

Throughout middle school and high school, he made the Honor Roll. He was involved in clubs, and he excelled in every sport that he played. After graduating from South Dade High School in 2005, Seaman Ortega went on to study at Florida Career College where he obtained a degree in Web site design.

Then Seaman Ortega joined the military because of the core values military life has to offer. He wanted to give back to a nation that had given him and his family so much opportunity. So, as a hospital corpsman, he was a Navy medic who treated those who were injured in combat.

His sister Aracely Ortega described him as an "awesome brother and an awesome friend." She also said, "He had a lot of respect for this Nation, and he paid the ultimate sacrifice, unfortunately."

For his brave service and sacrifice, Seaman Ortega was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the NATO Non Article V Medal, and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

He is survived by his parents—William and Marianela Ortega—and by his five sisters, and hundreds gathered, over the weekend in Miami, to pay respect and to pay tribute to this American fallen hero.

Our grateful Nation grieves with his family during this difficult time, and our grateful Nation will never forget William Ortega, a true American hero.

#### JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, Democrats in Congress will continue to take America in a new direction, creating good American jobs, lowering taxes for the middle class and small businesses, and building a strong new foundation for the economy and for Main Street.

We continue to see signs of economic recovery resulting from the economic policies of the Democratic Congress and the Obama administration responding to the Bush recession and the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. More must be done to create and save jobs, but the latest signs of recovery include the HIRE Act, a bipartisan bill to create 300 jobs; American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act, tax incentives to spur business innovation and tax cuts; the Small Business and Infrastructure Jobs Tax Act extends aid to States to provide subsidies to employers, including small businesses; and the Home Star bill, which creates much-needed jobs in the manufacturing sector by providing tax rebates to homeowners who install energy-saving products.

Last week, the U.S. Department of Energy announced \$29 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to develop and expand weatherization training centers across

the country. These projects will provide green job training for local workers in energy efficiency retrofitting and weatherization services.

Congress and the President have worked together to enact an array of broad-based tax cuts for working and middle-class families and small business owners—ending an era of Republican tax breaks focused only on the wealthy. These tax cuts are injecting consumer demand into the economy and spurring job creation.

All totaled, Congress has enacted more than \$800 billion in tax cuts, with another \$285 billion making their way through Congress, such as permanent estate tax relief and the R&D tax credit to spur business innovation.

#### REPUBLICAN RECORD OF FAILURE

Congressional Republicans threaten to take us back to the failed policies that created the economic crisis—siding with the special interests: Wall Street banks, credit card companies, Big Oil, and insurance companies.

These economic and fiscal policies created the Bush recession—the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression—with job losses of nearly 800,000 a month—and nearly doubled our national debt.

Republicans have voted against every major piece of economic legislation—from the Recovery Act to Wall Street reform—choosing the special interests over American workers, their families and small businesses.

Democrats in Congress will continue to take America in a New Direction, working to create American jobs and a strong new foundation for the economy, protecting Main Street and the middle class. We're getting results.

During the last 3 months of the Bush administration, we lost on average 726,000 jobs. In the last 3 months, we have created an average of 186,000 jobs. The current unemployment rate is 9.9 percent.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

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

#### OUR POLICY IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my continuing and growing concern over our policy in Afghanistan.

As General Petraeus appears before the Senate and as we are being asked to consider tens of billions of dollars in supplemental funding for the war, I believe that now is the time for us to ask tough questions and to demand straight answers.

Of all the problems that President Obama inherited from the Bush administration, Afghanistan is the one that keeps getting more complicated. In just the past few weeks, two brave, young soldiers from my congressional district in Fall River, Massachusetts, lost their lives in Afghanistan. So this

is a big deal, and we need to get it right.

Last December, President Obama told the American people that we would begin to withdraw our forces next July. The American people deserve to know if that plan is still in place and how we are going to get there.

Much has been made about General Stanley McChrystal's comments in Rolling Stone magazine about the Nation's civilian leadership; but frankly, Madam Speaker, this is much bigger than a few ill-considered comments. Indeed, there are other parts of the article that I find to be much more disturbing.

For instance, General McChrystal, himself, referred to the biggest military operation of the year so far, the offensive in Marja, as a "bleeding ulcer."

General McChrystal's chief of operations said that Afghanistan "is not going to look like a win, smell like a win or taste like a win. This is going to end in an argument."

Before the Marja offensive began, General McChrystal personally went to President Karzai's palace to get his consent on the operation. According to the article, "Karzai's staff, however, insisted that the President was sleeping off a cold, and could not be disturbed. After several hours of haggling, McChrystal finally enlisted the aid of Afghanistan's defense minister, who persuaded Karzai's people to wake the President from his nap."

A senior adviser to General McChrystal said, "If Americans pulled back and started paying attention to this war, it would become even less popular."

A senior military official said this, "There's a possibility we could ask for another surge of U.S. forces next summer if we see success here."

So the administration has determined General McChrystal's exit strategy, but it is the exit strategy for the rest of our brave soldiers that I am more worried about it.

Madam Speaker, I voted in 2001 to go to war in Afghanistan—to hunt down al Qaeda and to eliminate their threat, and I would cast that same vote today in a heartbeat. Though, what we are doing in Afghanistan today is far beyond that original authorization. We are engaged in extensive, expensive nation-building in Afghanistan.

Frankly, given the level of unemployment and the severe economic situation we face in the United States, I would rather do a little more nation-building here at home. We have borrowed \$350 billion—added to the debt—for the war in Afghanistan.

My Republican friends have refused to support extending unemployment benefits for our out-of-work Americans because they say we can't afford it. We are told we can't afford to help States' avoiding laying off teachers. We are told we can't afford to improve our roads and bridges or to help more families afford a college education. We are

told we can't afford to prevent foreclosures or to improve child nutrition. Now we are being asked to borrow another \$33 billion for nation-building in Afghanistan.

We don't have the money to help American working families, but when it comes to supporting a corrupt and incompetent Karzai government, we are supposed to be a bottomless pit.

Not so fast, Madam Speaker.

Last week a bipartisan group of us sent a letter to the Speaker, urging that the House not consider the supplemental before some serious questions about our policy in Afghanistan are addressed. Even if we move forward this week, I hope that we are given an opportunity to have a thorough debate on this issue and to get a clean vote on whether or not we should continue our funding at current levels. This is life and death. This is about sending our troops into harm's way. This is about whether or not we can afford to continue this policy.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to think long and hard this week about this critical issue.

#### U.S. ARMY SPECIALIST MATTHEW CATLETT FROM TEXAS

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. Madam Speaker, we honor a fallen American warrior today—a Texas soldier who gave his life serving this country, this country he loved.

U.S. Army Specialist Matthew Catlett was an infantryman with the 101st Airborne Screaming Eagles out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky—one of the most prestigious and decorated divisions in the entire United States Army.

The Screaming Eagle warriors landed in Normandy on D-day, and fought the Battle of the Bulge—the crucial turning points of World War II. The Screaming Eagles fought in the rice paddies of Vietnam. They've stood vigil in the deserts and towns of Iraq, and they're leading in Afghanistan the fight against the cowards in the desert—the Taliban.

I have been to Iraq and Afghanistan. Let me tell you something, Madam Speaker, that there is no better fighting machine in the world than the 101st. They were the first conventional unit to deploy in support of the American war on terrorism.

The 101st's "Easy Company" was portrayed in the series "Band of Brothers," and like those in the 101st who have so nobly held that line in their storied history, Matthew gave his life with four other fellow soldiers that day. It was the bloodiest day of the war so far this year.

Madam Speaker, this is a photograph of Matthew Catlett. He and his fellow soldiers were killed when their Humvee was hit by an improvised explosive device. That is called an IED. That is the

cowards' way, the Taliban's way, of fighting our troops.

Though, as Shakespeare said, "They shall be remembered—we few, we happy few, we band of brothers; for he today that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother."

□ 1650

Matthew Catlett, this young American hero, was only 23 years of age when he gave his life for this country. There is nothing as noble as the character of a man who so willingly dedicates his life for others. The American warriors serving our military understand that better than anybody. They embody what is meant to be an American, and Matthew Catlett was such a man.

He gave his life on June 7 on a battlefield in Afghanistan, fighting the terrorists who attacked America on September the 11th from that desolate, faraway land.

Matthew grew up in Cypress, Texas. He joined the United States Army right out of Cyprus Ridge High School, always knowing he wanted to be a military man, a soldier in the United States Army. He served a tour of duty in Iraq 3 years ago and had just been redeployed to Afghanistan in April of this year.

Our American warriors make great sacrifices in the heat and the dust and the deserts and the rough, rugged mountains of Afghanistan, where summer temperatures reach almost 120 degrees in the parched desert landscape. Our soldiers track down terrorists under the worst possible conditions, but no matter what hole these cowards try to hide in, our soldiers are able to hunt them down and to keep America safe.

We grieve the loss of this American warrior, but we celebrate and honor his life and his service. We are fortunate that a man like Matthew ever lived. Matthew stood for the best of those American ideals and values exemplified in our fighting infantrymen.

General Robert E. Lee once said, "Duty, then, is the sublimest word in our language. Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more; you should never wish to do less."

Matthew Catlett did his duty. He served this Nation as the fine soldier he always wanted to be. All of his fellow soldiers gave some, but Matthew Catlett gave all in defense of this Nation. He fought for liberty for a people he did not know in a land that he had never been. He was the American breed. He was a rare breed. So we honor our American warrior, and we honor the families left behind who grieve the loss of their loved one.

Specialist Matthew Catlett was buried with full military honors in Houston's Veterans Memorial Cemetery. His draped coffin was surrounded by flags carried by the old war horses of the Patriot Guard. Those are motorcycle riders, mainly Vietnam veterans, that surround fallen soldiers and their families during a time of grief.

So today I extend my prayers and condolences to Matthew's wife, Bryntnee; his two young daughters, Ryann and Stephanie; his parents; his relatives; and his friends. Their American warrior is home, his duty is done, and he is at peace.

George Orwell said, "We sleep safely in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm."

Our grateful Nation will always remember that Specialist Matthew Catlett stood always ready to do his duty for us.

And that's just the way it is.

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

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### TRIBUTE TO MANUTE BOL

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

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, this morning I rose to honor the passing of Ruby Archie, a great hero to all of those in southern Virginia; an educator, a civic leader, and a tireless advocate for fairness. Tonight, I rise for the passing of another individual, Manute Bol, who was laid to rest at the National Cathedral earlier today.

Many know Mr. Bol as the tallest player ever to have played in the NBA. But to those of us who followed issues in Sudan and in Africa, he is a giant for other reasons. He is a giant for his humanitarian work. He is a giant for having stood up for justice and fairness, particularly in Africa's longest-running civil war against the southern Sudanese, where so many Christians and traditionalists have been suffering for so many years.

Too many in our country fight to become famous as an end in itself. Here was an individual of such tremendous character that he used fame as a means to help those less fortunate.

After growing up in Sudan and having a chance to remove himself to the United States, where he could have lived a comfortable life of riches, he chose instead to give everything he had, his money, his time, and his energy, to protect those suffering back in his homeland.

Manute Bol became a hero, not just on the basketball court, but he became a hero to many evangelical Christians, to people of all faiths, to lost boys back in Sudan, and to people all over the world for being a shining example of someone who chose to always stand for justice, a word engraved in the dais behind me, and understanding that as feared as he was as a shot-blocker, he was even more fearless in his own life in standing up. And not just doing the