

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor all American veterans and especially those who served in the Korean War. Although it's too often mischaracterized as "the forgotten war," we will never forget the sacrifice of the 294,000 Floridians who put on the uniform and served our country in that conflict. This year we are marking the 60th anniversary of the Korean War which provides us another opportunity to say "thank you" to those who fought for the freedoms that we all enjoy.

Once again, our community in south Florida has come together to honor the veterans of the Korean War, and we are dedicating a new memorial in Palm Beach County to make sure these servicemembers and the war they fought are never forgotten. I would personally like to thank Joe Green, the president of our local chapter of the Korean War veterans, for his tireless dedication. Without his hard work, this memorial would not have become a reality; and we owe him a great deal of gratitude.

I personally wake up every day committed to serving those who served our country. Standing with our local veterans is a top priority, and today I am honored to ask the House to remember those who served in the Korean War on the occasion of its 60th anniversary.

SHOTS ACROSS THE BORDER

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the violence continues to spill across our southern border with Mexico. This week, seven shots from gunfire hit City Hall in downtown El Paso, Texas, in more cross-border violence. City Hall is over a half mile from the Rio Grande border with Mexico. The El Paso Police said stray bullets came from a drug cartel shoot-out in Juarez, Mexico.

In 1911, 99 years ago, stray bullets rained down on Americans from across the border when revolutionary Pancho Villa seized the city of Juarez, Mexico. Those stray bullets wounded Americans and damaged American properties. Bandits raided ranches and attacked border towns. There was lawlessness on the border frontier. History is repeating itself.

But in 1911, President Taft took swift action. He deployed the Cavalry from Fort Bliss to the border and to the areas along the border. They stopped the violence on American lives and property. But today, this administration is missing in action on the border. Meanwhile, the border war continues.

And that's just the way it is.

DANGERS ON THE ROAD

(Mr. BISHOP of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the coming Inde-

pendence Day holiday, I note with sadness that more American teenagers are killed in auto accidents over the July 4 weekend than any other time of the year. From 1995 to 2006, over 76,000 Americans between 15 and 20 years of age died in motor vehicle crashes, an average of 122 teenage deaths per week.

Parents can't always be in the passenger seat; but we, as a Nation, can help our teens drive safely through graduated driver's license programs which allow young drivers time to develop their skill and road awareness before they receive a full unrestricted license. Graduated driver's license programs save lives. California saw a 40 percent drop in passenger deaths and injuries resulting from crashes involving 16-year-old drivers in the first 3 years after adopting a graduated driver's license program, and other States have seen similar results.

I have introduced bipartisan legislation that would require States to introduce graduated driver's licenses informed by best practices from existing State programs, and I urge my colleagues to support it. I also urge all Americans, especially teenagers, to make an effort to drive safely this weekend.

CONGRATULATING DAVIE COUNTY'S WHIT MERRIFIELD ON GAME-WINNING RBI IN COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Whit Merrifield of Advance, North Carolina, who brought in the winning run in the 11th inning for the University of South Carolina to win the NCAA's College World Series over UCLA. Merrifield's game-winning hit capped a two-game sweep of UCLA for South Carolina and helped the Gamecocks capture their first-ever College World Series title. The team's coach called his historic game-winning hit "the biggest hit of his career," and I couldn't agree more.

Merrifield, who is the son of Bill and Kissy Merrifield, comes from a family of North Carolina athletes. He played for Davie County High School, was on the 2007 South Carolina/North Carolina All-Star Select Team, hit .400 his senior year at Davie High and .464 his junior year, and was a two-time all-State selection. And after his history-making RBI for the Gamecocks, his family, friends and the people of Davie County, North Carolina, are proud to call him their own.

OBAMA FAILS TO PROTECT AMERICAN JOBS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, an Associated Press poll found that only

36 percent of Americans approve of the President's handling of immigration, and only 42 percent approve of the way he is handling employment. This is no coincidence. Illegal immigration and unemployment are directly linked. There are 15 million unemployed Americans in the United States and 8 million illegal immigrants in the labor force. We could cut unemployment in half simply by reclaiming the jobs taken by illegal workers.

President Obama is on the wrong side of the American people when it comes to immigration. The President should support policies that help jobless citizens and legal immigrants find the jobs they need and deserve rather than not enforce immigration laws.

President Obama has failed to protect American jobs.

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LOUISIANA SEAFOOD IS SAFE

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

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of thousands of Louisiana families that have worked tirelessly in the seafood industry to deliver shrimp, oysters, crab and countless varieties of fish to restaurants and markets across this country.

While the news coverage of the BP oil spill is constantly reminding us that we are facing the largest environmental disaster in our Nation's history, it is imperative that we prevent another disaster from developing, that of the death of the Louisiana seafood industry.

I come to the floor today to let you know that Louisiana seafood on the market is safe to eat. There's daily testing, as never before, of all seafood catches, by local, State, Federal experts and scientists.

To aide in this oversight, Congressman BOYD of Florida and I sent a letter to the President requesting that a seafood safety task force be assembled. Their mission would be to further ensure the safety and wholesomeness of gulf-harvested commercial seafood products that are being presently gathered.

Some areas of our coastline are now closed to fishing. These closures are necessary and should underscore our steadfast commitment to consumer safety. But the world must know that approximately 40 percent of our oyster areas are open and harvesting, and 70 percent of our coast remains open to commercial and recreational fishing.

THE COSTS OF THE IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN WARS ARE TOO HIGH

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, according to both the Congressional Research

Service and the Center for Defense Information, the costs for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will reach over \$1 trillion by the end of this year. Today we are being asked to approve many billions more in a supplemental war appropriations bill.

There has never been anything conservative about these wars. This is world government at its worst. We have never had any wars in the past with so much waste, fraud, and abuse, and so many billions ripped from the taxpayers by Pentagon contractors. Fiscal conservatives should be the ones most horrified by all this spending.

The worst thing is the loss of young American lives, when Iraqi and Afghani troops should have been doing this fighting. And there's really no telling how much we will have to pay out in future medical and disability costs.

Defense contractors have so many retired admirals and generals to lobby for them that they keep requesting and getting more money. But these wars have gone on far too long already. We should bring our troops and, especially, our rip-off contractors home.

LONG-TERM BRIDGE PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to an important initiative of the Federal Highway Administration called the Long-Term Bridge Performance program. This program is proudly being led by Rutgers Center for Advance Infrastructure and Transportation in New Jersey.

The Long-Term Bridge Performance program is envisioned as a 20-year comprehensive examination of our nation's "workhorse" highway bridges.

The team at Rutgers has been inspecting, evaluating and monitoring a representative sample of seven bridges nationwide. These pilot studies are instrumental in gathering reliable information, such as how to maintain safe and satisfactory traffic flow.

The researchers will analyze and apply the data to facilitate improved life-cycle cost and predictive models, better understanding of bridge deterioration, and more effective maintenance and repair plans. Ultimately, this study will promote the safety, mobility, longevity and reliability of our Nation's highways.

As the highway system grows older, it is important to be sure that our Nation's bridges are safe and reliable.

I am proud that Rutgers Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation is leading the way in helping the country tackle its complicated transportation issue.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Rutgers University.

IS ANYBODY LISTENING?

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, what were world leaders saying last weekend about their troubled economies?

German Chancellor Merkel: Budget cuts are urgently needed.

Prime Minister David Cameron: Those countries that have big budget deficits like ours have to take action.

The Washington Post headline said: "President Obama urges G20 nations to spend; they pledge to halve deficits."

Just like England, the U.S. has a budget deficit that's equal to 11 percent of gross domestic product. While other nations are tightening their belts, Washington is borrowing Chinese money belts.

By year's end, the national debt will reach 62 percent of the GDP, the highest leveled since World War II. The more Washington spends, the more it borrows, the more interest rates, the more taxpayers must spend on interest payments to Chinese and foreign debt holders.

You know, the first rule when you're in a hole, especially a \$13 trillion hole, is stop digging. American families understand that just because there are checks in the checkbook, that doesn't mean there's money in the account. And that's the message from Main Street to Wall Street. Is anybody listening?

AMERICANS CAN'T AFFORD ANY MORE FAILED ECONOMIC POLICIES

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, instead of working together like President Reagan and Speaker O'Neill did in the early eighties to extend the solvency of Social Security, this week the Republican leader announced his plan to raise the Social Security retirement age and decrease benefits for older Americans to pay for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Pay for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan on the backs of seniors? You've got to be kidding me.

This is the same Republican Party when, in the majority under President Bush, refused to pay for the two wars, and gave tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans, doubling our national debt, and laying the groundwork for the worst financial crisis in a generation.

And some Republicans are still trying to privatize Social Security. Do I need to remind people that personal retirement funds have been wiped out under failed Republican economics?

The other side refuses to work together to create additional jobs and to help those who have lost their jobs.

Despite Republican foot dragging and nay-saying, this year we're on track to create more jobs than were created during the entire 8 years under President Bush.

Missourians simply cannot afford more failed economic policies.

STOP PLAYING SPY GAMES WITH WESTERN LANDS

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

Mr. REHBERG. Secret documents, clandestine meetings, code words, and secret identities. Despite all of these elements of a dime store spy novel, this isn't fiction. It's the United States Department of the Interior.

Almost 4 months ago a secret memo was discovered. Across the top, where you might see "top secret," it said "not for release" instead. It contained secret plans to designate millions of acres across the West as national monuments. My colleagues and I demanded the missing pages, and after nearly 4 months, mum is the word.

Meanwhile, new emails hint at a conspiracy that would be at home in an Ian Fleming novel: meetings with United States Senators to discuss projects, treasured landscapes, contingency plans, complete with maps, fit for a Pentagon war room.

Americans like spy novels, but there's no place for covert policy-making in America. The Department of the Interior should stop playing spy games with Western lands.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I think that the President was right yesterday when he called our friends on the other side of the aisle out of touch.

In my hometown of Amsterdam, New York, there are neighbors who are hurting. In some instances, this recession has eliminated nearly half of their retirement savings. Others have lost their homes.

Despite this downturn and Wall Street's recklessness, Republicans still want to privatize Social Security. They want to create a casino economy and play Russian roulette with our hard-earned retirement savings.

Most of the seniors in Amsterdam have worked hard and have played by the rules their entire lives. Social Security, which they have paid into their entire working life, is their crucial safety net and financial security. Let's not gamble it away to appease Republicans, Wall Street, and big banks.

Just a few days ago, the leader of the other side suggested slashing Social Security benefits and using those funds and savings to pay for the war in Iraq and the war in Afghanistan. Enough is enough.

Democrats in Congress are standing up for seniors and fighting to protect Social Security, to create jobs here at home and to support small business as the engine of job growth.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to fight for seniors because they are deserving of the respect that they have earned.