

practice, which is simply a way to make sure voters are who they say they are, is used in about 100 other countries. Mexico, for example, has cracked down on voter fraud and is strict about requiring photo identification to vote. If Democrats have their way, it will be easier for Mexicans to vote in America than in their own country.

It speaks volumes about Democratic unpopularity that they have to look to criminals and illegal aliens to try to shore up their voting base.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 13, 2010.

Mr. JOHN FUND,
The Wall Street Journal,
New York, NY.

DEAR MR. FUND: I was puzzled during the last couple of weeks to be asked why I was supporting something called "universal voter registration," which supposedly would allow all sorts of undesirable people to register to vote. I was puzzled because I have had absolutely no involvement in such a proposal.

I asked my staff to check the source of the rumor, and we discovered that it is you. Apparently last fall, you invented a story that Senator SCHUMER and I planned to introduce such legislation. I've since learned that Senator SCHUMER is working on legislation regarding voting, but I am told that it does not remotely resemble your version of it. But more importantly to me is that I have had no involvement with this whatsoever, with Senator SCHUMER or anybody else.

You simply made this up with regard to me. I must tell you that I was not surprised, because this sort of fictionalized attack on political opponents has sadly become characteristic of many on the right. And once you lied about me in this regard, several of your right-wing colleagues in the media, including Rush Limbaugh, Glenn Beck and the Washington Times, repeated it.

I should note that, again not surprisingly, you made no effort to check with me or anybody who works with me to find out if what you said was true. You made your assertion with no factual basis and without any effort to verify it. To me, that qualifies as a lie.

So I now write not simply to tell you that you are entirely wrong in your assertion about me but, in the absence of your being able to show any basis on which you made such a statement, to ask that you acknowledge that fact.

BARNEY FRANK.

WE THE PEOPLE, BY CALEB MATHENA

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

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, now more than ever, young people across this country understand the gravity of the issues that we face today as a Nation. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take some time this evening to share a poem that was written by a ninth grade student in Washington State. This ninth grade student just happens to be my grandson. His name is Caleb Mathena, and he has written a poem. He sent me the poem and said, Papa, what do you think about this? I didn't know that he was writing this poem, but I was pleased to get it; and I am pleased to share it with those who are listening. It's called "We the People."

"We the people of freedom and choice, we elected our main voice,

hired to keep our country strong, our rights secure and list of options long. Why is it then that this has happened? Why have they disregarded us in this matter? Thinking they know what's best or what we need, speeding through without the heed of what we choose, of what we demand, forgetting they are merely hired hands, easily removed, easily replaced.

"Perhaps that is what's best for these United States, knowing not humility, only selfish ideals. Now reacting blindly, regardless of how others feel. Secretly dealing, concealed by closed doors. Instead of candidly conveying, betraying what was promised before. What has it come to? Has it come to this? Where we the people are just dismissed?"

□ 1730

As for me, I know that I won't be silent, won't just stand by. I will not watch as my country, our country is taken. I cannot nor will not sit back. I will not forsake it.

If we all stand up and state our thoughts, if we have the courage to secure our rights that our Founders painstakingly sought, if we wisely decide who would honestly be truly honest and unselfish leaders for our great country, surely then the land in which we live will remain free, free for my children's children to admire and see and say, "If my forefathers fought obtaining liberty for me, then I can surely do likewise to the utmost degree."

Mr. Speaker, this young man speaks words far beyond his 15 years on this Earth. He talks about liberty and freedom. This is the people's House, and sometimes we forget who we represent. Sometimes we forget who we work for. We work for the people of these United States. We must listen to these words and the words of our constituents; listen to the words of Caleb Mathena, a 15-year-old student, and all the people and citizens across this country; listen to the words of our constituents in our districts across the country and respect their wishes to preserve and protect the freedom that has been so bravely fought for by so many.

HONORING A LEGEND—BEN SPIES

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, here on the floor of the House of the United States House of Representatives, tribute must be paid to the incredible achievement of a constituent of the First District of Texas, from Longview—he's already a legend—Ben Spies. Ben won the 2009 FIM Superbike World Championship.

This brave and talented Texan started racing as an 8-year-old child with the Central Motorcycle Roadracing Association and, for good reason, has earned himself the nickname "Texas Terror." Ben is the second youngest rider to win the American Motorcyclist

Association Superbike Championship, and the fourth youngest rider with 20 AMA Superbike wins. He holds the third most all-time AMA Superbike wins, and boasts the longest AMA Superbike winning streak.

After coming off his third straight AMA Superbike Championship, Ben successfully beat the expected winner, Noriyuki Haga, at the 2009 FIM Superbike World Championship by six points with 11 poles in the 14 round series for a total of 28 races. The discipline, dedication and success that Ben has displayed to the sport of motocross racing over the past 16 years has truly set him apart as a true champion.

Ben Spies is to be congratulated upon his winning the 2009 FIM Superbike World Championship. He has no doubt blazed a trail for future successes with his steady hand, nerves of steel, and balance like nowhere found here in the House of Representatives.

May God bless and protect an American legend, Ben Spies.

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

(Mr. BROWN of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE FOUR CHAPLAINS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a sacred memory in our Nation's history. It was 67 years ago today when a terrible event occurred and a brilliant event occurred. It was 67 years ago, February 3, 1943. We now call this memory the Four Chaplains Day and honor this day in our Nation's memory because of the valor and because of the strength that was exhibited by four members of our armed services, four chaplains.

It was the *U.S.A.T. Dorchester*. The ship was a coastal liner converted to a U.S. Army troop transport for World War II, and it was with more than 900 men on board. It was a freezing night when the *Dorchester*, one of three ships in a convoy, was torpedoed. It was freezing, and it was about 1:00 in the morning when a terrifying shot was fired by a Nazi submarine 100 miles off the frigid coast of Greenland, and the ship quickly began to sink in the cold, cold waters. Many Americans were killed by the explosion. Others were trapped below deck.

As everyone started to panic, the four chaplains on board remained calm. They quickly passed out life vests to the young troops on board. They helped the wounded. They prayed with the

troops that were on board. But then, tragically, when all the life vests had been distributed, there were more men than life vests, and the four chaplains, without skipping a beat, removed their own life vests that they had on their bodies and they handed them to the young troops who had none.

And as the ship went down, the four chaplains linked arms. And witnesses said they saw the chaplains, as young soldiers, fighting against the cold, swimming in the water. They saw the four chaplains with linked arms who embraced each other in a circle in the waters. They prayed for the troops who lost their lives and for those who would survive, and they prayed until the chaplains were no more.

The four chaplains were a Catholic, two Protestants, and a Jewish rabbi. Their names were Father John Washington, Catholic; Reverend Clark Poling, Dutch Reformed; Rabbi Alexander Goode, Jewish; Reverend George Fox, a Methodist. These four chaplains gave more than their spiritual guidance to the troops. They gave their lives on February 3, 1943.

It was a decade later that President Dwight Eisenhower remarked, he said, and I quote: And we remember that only a decade ago aboard the transport *Dorchester*, four chaplains of four faiths, together, willingly sacrificed their lives so that four other Americans might live. In the three centuries that separate the Pilgrims of the *Mayflower* from the chaplains of the *Dorchester*, America's freedom, her courage, her strength, and her progress have had their foundation in faith.

Eisenhower concluded: Today, as then, there is need for positive acts of renewed recognition that faith is our surest strength, our greatest resource. And in 1960, Mr. Speaker, Congress created a special Congressional Medal of Valor, never to be repeated again, and gave it to the next of kin of the immortal four chaplains. The Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart were awarded posthumously in 1944.

May the greatest example of this greatest love fulfilling scripture that says, greater love hath no man than this, but that he lay down his life for his friend, may this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, this Congress, and the American people never forget the sacrifice of the four great chaplains. And may God forever bless and extend to them his peace for their memory.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to enter and extend their remarks in the RECORD on this topic.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. I appreciate the opportunity to anchor this Special Order hour for the Congressional Black Caucus, the CBC. Currently, the CBC is chaired by the Honorable BARBARA LEE from the Ninth Congressional District of California. My name is Representative MARCIA L. FUDGE, and I represent the 11th Congressional District of Ohio.

CBC members are advocates for human rights and equality, nationally and internationally. Our members have played a significant role as local and regional activists, and continue to work diligently to be the conscience of the Congress.

As Members of Congress, CBC members also promote legislation to aid neglected citizens throughout the world. We understand that the United States, as a bellwether, has the ability to positively impact our neighbors abroad. This is why tonight we turn our attention to the grave situation in Haiti after last month's devastating earthquake.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to my colleague and friend from the great State of New York, Representative CLARKE.

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, let me also thank Congresswoman FUDGE for her outstanding work in managing the time of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Special Orders, and for her expertise and talent that she lends to all of the subject matter.

This particular Special Order on aid to Haiti is of great relevance to me. As we all know, on January 12, 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake rocked the Caribbean nation of Haiti, leaving most of the nation in utter devastation. Critical infrastructure was destroyed, and the death toll continues to rise as I speak, with reports estimating over 150,000 people perished.

As one of my local council members, Mr. Jumaane Williams, stated, or phrased it, in Brooklyn, New York, we were victim to a 7.0 emotional aftershock as members of our vibrant Haitian American community come to grips with the utter death, destruction, and devastation faced in their homeland. As a Brooklyn native whose roots are firmly planted in my Caribbean heritage, this tragedy has hit home in more ways than I could ever imagine. New York is home to the second largest population of Haitian immigrants in the United States, most of whom reside in my district.

I would like to take an opportunity to just recognize the Congressional Black Caucus for the leadership that they've taken in Congress in ensuring that we remain focused and committed to assist Haiti and to tend to the injured, orphaned, hungry, and dispossessed as Haiti continues with its recovery efforts.

I would like to thank Chairwoman BARBARA LEE of the Congressional Black Caucus for her longtime leadership and commitment to fighting on

behalf of Haiti. I also want to applaud her hard work in bringing the resolution to the floor that we just passed expressing condolences to and solidarity with the people of Haiti in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake of January 12, 2010.

I'd also like to thank Chairman CHARLES RANGEL and Majority Whip JIM CLYBURN for working quickly to get H.R. 4462 passed in the House. This legislation would allow all individuals who choose to donate during this time of crisis in Haiti to claim an itemized charitable deduction on this year's—2009, excuse me—tax return.

As Haiti continues to recover, my heart goes out to my Haitian sisters and brothers as they endure this tragedy. I also express my deep sympathy and support for their families.

Through all of the devastation, all of the trauma, the 11th Congressional District of New York, like the rest of this Nation and the global community, has demonstrated a unity of purpose in mobilizing goods, services, and volunteers to help their families and relations in Haiti.

While I will continue to applaud the humanitarian efforts for Haiti, it is important that we do not allow compassion fatigue to set in.

□ 1745

We must continue to uphold our commitment to helping our neighbors in the Caribbean. As a representative with the second-largest population of first- and second-generation Haitian immigrants located in my district, my office has been inundated and overwhelmed with calls from concerned constituents worried about their loved ones and their homeland. While my office has been vigorously working with the State Department to meet the needs of our constituents, there are many concerns that still need to be addressed.

For many Haitian Americans, a major issue is family reunification. Most of their family members have lost everything, many are sick, injured, and living on the streets; babies and the elderly are vulnerable to disease; a majority of them are traumatized by their experiences.

And since my constituents are blessed to live in the United States—many of them have obtained their citizenship—they have the capacity to take care of their family members, they have the wherewithal to console, comfort, and nurse their families back to health and support their material needs.

The only thing that impedes this reunification is that their family members are not American citizens and/or legal permanent residents and do not rank highly on the immigration priority list.

I would encourage the administration to address this issue and work to reunite family members who are suffering from this devastation.