

Mr. AKIN. As to my understanding, doesn't the law require that the President in a major environmental disaster like this—I've been told that the Federal law requires that the President take charge of the situation.

Has he been down there basically running it and calling the shots?

Mr. GOHMERT. I understand he has been there, but as some of our friends from Louisiana have pointed out—and Governor Jindal has been fighting the President through the MMS and through his responders—they gave full authority to British Petroleum to make all the calls. So the Louisiana folks, the people along the gulf, who are wanting to mitigate and who are trying to get protection and protect themselves, had to get permission from British Petroleum, which was not giving it.

We heard in the hearing today that there were people in Louisiana, along the gulf, who wanted to build barriers to this oil coming in. Yet all we heard from the administration's representatives was, Well, we're still discussing those to see—we're worried that could end up creating more problems than it solves because when they build the little barriers to the oil coming into those marshes, it might actually pull more oil in.

They're discussing it. The oil is in the marshes. It's killing animals and killing wildlife right now, and we heard today in the hearing that they're just discussing it, and they're trying to figure out if they may do more good than harm or if they may do more harm than good. It's outrageous what's going on.

The President does need to take charge. It is a disaster of massive proportion. British Petroleum is at the helm, but the White House should not have given them the authority to just make all the calls. It's unbelievable the disaster that occurred and now the disaster that is being created by the failure to respond.

I asked the admiral in charge of the Coast Guard, you know, How many ships have you moved into the area in the last 37 days? They've moved four major boats into the area. That's it. That's it. We could have moved the Navy. We could have had all kinds of response. The President has all kinds of resources, and he is just basically letting all this happen.

Now, British Petroleum needs to be made to pay, and it shouldn't be limited to \$75 million—absolutely not—but we've got to have a better response. People are losing their livelihoods. They've already lost their lives. It has got to come to an end.

I yield to my friend.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. AKIN. I do yield, lady.

Mrs. LUMMIS. It is the power of the purse that this Congress holds that allows us to gain control of situations like this, and that is why this discussion is so important. I thank the gentleman from Missouri for including us.

I yield back.

Mr. AKIN. I thank you, lady.

We've been talking about a broad range of different topics today; but in general, it is the condition of our economy.

The thing I would like to be sure that we don't do is to leave with the impression that there aren't solutions to these problems, but the solutions include, one, we're going to have to back off our just giving away money to everybody. We're going to have to reduce Federal spending. What we're going to have to also do is to use the power of reducing taxes to increase government revenues. So we have to reduce taxes in order to get the economy back and going and to start creating jobs.

Now, if we want to continue the formula of destroying jobs the way we have been, what's going to happen is that it's going to be harder and harder to get the economy back on track, but there is a solution. It's not complicated. It involves doing tax cuts selectively to allow those small businesses to start creating jobs again, and we have to get off their backs with regulations and red tape. We have to increase their ability to get liquidity, but we also have to stop taxing and taxing. All of the talk about concern about jobs is just a bunch of lip service because every one of these things is a job killer.

Cap-and-Tax. They're going to tax energy.

Health care taxes, a massive effect of destroying jobs. There are all kinds of businesses now that are asking, How can I get my employees under 50 so I don't have to get involved in this?

The death tax. Taxes on inheritances. This is another thing that is going to tie up money that could be invested in business and that could create jobs.

The capital gains tax. This is one of the big things that helped create jobs before. This is going to expire next year. So there are solutions to these problems, but the solutions require some grown-up leadership in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your indulgence this evening. I yield back.

#### JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to proudly commemorate the fifth annual Jewish American Heritage Month, which takes place in communities across the country each May.

Jewish American Heritage Month promotes awareness of the contributions American Jews have made to the fabric of American life—from technology and literature, to entertainment, politics and to medicine.

It is a concept that was brought to me by leaders in the south Florida Jewish community 5 years ago when I was first elected to serve in this body. It was an idea born of the concern that, although there have been 355 years of Jewish life in America, there is still a tremendous lack of understanding about Jewish culture in that Jews are both a religion and a heritage in terms of our traditions and our community. Because we are less than 2 percent of the population in America, most people in America have either never met a Jewish person or have rarely, if ever, interacted with a Jewish person, so our traditions are often a foreign concept.

It was felt by the leaders in my Jewish community that, in having a month dedicated to cultural and educational programming, particularly in non-Jewish communities, it would raise awareness, foster understanding and deal with some of the concerns over the fact that, of the bias incidents that have been documented by the FBI and by the Anti-Defamation League, literally 65 percent of those bias incidents in recent years have been anti-Jewish bias. If we can use Jewish American Heritage Month, now in its 5th year, to foster understanding and tolerance, then hopefully we can reduce anti-Semitism and bigotry in this country.

As we are well aware, the foundation of our country is built upon the strengths of our unique cultures and backgrounds. Yet, while our diversity is America's strength, ignorance and intolerance about the culture and about the traditions and accomplishments of the Jewish people are, unfortunately, still really prevalent.

Again, Jews make up only 2 percent of our Nation's population, and as a result, we need to make sure that people in America understand that there have been so many different things and that so much of American history has been touched by a significant contribution of American Jews.

Tonight, my colleagues who are joining me on the floor to acknowledge and to mark the 5th annual Jewish American Heritage Month are going to talk about some of the impacts that the Jewish community has had throughout American history.

It is my privilege to yield to my friend, the gentleman from Colorado, JARED POLIS.

□ 2115

Mr. POLIS. I thank the gentlelady from Florida.

I am here tonight to talk about the Jewish history in the West and in Colorado. Colorado was still an untamed wilderness when gold was discovered near Pike's Peak in 1858. The 59ers, fortune hunters from across the country, came to our State, growing the population and building a diverse economy. Jews, too, were part of that quest.

Over the millennia, our Jewish people have suffered many exiles, often wandering and migrating from one country to another, frequently meeting

with hostility and hardship. It was in that spirit that Jews immigrated to the American West, where we established viable communities and maintained the Jewish heritage, despite great obstacles.

The unpredictability of gold mining and a growing demand for supplies encouraged many of the Jewish 59ers to establish small business in new towns and mining camps throughout Colorado. Over the next two decades, Jews settled in Leadville, Cripple Creek, Aspen, Trinidad, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Central City, and Denver.

One of the first Jewish pioneers was Fred Zadek Salomon, who arrived in Auraria in June of 1859. He founded and became manager of the first general mercantile company in Colorado. The two were later joined by a third brother, Adolph Salomon, who became the first Jewish elected official in Colorado as a trustee of Greeley, Colorado.

Another one of our famous early Jewish Coloradans was Frances Wisebart Jacobs, who was born in 1843 and died in 1892. She was born in Kentucky to Bavarian immigrants, but she moved to Denver when she was young. She helped organize and was president of the Hebrew Ladies' Benevolent Society, and she joined with the city's Congregationalist ministers and Catholic Archdiocese to create a multifaith charity organization.

She also left her mark on tuberculosis relief, which Denver later became known for, as one of the first people to conceive of a free hospital for the medically indigent tuberculosis victims, for which Denver later became known.

Frances Jacobs is memorialized as one of 16 Colorado pioneers and the only woman and the only Jew in a stained glass window in the Colorado state capital rotunda. In 1994, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame, and in 2000 she was awarded the Denver Mayor's Millennium Award.

From its humble beginnings, the Colorado Jewish population has grown; in our generation, with immigrants from the east coast, as my parents from Brooklyn and Peekskill, New York, moved to Colorado in the 1970s, along with many of their fellow Jews, and more recently immigrants from California, Jews finding a new home in my hometown of Boulder, which when I was young and growing up, had one synagogue. It now has six synagogues.

The town of Denver, with a longer and more established Jewish community, also continues to thrive with the Jewish cultural and religious life across the region.

I rise to proudly recognize the role of Jews in the development of Colorado and the Rocky Mountain West.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you so much, Mr. POLIS. Your comments are such a perfect example of the unique contributions that American Jews have made in our history, and you specifically highlighted exam-

ples that most people would not have been familiar with. I would bet that Coloradans are not familiar with that history. So thank you very much for coming down and sharing that with us this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I want to share a story that was an experience that I lived through. For me as a young Jewish woman growing up in a predominantly Jewish community in New York, on Long Island, growing up, and then moving to south Florida and spending my adult life in a significant, large Jewish community, one would think that I had spent most of my life without experiencing anti-Semitism, and I have not experienced much in the way of overt anti-Semitism.

But I want to share a story with my colleagues from when I was in college at the University of Florida. I was standing in the hallway of my dorm the first week of school and talking to another young woman who I had just met, and she saw my last name on the door, because there are signs on the doors with your names on them at the beginning of each semester in most college dorms.

Somehow the subject of religion came up. I shared with her that I was Jewish, and her response, she was from a tiny town in north Florida, and it was evident after her comments that she had never met a Jewish person before, because she said to me, "You're Jewish? I have seen pictures, but I have never seen a real one."

You know, growing up on Long Island, and that being my first exposure to someone who had not met a Jewish person, I had heard that there were people in America who thought that Jews had horns, and we were somehow not human. But, fortunately, I realized at the time that that was simply a reflection of the fact that she had not had experience with Jews or the Jewish community. And as we got to know each other, we lived on the hall together all throughout our freshman year, we got to be very good friends, and she realized that I was human and that I didn't have horns.

But it is really important, and that story and that experience helped me understand why we had a need for Jewish American Heritage Month, just like the experience of Black History Month and the years and years of success of that cultural celebration that we have in February, and Asian Pacific Islander Month, and Hispanic Heritage Month. It is important that we celebrate the diversity in this country and that all Americans learn about the success and contributions that all different cultures have weaved together to make America the strong, vibrant Nation that we are today.

Again, I am really pleased to be joined by my colleagues who are here with me on the floor tonight.

With that, I yield to my good friend and next door neighbor, a gentleman who has been doing a fantastic job representing his constituents in south

Florida and someone who has spent many, many years as a leader in the organized Jewish community, Congressman RON KLEIN from the great State of Florida.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. I thank the gentlelady, and I thank the gentlelady for bringing this forward as an important part of our American fabric, as she talked about Jewish American Heritage Month as just one of many that make up the fabric of the United States, the people of the United States; the fact in many ways we are an immigrant population, but we are very diverse, both in religion, background, ethnicity, and it is a way of celebration that we are celebrating Jewish American Heritage Month, and we will have the opportunity to do that tomorrow and for weeks to come.

Being from Cleveland originally, Cleveland, Ohio, I grew up in a family that had roots. My family came to the United States in the twenties from Europe, from a persecuted background in countries where they weren't welcome as Jews. Of course, we know the history of what happened during the Holocaust.

But they came to the United States and did what most immigrant families did: They congregated among themselves initially, went to small towns, figured it was important to get an education, started little businesses and things like that.

My dad had a variety store, which is, for those of you who remember what that is, sort of like a Woolworth's, but a small, independent store started by my grandfather during the Great Depression, and then it was a family business all the way through. My dad taught me all about what it was to be part of that American fabric.

Being Jewish was unique where I came from, but not totally unique. There was a Jewish community in Cleveland. I eventually, with my wife, moved to Florida. Obviously, in Florida there was a larger Jewish community where I moved to. But it was only one generation before that that in that same community where I grew up, there were restrictions on where people could live. There were restrictions in deeds where you could purchase a home or a condominium, and they didn't allow various minorities, not just Jews, but African Americans and various others, to go into those communities and buy properties. It was only one generation before I moved there.

So it is really sort of in our own lifetime that all these things have changed. Of course, we know as Americans there is still more work to be done with various forms of discrimination.

But I do want to mention a couple of names and sort of have some fun tonight. First of all, the first Jewish Member of Congress was from Florida. In 1841, David Levy Yulee became the first Jew to serve in Congress. It was obviously even before the Civil War. He eventually went on to serve in the United States Senate. Then it was a

long, long time after that before another Jewish resident from the State of Florida came back to represent the community in Congress.

But I am going to mention a few entertainment people, because I think those are some of the fun people. Many of you remember Sandy Koufax. Now, this is not entertainment, this is sports, but one of the great, truly great pitchers of all time, Los Angeles Dodgers. I think many of you remember him.

He refused to pitch on Yom Kippur, which is the most significant holiday of the year for the Jewish community. It was the World Series. He made a conscious choice and sort of sent reverberations throughout the sports community. How could he make this decision? But he became a folk hero for many people to say he stood up for himself. He stood up for his religion, he stood up for his family, and although he wasn't a religious man, he did something that was quite unique at that time.

Steven Spielberg. How many of you know Steven Spielberg and the touch he has had on all of our lives, with the movies and so many important cultural things that he has been a contributor to? He obviously for many reasons, not only as a great film director and producer, he has also taken it upon himself to set up the Shoah Foundation and has funded it with others as a way of taking the written testimony of people who survived the Holocaust, to preserve it forever. That, to me, is a great contribution.

Groucho Marx, we all know Groucho Marx. I won't do the imitation because I see my colleague from Denver, from Colorado, over there is going to make fun of me if I do that. But Groucho Marx is truly one of the greats. And, of course, it was all the Marx brothers. They just left such a mark in that time. They came from that background of that early vaudeville era and sort of expressed that great sense of humor.

So there are so many, and I know my colleagues are going to mention one after the other here. But I am just happy to be here tonight to celebrate this important milestone, to celebrate it every year as part of this community, to talk about it, to learn about it, and to get our community to talk about it and teach others as well.

I thank the gentlelady for bringing us all together tonight.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you so much. I thank the gentleman for his remarks and for taking us through an important aspect of Jewish life in America.

Now it is my pleasure to yield to another colleague from the West, and a leader on the House Rules Committee who has a Rules Committee meeting that is imminent that he needs to get to, and a leader in the Jewish community as well, Congressman ED PERLMUTTER from the State of Colorado.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. I thank my friends from Florida.

I wanted to follow Mr. POLIS and just talk about the Rocky Mountain West, which really did receive Jewish immigrants with open arms. Sometimes there was discrimination, but generally it was open arms. In New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, ranching, farming, mining, construction, you name it, the Jewish community was involved in it. Merchants, oil and gas, the Manhattan Project down in Los Alamos in New Mexico.

So, my family, a great-great-great uncle immigrated from the Ukraine in the late 1800s, was part of a mining commune above a little town called Center, Colorado, remained in that mining commune for about 3 years, realized he didn't like being at about 11,000 feet in the mountains of Colorado, moved to the Denver area, where he had a small store, and that uncle then attracted the others who immigrated from the Ukraine. So the youngest brother came first, then the next brother, the next brother, and the next brother. My grandfather was the oldest. He was the last to arrive from the old country.

But the Denver area in Colorado really did allow people a chance to really show what they were made of, and the Jewish community in Colorado, in the Denver area, has flourished over the years. It has been very much a part of the fabric of the community in charitable efforts, as well as education and those kinds of things. And the heritage that we are talking about tonight, really at least in the Rocky Mountain West, the Jewish community and the Rocky Mountain West are inseparable.

I just thank my friend for organizing our Special Order hour, and I yield back to her.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you so much, Mr. PERLMUTTER. We appreciate your contribution to our effort to raise awareness and celebrate the contributions of Jewish Americans to American history.

It is now my pleasure to yield to one of our newest Members, who as of just yesterday is no longer the most junior Member of the House of Representatives. He held that title for, oh, about a month. He is the neighbor to the other side of my congressional district, and did a fantastic job as a State senator, was another leader in the organized Jewish community in south Florida, someone who has been a staunch advocate for Israel and for issues that are important to the Jewish community, the gentleman from Florida, Mr. DEUTCH.

Mr. DEUTCH. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the American Jewish community's many contributions to our Nation's society and culture. I would like to thank my dear friend and colleague, Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for her outstanding dedication to preserving Jewish history and culture in America.

Jewish American Heritage Month gives all Americans the opportunity to

recognize Jewish Americans as leaders in every facet of America's life, from athletics, entertainment, the arts and academia, to business, government, and our Armed Forces.

□ 2130

Florida's 19th District is home to the largest, one of the largest Jewish American populations in this country.

I'm privileged to represent many first generation Americans whose parents arrived on our shores seeking a better life. Many of these Jewish Americans are members of the Greatest Generation. They stepped up to serve in World War II and rebuilt this Nation after the Great Depression. In fact, over half a million Jewish Americans fought for the United States in World War II, and 11,000 of them perished fighting for our country.

For those who arrived in Europe as the Holocaust raged on, this war became very personal. As a quote from a Jewish Air Force officer reads, As a Jew, it was Hitler and me. That is the way I picture the war.

While the contributions of Jewish American soldiers during World War II cannot be understated, the truth is that Jewish American soldiers have been fighting for this country since the Revolutionary War.

Colonel Isaac Franks and Major Benjamin Nones were aides de camp to General George Washington. Commodore Uriah Phillips Levy, who served in the War of 1812, was court-martialed six times due to his defiance of anti-Semitism. And by the time the Civil War broke out, there were 150,000 Jews in the United States, with 7,000 fighting for the North and 3,000 fighting for the South. Senator Judah Benjamin even served as Secretary of State for the Confederacy. And although Jews only made up 2 percent of the population during World War I, they made up 6 percent of the United States Armed Forces.

Jewish Americans have served in Korea and Vietnam. They've served in Operation Desert Storm and in countless operations around the globe. They're among the brave young men and women who served after September 11 in the war on terror and who are serving bravely and valiantly in Iraq and Afghanistan, even as we speak.

And as we approach Memorial Day, I recognize those Jewish war veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom, like Major Stuart Wolfer, a Jewish American major from my district, a loving father of three daughters who was killed by rocket fire in Baghdad 2 years ago.

Since the Congressional Medal of Honor, Jewish Americans have been awarded this high honor for their dedicated service to this Nation since it was created. Six Jewish Americans received the award in the Civil War, two in the Indian wars in the late 1800s, three in World War I, two in World War II, one in the Vietnam conflict.

I am proud to also note that Florida's 19th District is home to one of the

largest chapters of the Jewish War Veterans of America. These brave men and women embody true patriotism, and their dedication to this great country is captured in their mission statement, which reads:

We, citizens of the United States of America of the Jewish faith who served in the wars of the United States of America, in order that we may be of greater service to our country and to one another, associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To maintain true allegiance to the United States of America;

To foster and perpetuate true Americanism;

To combat whatever tends to impair the efficiency and permanency of our free institutions;

To uphold the fair name of the Jew and fight his or her battles wherever unjustly assailed;

To encourage the doctrine of universal liberty, equal rights, and full justice to all men and women;

To combat the powers of bigotry and darkness wherever originating and whatever their target; and

To preserve the spirit of comradeship by mutual helpfulness to comrades and their families.

The mission of this wonderful organization holds a special significance to me. I'm the proud son of a Jewish war veteran who volunteered as a teenager to serve our country and fought in the Battle of the Bulge, where he earned a Purple Heart.

My dad's no longer with us today, but with every veteran that I meet, I hear his voice and remember his love of country. It's a love of country that so many Jewish Americans hold in their hearts. Those who practice the Jewish faith hold in high regard a value for service, for justice and progress for all people.

These are values also embedded in the very fabric of this country. And it's for this reason today, on the fifth anniversary of Jewish American Heritage Month, that I am so proud to recognize the Jewish American men and women who, for centuries, not only have shaped our national culture, but have defended our people in times of great challenge.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for arranging this wonderful evening.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you very much, Mr. DEUTCH, and I'm really pleased that you chose to highlight in your remarks the contributions that our Jewish war veterans have made.

Last year, I think it was last year, Ms. SCHWARTZ, last year, we marked, the Jewish Members, a number of us and some non-Jewish Members, marked Jewish American Heritage Month by taking a trip to the Museum of Jewish Military History, which is based in Washington, D.C., and it was a museum that I was not familiar with, didn't know existed. And we had an oppor-

tunity, all the way back to the Revolutionary War, to see the contributions of Jews throughout our military history and how they proudly, so many of them, as you said, hundreds of thousands, proudly fought side by side with their fellow American citizens to defend the freedom that we continue to enjoy today.

So thank you so much for acknowledging that.

It's now my privilege to yield to my good friend, the gentlelady from Pennsylvania, who has been a leader, whom I've shared many a conversation with in the time we have served in the Congress together. We were elected in the same year and both served as State legislators, championing many of the same cases. She was a leader on health care in the Senate in Pennsylvania and has been a leader in the Jewish community in her own right, and I'm so glad you've joined us here tonight.

The gentlelady from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ).

Ms. SCHWARTZ. I thank the gentlewoman, and I'm very pleased to join you this evening. Thank you for organizing it, and thank you, of course, for your sponsorship of the resolution that created the Jewish American Heritage Month. And I am very pleased, as the only Jewish member of the Pennsylvania delegation, to be able to speak tonight a bit about the contributions of Pennsylvania's Jewish communities, in particular, Philadelphia's Jewish community and the contributions we made.

I would be remiss if I didn't also say that I appreciate our colleague's comments before about Jewish veterans. And as many of my colleagues know, my father was a veteran serving in the Korean War, and certainly those experiences have helped inform who I am.

But this evening, I did want to talk a bit about some other subjects, and, in particular, let me start by saying that William Penn, who founded Pennsylvania in 1682 as a colony, did so making sure that the colony was based on religious tolerance.

The Philadelphia Jewish community has been around for a very long time and really came really expecting and being honored to be able to experience that religious tolerance, particularly in Philadelphia, and has been a part of Jewish Philadelphia and the Philadelphia community for generations. As early as 1735, Nathan Levy established himself in the import/export trade with his cousin David Franks in the bustling Philadelphia port. Well, today the Philadelphia port is still bustling, and it is one of the busiest ports in the Nation.

Philadelphia Jews have contributed to our national fabric through sciences, public service and through the arts. Just to name a few—and it's always risky to just name a few, but I will—philanthropist Sam Guggenheim and Watergate counsel Samuel Dash, Science Nobel Prize recipient Howard Temin, and the comic Larry Fine all

were graduates of Philadelphia's public magnet school, Central High School, where my sons went to school, and certainly proud Philadelphians, and they are among the members of Philadelphia's Jewish community. Philadelphia continues to proudly distinguish itself as an important epicenter of American Jewish life.

As a new Member of Congress, I was very honored and proud to support Temple Beth Shalom, which is located on Old York Road in Elkins Park, Montgomery County—I represent Montgomery County—becoming a national historic landmark. It is the only synagogue designed by the great American architect Frank Lloyd Wright, and it is a remarkable place to see. I would commend it to all of my colleagues.

And looking forward, on November 14, 2010, the National Museum of American Jewish History will open its spectacular new facility on Philadelphia's Independence Mall. This museum is the only museum in America dedicated exclusively to exploring and preserving the American Jewish experience. And again, I encourage all of my colleagues, Jews and non-Jews, to visit this remarkable institution and to learn the stories of Jewish Americans, their challenges, their hardships, and their successes as they became a part of the fabric of who we are as Americans.

For me, the significance of American Jewish Heritage Month is marked by a story of one young woman named Renee Perl. Over 60 years ago, Renee fled Austria on a Kindertransport. Some of the Jews may know what that means. It was a children's train. Parents sent their children on this train hoping they would be embraced by strangers and taken care of. She was, of course, fleeing the Holocaust. After almost 2 years, first in Holland and then in England, she arrived alone on the shores of America, a 16-year old without family or friends, but armed with a keen sense of hope and expectation. As with many refugees, she was anxious to put her difficult experiences behind her and embrace her new country, which she did with deep gratitude.

Renee Perl was my mother. She instilled in me a deep love for this country and its capacity to provide not only safe harbor but opportunity. My mother's search for security and freedom in America is part of who I am and why I do what I do. It is a deeply personal reminder of the importance of democracy, not only for American Jews, but for so many. Her story, her life, as for so many others, calls on us to meet the responsibility we have to respect the values of our great Nation, to build and protect the freedom and hope that it offers to so many citizens and newcomers.

It is with pride and gratitude that I mark the occasion of American Jewish Heritage Month, and I am pleased to participate in this evening's discussion.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you so much.

Ms. SCHWARTZ, I have to tell you that I've heard you share that story before, and I get a lump in my throat every time you tell it. It is so moving and meaningful for you to share that story in the Chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives, and it's one of the ways that we can help people understand why acknowledging the contributions of American Jews and the rich tapestry that we have weaved throughout American history is so important. So thank you again for sharing that story once again.

It's now my privilege to yield to one of the most significant Jewish leaders in our country, someone who has been a stalwart fighter for Israel, a stalwart fighter for the issues that matter to American Jews and to Jews across the globe, the gentle lady from Nevada, SHELLEY BERKLEY.

Ms. BERKLEY. Thank you very much, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. We usually start our days together because we're next-door neighbors, and it's a pleasure to see you 14 hours later here on the floor of the House. But I want to thank you for spearheading this effort. I think it's very important. And I know this is near and dear to your heart, and you've done an extraordinary job year after year bringing the Jewish American story to our fellow citizens, and I appreciate it very much.

I can't help but agree with you about the beautiful story that our colleague, ALLYSON SCHWARTZ, spoke of. I leaned over to you and said, Is she talking about her grandmother? And you said, No, that's her mother. And I know how much that means. I also have heard her story many times, and it also puts a lump in my throat as well.

Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, my family story is very much an American Jewish story. And not unlike so many millions of other American Jews that came to our shores from other places, my mother's side of the family comes from Thessaloniki, Greece, where there was a very vibrant community, Jewish community prior to World War II. Half of the population of Thessaloniki, Greece were Jewish before World War II, but by the time the Nazis finished, there were only 1,000 Jews left in Salonika out of the 80,000 that existed and lived there and thrived there prior to World War II. I'm not presumptuous enough to think that my family would have been among those thousand chosen to live.

On my father's side of the family, from the Russia-Poland border, an entire culture, from 1,000 years of Jewish culture in that part of the world, was exterminated as a result of World War II. My family escaped both the Russia-Poland area and Thessaloniki, Greece in order to come to our Nation's shores. And I grew up hearing stories of what their lives were like where they came from and how thrilled and excited they were to come to the United States of America and truly felt this started as a haven. It was the very survival of my family. Had they stayed

where they lived in Europe, we would have been exterminated in the Holocaust, but we did survive. We came to this remarkable country, where not only did we have an opportunity to survive, but we've had an opportunity to thrive.

I'm second-generation American. When my grandparents came here—and this is a story that is so common among American Jewish families—they couldn't speak English. They had no money. They had no skills.

□ 2145

The only thing they had was a dream, and that dream was that their children and their children's children would have a better life here in the United States than they had where they came from.

I often think of myself, and I hope this isn't too presumptuous, as my grandparents' American Dream. But I think even in their wildest dreams they never would have imagined that they would have a granddaughter that was serving in the United States House of Representatives. When I am doing this, I often think of my grandparents and realize that they went through so much in order to come to this country. And we have been able to share in the extraordinary success and largesse of this remarkable country.

We are very lucky as an American Jewish community to be very much a part of the fabric of this great country, to have full acceptance, to be able to access the highest levels of power, to actually be able to effectuate meaningful change in a very positive way by participating in the American political process.

My father, much like so many of the others that spoke today, is also a World War II veteran. He is 85. His name is George Levine. He is still working. But I think what demonstrates our commitment and our love of this country and our patriotism as American Jews is the fact that my father also joined the Navy when he wasn't quite old enough to do so. But he wanted to fight for his country. He wanted to stand up and do something positive for the United States of America to show that we belonged here and we were part of this great country.

There are 500,000 Jews that served in the American Armed Forces during World War II, including numerous Jews who rose to the rank of general, and several more were admirals. Now, my father was never an admiral in the Navy, but he served and he served his country proudly and well; and I continue to be very proud of him.

We have made more than a life for ourselves in the United States of America. We are very proud Americans, and we are very proud Jews. And we appreciate so much the fact that this country offered so many remarkable opportunities and gave us a chance not only for survival, but to become a part of something so much bigger than ourselves. I think it's incumbent, and I

think most Jews feel this way, that given the rights that we have here in the United States also comes responsibilities.

Those responsibilities mean good citizenship and participating in the political process and voting and being knowledgeable and getting a good education so that you can not only be part of the foundation of this country, but to give back to a country that has given us so many opportunities. So I am very much a part of the American Jewish community, but it's a story that so many of us share with our fellow Americans.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, I want to thank you very much for giving us the chance to thank this great country not only for taking us in, but for letting us be so much a part of not only the culture and the political life, but to be very much involved in the greatness of the United States of America. Thank you for giving me this chance.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you so much for your eloquence, Ms. BERKLEY, and for acknowledging that a lot of people think about the arrival of Jews in America as really being an infusion after World War I, an infusion after World War II; but we have 353 years of Jewish life in this country. And, unfortunately, much of our arrival followed persecution in other parts of the world: after the Spanish Inquisition, the pogroms in Russia—that's when my family came initially in the 1800s—and then in the early 1900s fleeing Poland for a better way of life here. And it's so incredibly important that we tell our story.

Jewish American Heritage Month allows us to do that now. President Bush proclaimed it 5 years ago. We had 250 cosponsors, of which you were one, of the original legislation that urged him to do that. And one of the things that I really think is important to acknowledge is there is so much partisanship here in the House of Representatives. I was the most proud at the time that we passed that resolution unanimously out of the House. With over 400 Members voting for it, we had 250 cosponsors, bipartisan cosponsors, and then we had a bipartisan effort across the Jewish community in this country to urge the President at the time to proclaim the first Jewish American Heritage Month. And they did so willingly, put aside party differences because they knew that it was incredibly important. And we have continued to be able to mark the occasion every year.

Ms. BERKLEY. Well, if it wasn't for your leadership we might not be here this evening doing this, so I thank you. Congresswoman, when you and I hear the beautiful song "God Bless America," it means a great deal to us because I think every day God bless America, God bless this country.

But the interesting thing is Irving Berlin gained prominence as a composer of patriotic songs. As you know, Irving Berlin was a very famous composer, he was Jewish, and he wanted to

show his love of this country and use his talents in order to create these remarkably patriotic songs. And "God Bless America" is still among my favorites. And he received the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor in recognition of his service to this country in composing these patriotic songs. So whenever I hear that song I get a little patter in my heart, and it particularly makes me proud that an American Jew composed it.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Me as well. And in that same vein, Emma Lazarus was by far at the time the leading Jewish literary figure in 19th-century America. And it's her sonnet which was called "The New Colossus" that is engraved on the base of the Statute of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, yearning to breathe free." And then the rest is history.

Ms. BERKLEY. History.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. The rest is history, exactly. There are so many contributions that this month allows us to highlight. And I really thank you for joining us tonight, to continue to be able to do that. And I know we look forward to the rest of the month and the celebrations across the country.

Ms. BERKLEY. Thank you very much.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you so much.

It is now my privilege to invite my colleague from the State of Florida, the gentleman from central Florida, who is a newly elected Member and who has done a fantastic job fighting for his constituents, fighting on behalf of the issues that are important to this country, and fighting to help particularly focus on job creation and turning our economy around, the gentleman and my friend from central Florida, ALAN GRAYSON.

Mr. GRAYSON. Thank you. It would be easy to spend this time that I have, and in fact this entire hour, talking about the contributions that Jewish people have made to American history and to American science and culture. If you look at the back of a dollar bill, you will find the seal of the United States. And you will find that the 13 original States are depicted in the form of a Star of David on the back of every dollar bill. And that's to reflect the support that Jews provided during the Revolutionary War for our freedom as a country.

It also would be easy to spend this time, and in fact the whole hour, talking about people who we know who have lived upstanding lives as Jews and reflected our values in ways that have caused America to appreciate what they have given us. I am thinking, for instance, of my father's mother, who came to America fleeing oppression in Europe 110 years ago. I am thinking of both of my mother's parents. My mother's parents told me that their finest hour was when they got to visit Jerusalem. And yet they came from Europe to North America in the hope of achieving freedom, and they did.

But I would like to try to do something that's in some respects a little more difficult, if I may, which is try to explain in some general way what Jews have meant in this country for our intellectual and moral life as a country. And I think it begins with the fact that we all lived as slaves. And we not only remember that time and remember what it meant for us to achieve freedom ourselves as a people, but we also make sure that each year we come together during a time that's important to all of us, to come together as families and remember the importance of that part of the Jewish experience. And that helps us to relate to other people who are oppressed in all sorts of ways.

We also, I think, are moved by the central concept, in my mind, of tikkun olam, healing the world. Now, this is a concept that dates in Jewish law all the way back to the Mishnah. And originally it was basically an injunction that you should not take advantage of other people. One of the original examples of tikkun olam, the principle of healing the world, was that for instance when the captives were taken, when people were held hostage in military battles, the tradition at that time was that they could be freed by a payment of money. We don't do that anymore, nobody does that anymore, but that was typical and ordinary in Biblical times.

And the rule of tikkun olam was applied to place a limit on how much you could take in order to give someone back their freedom. Why? Because that person was a prisoner, he or she could not defend himself or herself, and he or she wanted and deserved the freedom that every human being deserves. So under the idea of the concept of tikkun olam, we placed a limit on the price that you could pay on somebody's freedom, even if they were captured in the field of battle or otherwise taken hostage. And that's a concept that's broadened over time. It's a concept that I think is suffused through our life as a country in America today because it appeals to our better nature.

I saw something recently that summarized this in a way that I thought was particularly vivid. This is Rabbi Michael Lerner talking about the concept of tikkun olam and how it applies to modern life: "We in the Tikkun community," he said, "use the word 'spiritual' to include all those whose deepest values lead them to challenge the ethos of selfishness and materialism that has led people into a frantic search for money and power and away from a life that places love, kindness, generosity, peace, nonviolence, social justice, awe and wonder at the grandeur of creation, thanksgiving, humility and joy," especially joy I think, "at the center of our lives."

And what we strive for under Jewish law is a reflection of the future that we hope to bring about, the messianic age, the age when people live in peace, when their lives are filled with love and with joy. And our actions today are meant

to point in that direction. I think that's a good summary of what we try to accomplish as legislators. I think it's a good summary of what America tries to accomplish when we appeal to our own better natures. And that's, I think, the greatest of all of our contributions to American life, the concept of tikkun olam, the concept that the way that we conduct ourselves is a way that can spread throughout the world. I appreciate the time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you so much, Mr. GRAYSON, for sharing your unique perspective. And, again, it's so incredibly important that we had this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of Jewish Americans to American history.

And I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that something that I am quite proud of is a contribution that I wasn't aware that I had made. Upon my election to the Congress in 2004, I learned that I was elected as the first Jewish woman to represent the State of Florida in Congress in history. And that's a source of great pride certainly to my parents, my Jewish parents, who were extremely proud and who kvelled, which is a Yiddish expression for a great bubbling of pride, so to speak. But it's something that has been a source of pride to me.

Mr. GRAYSON. Will the gentlelady yield?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. GRAYSON. I am sure, and I know for a fact, that your parents must be very proud of you. But I will tell you that when I was elected, my mother's reaction was, I really wish you would become a doctor instead. I yield back.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you. That's right. They wished for a doctor or a lawyer; they got a Member of Congress. What can you do? They had to settle.

Mr. Speaker, as I wrap up, and I am going to yield the last portion of our time to my good friend from Indiana, but I do want to talk about this year's Jewish American Heritage Month. And it's been packed with programs celebrating the contributions of American Jews to our country with movies, cultural exhibitions, speakers, and innovative educational curricula.

Right here in Washington, the United Jewish Communities and the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington will once again be hosting what has become their annual tradition, a reception for Members of Congress and members of the Jewish community right here on Capitol Hill.

J Street will also be hosting a reception to celebrate May as Jewish American Heritage Month with Members of Congress, their staff, and the Jewish community. But that's not all. The Library of Congress and the National Archives and Records Administration has been hosting lectures and exhibits and discussions about Jewish contributions to America.



In my home State of Florida, there will be a celebration of Jewish contributions to the civil rights movement. And the Marlins baseball team will host a Jewish Heritage Game. I can share with you that I had the privilege of throwing out the first pitch last year at the Jewish Heritage Game, which was really neat. But at that game they have kosher food and Jewish music in-between innings, and it's really an incredible experience.

Cincinnati, Ohio will be hosting lectures, including one on President Lincoln's solid relationship with Jewish Americans. And Wyoming of all places will host a festival celebrating Jewish food. And Lord knows that we Jews like food a whole lot.

□ 2200

Events are also scheduled to occur in New York, California, Texas and other States around the country, but I think the thing that we are all the most proud of is that tomorrow we will join President Barack Obama and the first lady, who will hold the first ever White House celebration and ceremony honoring Jewish American Heritage Month and the contributions of Jewish Americans throughout American history. It's our first opportunity to have that celebration in the White House during the month of May and Jewish American Heritage Month.

Mr. Speaker, we have come a long way in recent years to promote appreciation for the multicultural fabric of the United States. It's our responsibility to continue this education. If we as a Nation are to prepare our children for the challenges that lie ahead, then teaching diversity is a fundamental part of that promise. Together, we can help achieve this goal of understanding with the celebration of Jewish American Heritage Month.

I thank my colleagues for their support and call on all Americans to observe this special month by celebrating the many contributions of Jewish culture throughout our Nation's history.

With that, I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) who hopefully will come up with a good segue from Jewish American Heritage Month to what he has come to share with us tonight about his constituents.

HONORING THREE SONS FROM SECOND DISTRICT  
OF INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Thank you very much. I want to thank my dear colleague from Florida and tell her what a vibrant and successful Jewish community we have in Indiana as well. We are very proud of our Jewish community there, and I want to thank you so much.

Mr. Speaker, as we near Memorial Day, I rise today also to offer some words in commemoration of those who gave their lives in the Armed Forces of the United States, in particular, three sons from the Second District of Indiana. This weekend, Members of this body will return to our districts and

participate in Memorial Day parades and events that are a tradition of American life. People will picnic with their families, barbecue and watch parades, and people will honor our veterans and pay respects to those servicemembers who died in the line of duty in places large and small, in places like South Bend, Plymouth and Westville, Indiana.

Specialist Paul E. Andersen, an Army Reservist from South Bend, Indiana, died in action on October 1, 2009, by indirect fire from enemy forces. A 24-year veteran of the Armed Forces, Paul was competing his second tour of duty in Iraq.

A 1979 graduate of Buchanan High School just across the line in Michigan, Paul enlisted in the Army Reserves in 1985. After serving his first tour in Iraq, Paul met his future wife, Linda, at the home of a friend. They shared a love of country music, old movies, and strawberry milkshakes. Paul proposed marriage within just a few months, and they were married 3 weeks later.

Linda knew what the Army meant to Paul from the very beginning. When he reenlisted for 6 more years of duty, though, it was only after first seeking her consent.

When he asked her how she would feel if he opted to redeploy, she said, go ahead. "I knew I married an Army man, he's my world, my life, my friend."

In November of 2008, Paul served with the 855th Quartermaster Company from South Bend. Paul's mission in Iraq was to provide both shower and laundry services, as well as operating a clothing repair shop supporting coalition forces based in 10 different locations throughout the Iraqi theater. Without these crucial services that helped make life bearable for those fighting far from home, our soldiers would not have been able to perform their duties as ably as they do.

Paul will be remembered as a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. As a civilian, Paul worked at a tube and bending company. He loved to tinker with machines and was notorious among family members and friends for going overboard on the Christmas lights every year.

He lived a life full of love and joy. Specialist Andersen is survived by his wife, by six children, and by nine grandchildren.

Army Staff Sergeant Justin DeCrow of Plymouth, Indiana, died in a the tragic shooting at Fort Hood, Texas, on November 5, 2009. After 13 years of extraordinary service to his Nation, Justin was taken from his family, friends, and comrades, and he will be forever missed.

Justin always wanted to be a soldier. He graduated from Plymouth High School in 1996, and after marrying his high school sweetheart, that spring he enlisted in the United States Army. He answered the call to serve his country because of an unfailing love of America and also the opportunity to make a life for his family in a career like no other.

Early on, he performed light vehicle maintenance. In 2000, Justin and his family moved to Evans, Georgia, after he was assigned to nearby Fort Gordon, where he was trained as a satellite operator.

He would later go on to work in that capacity in South Korea. Last September, Justin was assigned to the 16th Signal Company at Fort Hood. He had hoped to soon return to Fort Gordon to be with his family.

While at Fort Hood, Justin distinguished himself by training new soldiers. He will be remembered by his fellow soldiers as a mentor with an undeniable charm and quick wit, and by friends and family as a loving and devoted father and husband.

Justin is survived by his wife of 14 years, Marikay, their 13-year-old daughter, Kylah, and two proud parents, Daniel DeCrow and Rhonda Thompson. He will be missed by them and by a grateful Nation forever in debt to a selfless man's kind heart and deep sense of service.

Marine Corps Lance Corporal Joshua Birchfield of Westville, Indiana, died in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan on February 19, 2010. After almost 2 years of accomplished service, Joshua was killed by small arms fire while on patrol during his first tour of duty in that country.

Josh graduated from Westville High School in 2004 and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on April 18, 2008. He joined the marines after seeing a TV news segment focused on the hardships that military families endure when they are separated, especially during the holidays. Josh was deeply inspired by those who dedicated their lives in the service of others. He wanted to share that burden they were carrying on behalf of our Nation.

Lance Corporal Birchfield was stationed in Helmand Province as a rifleman with the Third Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment, First Marine Expeditionary Force, based in Twentynine Palms, California.

For his service and support in Operation Enduring Freedom, Josh has been decorated many times, earning the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, and the NATO Medal. Joshua was a baseball enthusiast, and this coming weekend, I am proud that I will be there as the baseball field in Westville will be renamed in Josh's honor, a living memorial that will remain a place of joy and remembrance for years to come. And we all hope that we can live up to the example that Josh has given to all of us.

Joshua was also an inspiring hero to many in the tight-knit Westville community, and he will be remembered as a selfless and compassionate man. He is survived by both parents and sisters, extended family, and many, many friends.

We are forever in debt to these three great Hoosiers, all patriots in every

sense of the word and all brave Americans who have laid down their lives so that we may be safe, so that others might live without fear, and so that our country can remain safe and secure and strong.

Let us also remember today those brave Americans who are serving their Nation now here at home and in harm's way in places all around the globe. By choosing to serve their Nation in uniform, these sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, are continuing hundreds of years of a tradition of selflessness, excellence, and courage in protecting the freedoms and values we are blessed to enjoy as citizens of this beloved country.

Mr. Speaker, may the House of Representatives always do right by these fine men and their families, and may we never forget the price of freedom and those who have laid their lives down in service to this great Nation.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I am really privileged to have been here to listen to the gentleman acknowledge the patriots that gave their lives and that have served our country so faithfully from his community, and I can tell you that the constituents of the district that he represents in Indiana have no greater friend, no greater advocate, than JOE DONNELLY.

With that, I yield back.

#### ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND THE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY of New York). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, as always it's an honor and privilege to be recognized by you here in the House to address you in the presence of the folks that are here in this Chamber.

I appreciate my colleagues in their presentation in the previous hour and their discussion about Jewish American Heritage Month. I want to say also to my friend, Mr. DONNELLY, the support for our troops and the grief that we have for those that we have lost goes deep for all of us, and I appreciate that sentiment as well.

I look at the democracy in the Middle East and the demonstration there that in 1948, a Nation that stood up and created a Nation, actually a people that stood up and created a Nation. I am very well identified with Israel, in particular because the generation of my life has almost mirrored the generation of the life of the Nation of Israel.

□ 2210

And so I would very much encourage the people in this administration to support Israel, support them in their self-defense in the Middle East, and understand that there have been some things that have taken place in this country that undermine the national defense of Israel and to send a message that might encourage their enemies.

I would like to send a message here tonight to encourage the nation of Israel, the Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and all the people that stand up for liberty and freedom in that part of the world. It is one thing to defend your freedom and your liberty throughout the generations as we have through this country; it is another to be completely surrounded by enemies that would like to annihilate you as a people and as a country. We have no neighbors that draw maps of the world that erase the United States from that map—we do have some neighbors that would like to take some chunks out of the great Southwest of the United States and change the map of the United States of America.

We don't have any neighbors who seek to, when they educate their children, eradicate all of the United States of America. But that is the case with a number of the neighbors of the nation of Israel. And to be surrounded by those kind of people, people who raise their children and little girls to put suicide vests on at age 3 and walk them around to justify the homicide bombing activities that have taken place all over Israel over the years—and by the way, while I'm on the subject matter, many of those bombings have been reduced dramatically, significantly across Israel, and a lot of that has to do with the barrier they constructed between themselves and the West Bank. I've been there. I've seen that barrier and watched how effective it has been. And I've been a strong proponent of the construction of a barrier that would be that effective on our southern border in particular, where we have millions of illegal border crossers every year coming across our southern border into the United States. And there are those that will say that those that are coming across are just coming here to get a job. They just want to work. They just want to take care of their families. In fact, Mr. Speaker, many do, many do, but there are also many who do not.

Ninety percent of the illegal drugs consumed in the United States come from or through Mexico. And out of that huge human haystack of humanity that pours across our southern border every night, while the numbers are down a little bit—at least by the way we keep statistics, we can't be sure because we don't know—but the numbers, when I did have a reasonable measurement, there were 4 million illegal border crossings a year. I think if you take—and this is from memory, Mr. Speaker, so hopefully the accountants in the world won't hold me too accountable, but 4 million illegal border crossings a year divided by 365 days comes down to about 11,000 illegal crossers a night, on average, every night.

I have spent some time down there on those crossings at night at places like San Miguel's crossing to sit down there on the border. And some of the places along there, at its best, is three

or four barbed wires that are stretched apart where illegals cross through, 11,000 a night, Mr. Speaker. And so you can take your historical measure by Santa Anna's army of someplace between 4,000 and 6,000 that surrounded and attacked the Alamo. It's 11,000 a night. So one might argue, and I think very effectively, that it is two to three times the size of Santa Anna's army that invaded Texas, every night, on average. And no, they don't all come with muskets and they're not in uniforms, but that is the magnitude of it every single night, on average.

And now I'm going to say, thankfully, the President of the United States has announced, I believe yesterday, that he was going to ask for \$500 million and 1,200 National Guard troops to bolster the security at the border. Now, some of the people on my side of the aisle were immediately critical of it as being not enough, and I won't take issue with them on that part, it is not enough, but it is a good baby step. We have taken so many giant steps in the wrong direction, especially economically, in the effort to do so culturally and socially, that when I see a little baby step in the right direction, like 1,200 Guard troops going down to the southern border, that's a good thing. Little steps in the right direction are a lot better than giant steps in the wrong direction.

So 1,200 Guard troops at \$500 million works out to be this, Mr. Speaker. That is an increase of border patrol personnel security of 6.5 percent, and it is an increase, from a budgetary perspective—\$500 million divided by the roughly \$12 billion we're spending on the southern border comes to about a 4.2 percent increase in the budget part of it.

Importantly, it sends the right message. And we need to emphasize and reinforce the message that's been sent, that this country, Democrats and Republicans—albeit in significantly different percentages within the parties, but it is a bipartisan position—that we need to stop the bleeding at the border, Mr. Speaker. All the rest of the things we might want to do don't account for much—as a matter of fact, they don't count for anything—if we don't stop the bleeding at the border.

I just came from a dinner where I sat down and listened to the narrative of an individual—whose wife actually told the greatest part of the narrative—who was kidnapped by the Mexicans in Mexico. One of the cartels that were the top-of-the-line human kidnappers had asked initially for \$8 million in ransom and for 8 months kept this man in a box. He watched his weight go from 165 down to 80 pounds. And finally, finally after those 8 months and down to 80 pounds, he was released. That doesn't happen to all. Some aren't released. Some are killed in captivity. Many of them are brutalized. But when you see a person's weight shrink in half, you know that is brutalization. And this is what's going on in Mexico. There are