish to focus this body's entire attention on those whose lives were lost on that day and those who continue to respond to the crisis.

As I listen to my colleagues speak in support of this resolution, my heart is heavy. As with their families and friends, I mourn the loss of those who died aboard the oil platform. On that tragic day, the 11 men—Jason, Aaron, Donald, Stephen, Roy, Karl, Gordon, Blair, Dewey, Shane, and Adam—were on the rig doing what they knew best. The demands of working the rigs, as anyone who lives along the gulf coast knows, are great. It is physically demanding work, and it takes loved ones away from their families for long stretches at a time.

Our coastline is a working coastline because we are blessed with an abundance of natural resources in the Gulf of Mexico. From fishermen to those working the rigs, each day you can find thousands on the waters laboring to produce these resources and to contribute to the industry and economy of this Nation.

On April 20, the 11 men were working to provide the energy that has driven this Nation for centuries and that continues to be a force in the economy of my home State of Louisiana. This is dangerous work, and it is our responsibility to ensure that safety precautions are taken and that procedures are strictly followed.

The explosion is being investigated by various parties, including congressional committees, and it is our responsibility to ensure the findings are swiftly addressed with new policies to strengthen safety procedures for those working in dangerous and uncertain conditions. You have my word this will be done.

In times of tragedy, this Nation has come together as one, and this is especially the case for those along the gulf coast. I wish to recognize the extraordinary work of the thousands of volunteers and emergency personnel, from the Red Cross to the U.S. Coast Guard, whose unhesitating response to the call of need thus represents the compassion and dedication of this great Nation.

To the families of the 11 who perished, I realize that nothing my colleagues nor I here today can say will return your sons, husbands, and brothers to you, but it is my hope that the gratitude and respect we express on behalf of the citizens of this great Nation will provide some comfort to you while you grieve your loss.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 1347.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman, a great leader, from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON).

Mr. MELANCON. Thank you, Representative SPEIER. Thank you all very much.

I rise today with a heavy heart to remember the 11 men that died on the offshore rig Deepwater Horizon. Those men and thousands of them like them, women included, travel out to offshore rigs every day to work hard and provide opportunities for the rest of us to make a living.

As the crisis in the Gulf of Mexico continues to grow, we see shorelines, fisheries, and other economies threatened. This unprecedented event has the entire gulf coast and country watching to see how soon we can end this.

Setting aside the present crisis for a moment, I am proud to stand with Members of this Congress to remember those men who represent a very human face to this tragedy.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize the families of those 11 people. Those men were doing what so many other men and women do in Louisiana every day. They were working to provide a better life for their families while braving difficult and sometimes dangerous conditions to provide domestic energy needed to drive our Nation and our economy. Our thoughts are with these families, and I pray that their grief is not forgotten by the rest of us.

And we should also recognize the courageous work of the emergency responders who fought the blaze and saved lives that night. The loss of those 11 workers is a high cost to their families, and so I ask everyone to please remember the personal side to this tragedy as we move forward. Please keep them in your thoughts and, particularly, keep them in your prayers.

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my distinguished colleague and friend from Louisiana (Mr. ALEXANDER).

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

All along the gulf coast, there are many communities hundreds of miles from the edge of the water, communities that are filled with families that, for generation after generation, have produced the workers that are required to produce gas and oil in the gulf region. Some of those workers leave home for periods of 7 days, 14 days, perhaps 21 days before coming home. Sadly, some never return home. Families can't be prepared for losing those loved ones, and for that, our hearts and prayers go out in this resolution.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my distinguished colleague from the State of Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from New Orleans for yielding.

This is a sad time for those of us from south Louisiana. It's a sad time especially as we look at what's happening every day as more oil gushes into our marshland, our valuable, fragile ecosystem. But if there is anything

that eclipses the sadness we're experiencing on the coast, it's the loss of those 11 lives, the 11 brave men who died on that Horizon rig, and the families that they left behind. So many of those young men left behind young children and wives who now have to cope with the loss and somehow find a way to move on.

So our prayers go out to those who lost their lives, and their families who are continuing to experience the tragedy that we're all so sorry for experiencing on the gulf coast. So it's a sad time for all of us on the gulf coast, but we want to give a special pause for those who lost their lives and the young children and spouses that they leave behind.

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1347, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Ms. SPEIER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1347.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1045

SUPPORTING RV CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION MONTH

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1073) supporting the goals and ideals of RV Centennial Celebration Month to recognize and honor 100 years of the enjoyment of recreational vehicles in the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1073

Whereas 1910 marks the first year of mass-produced, manufactured, motorized campers and camping trailers;

Whereas 1 in 12 households in the United States owns a recreational vehicle, and over 30,000,000 recreational vehicle enthusiasts take part in this affordable and environmentally friendly form of vacationing;

Whereas recreational vehicle vacations allow families in the United States to build stronger relationships, explore the great outdoors, and take part in healthy activities;

Whereas this homegrown industry, including recreational vehicle manufacturers, suppliers, dealers, and campgrounds, employs hundreds of thousands of people in the Nation in good-paying jobs across all 50 States;

Whereas recreational vehicles offer the freedom, comfort, and flexibility to see all

parts of the United States, from historic landmarks and national parks to local campgrounds and sporting events; and

Whereas the 100th anniversary of the introduction of the recreational vehicle into the United States marketplace will be celebrated June 7, 2010, at the RV/MH Hall of Fame and Museum in Elkhart, Indiana: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of RV Centennial Celebration Month to recognize and honor 100 years of enjoyment of recreational vehicles in the United States; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to celebrate this anniversary by taking part in recreational vehicle vacations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Ms. SPEIER) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CAO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. SPEIER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1073, a measure supporting the goals and ideals of RV Centennial Celebration Month.

This measure was introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from Indiana, Representative JOE DONNELLY, on February 4 of this year. It was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which waived consideration of the measure to expedite its consideration on the House floor today. The measure enjoys the support of over 50 Members of the House.

Mr. Speaker, RVing is one of the great American traditions in travel. The 30 million Americans who regularly vacation via their recreational vehicles get to travel far and wide around our country, exploring our majestic landscapes, our national and State parks, and taking part in a healthy, outdoor activity. RVs help them do so at a price affordable to families. There are destinations for RVing across our 50 States, and we can all agree that we'd love for more Americans to visit the places we are most proud of in our communities.

For instance, I'd like for the RVing community to come and set their eyes on the Golden Gate Bridge, on the cable cars, on the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, or on the San Francisco Bay Estuary.

RVs make exploring our great country a practical option for many families. The first RVs came into mass production 100 years ago this June. Let us now take time to mark that significant moment in American history by supporting this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAO. I yield myself such time as I may consume.