

Pennsylvania. This Saturday the families of the hikers will gather at the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia to hold vigil for Josh, Shane, and Sarah.

I am deeply taken by the steadfast determination and spirit of the families as they advocate for their children's health, safety, and release. The hikers have been detained far too long, and Iran should demonstrate compassion and release them back to their families here in the United States.

I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging and sympathizing with these three young Americans and their families and calling on the Government of Iran to release them now.

HONORING CESAR ALVAREZ, RECIPIENT OF THE NATIONAL SCOPUS AWARD

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cesar Alvarez, a world-class lawyer and a pillar of our south Florida community.

This fall, the American Friends of The Hebrew University is bestowing upon Cesar its highest honor, the National Scopus Award. Named for the mountain upon which the university is built, the Scopus Award honors those who are true humanitarians.

Cesar has always shown impeccable leadership in both his professional and charitable endeavors, and his reputation for excellence is widely known. Through his law firm and so many charitable organizations, Cesar has had a significant and positive impact upon south Florida. For many years, Cesar has worked to forge alliances between our local Jewish and Cuban American communities. So it's particularly befitting that these two communities have come together to honor him.

Cesar, congratulations on this most recent of many recognitions. Your hard work and leadership are truly worth honoring and emulating.

WATER SUPPLY CHALLENGES IN THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

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

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, as we return to our districts with the August recess, I want to call attention to the ongoing water supply challenges facing the San Joaquin Valley that I represent.

This year, we pushed the administration to use all the flexibility and power within the law to increase pumping to move water to our valley. We pushed to find additional water supplies that were not previously available at contract rates, and we were able to increase the water allocation for farmers in our valley significantly. We also pushed to bring critical water infra-

structure projects, like the Intertie that we will have groundbreaking next month.

Our efforts have produced more than four times the amount of water we received last year, but our fight for water, for valley jobs, and for our economy is far from over. Unemployment is still unacceptable. This administration and Congress must continue to step up its support for the San Joaquin Valley, as farmers and farm communities need a sustainable water supply to grow the country's fresh fruits and vegetables, our Nation's food supply.

That is why it is more important than ever in the next water year for Federal and State agency leaders to use every tool in their water toolbox to ensure that water flows. That means we must work together with our local water agencies.

□ 1010

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED IN 2065 YEARS?

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, everybody outside of Washington, DC, understands government spending is out of control.

For those inside the Beltway who don't get it, the Congressional Budget Office put out a report that explains it loud and clear. The report says, "Deficits will cause debt to rise to unsupportable levels."

That's right, unsupportable levels. Every family struggling right now that tries to make ends meet understands that you can't spend more than you make.

In 55 B.C. the Roman statesman and philosopher Cicero supposedly warned Rome before it crashed and burned: "The budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, and the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed, lest Rome become bankrupt. People must again learn to work, instead of living on public assistance."

So what have we learned in 2065 years since Cicero first said these words? Apparently government-gone-wild big spenders haven't learned a thing.

And that's just the way it is.

9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION

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

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, today we consider the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.

In my district, John Sferazo is counting on us to pass this bill. John was at Ground Zero clearing rubble and removing debris. Today his breathing is labored and his health is precarious.

There are tens of thousands of John Sferazos in this country: 13,000 who are ill; 53,000 whose health is being monitored; 71,000 who were exposed to poisonous toxins. This bill ensures a network of health care providers and monitoring.

Now some are saying, let's wait, let's debate more let's slow down. When the towers fell, John Sferazo did not say let's wait, let's debate, let's slow down. The responders put aside their lives and health for us, and we should put aside our politics for them.

We are bringing this bill to the floor under the same expedited consideration that we use to name post offices. Certainly John Sferazo and tens of thousands of 9/11 responders are worth at least as much expeditious consideration as we use to name post offices.

MEDIA SHOULD GIVE FACTS ON IMMIGRATION LAW

(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. Madam Speaker, yesterday a Federal judge sided with the Obama administration against Arizona's immigration enforcement law.

The ruling will be seen by Arizonans and the vast majority of Americans who support the law as just another example of this administration's failure to deal with illegal immigration and border security.

Like the administration, the national media has shown a clear bias against the Arizona law. Network evening news coverage has been slanted against the Arizona law by a margin of 10-1, according to an analysis by the Media Research Center. Only one in six stories mentioned public opinion polls showing that Americans support the law.

The national media should give Americans the facts about Arizona's immigration enforcement law, not provide cover for the administration's failure to secure the border.

9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION

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

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support for the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, which we will be considering later this morning. Consideration of this legislation is long overdue. Thousands of brave Americans are suffering from debilitating illnesses after being exposed to harmful toxins released by the debris of the World Trade Center.

The bill before us provides necessary medical monitoring and treatment to World Trade Center first responders, and those who worked or lived in downtown Manhattan on September 11. It also reopens the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund to compensate those affected.

This legislation will help thousands of New Yorkers, courageous firefighters, police officers, EMTs and clean-up workers, as well as the thousands of selfless individuals who rushed from every State to lend a hand in the rescue recovery and cleanup efforts at Ground Zero.

Many of them are my constituents, like John Feal, who founded the FealGoodFoundation, which has achieved so much since September 11 to raise awareness and help those who answered the Nation's call upon learning of the attacks on lower Manhattan.

It is imperative that we affirm our commitment to first responders and survivors by ensuring they have access to treatment and care. We should pass this bill as a solemn measure of our indebtedness and to honor these most deserving patriots who sacrificed their health and safety for their fellow Americans.

I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

MEDMAL ACT OF 2010

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

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, last month, along with fellow physician Congressman PHIL GINGREY of Georgia, I introduced the MedMal Act of 2010, legislation aimed at enacting a meaningful medical liability reform.

Unlike ObamaCare, this legislation will increase access and lower health care costs for patients, physicians and our government by reducing needless costs incurred because of defensive medicine. Furthermore, this reform will strengthen the doctor-patient relationship by encouraging collaboration between parties when a medical incident occurs.

Repealing ObamaCare and replacing it with patient-centered reforms continues to be our primary goal, a goal that our constituents sent us here to achieve.

Thus we remain committed to passing comprehensive medical liability reform as part of the solution. With a savings of at least \$200 billion annually in defensive medicine costs, there is no reason not to act immediately.

WHAT MEDICINE SHOULD DO WHEN IT CAN'T SAVE YOU

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, the current article of the New Yorker magazine has a thoughtful article from Atul Gawande, "What medicine should do when it can't save your life." It focuses on those critical areas of end of life. It deals with fascinating studies that show people who deal, who are in hospice care, rather than the most aggressive medical interventions, actually, in many cases, live as long or in some cases even longer.

But, more important, Madam Speaker, is the notion of control for these patients. The people who have substantive discussions with their doctor about end-of-life preferences were more likely to die at peace and in control of their situation and to spare their families anguish.

This is exactly why I have introduced Personalize Your Care Act, H.R. 5795, to make sure that patients' wishes are observed, that the government helps promote that conversation, and that we allow people to live their lives the way they want to.

KEEP AVONDALE SHIPYARD OPEN

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, Northrop Grumman recently announced that they would consolidate and close Avondale Shipyard by 2013. In the midst of economic downturn, the gulf oil spill, the drilling moratorium, layoffs from the NASA shuttle program, the decision to close Avondale will very well have a devastating effect on the State of Louisiana.

We must find a solution to help those 5,000 employees that would be affected. Article I, section 9 of the Constitution states that "no preference shall be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the ports of one State over those of another."

If Avondale were making cruise ships, then this wouldn't be a Federal jurisdiction. However, as Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding has built over 70 percent of the Navy's fleet, I believe this is the time to exercise some intervention into this consolidation process. We must assist the State in finding alternative issues for Avondale Shipyard in Louisiana.

STAND UP TO WALL STREET

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

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, today, 40 of my colleagues are joining me to call on the Wall Street banks that are continuing to totally disrespect the American taxpayer to do the right thing.

In a report issued last week, compensation master Kenneth Feinberg identified 17 banks which paid out questionable bonuses, questionable in the sense that it was multimillion dollar payments for no good valuable work. These are banks that did this after accepting taxpayer assistance. To make matters worse, six of those 17 firms have yet to pay back the taxpayer money that was the lifeline to keep them going.

When the American public threw the lifeline, it was not for those banks and the benefit of the bankers. It was to stabilize the financial system and revive Main Street.

Why is it that when it comes to compensation on Wall Street, too much is never enough? Today, my colleagues are calling on these banks to put paying back the taxpayer ahead of paying off their executives.

□ 1020

OPPOSE THE CLEAR ACT

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, instead of directly addressing the gulf oil spill tragedy, Congress is voting this week on legislation, the CLEAR Act, that is stuffed full of unrelated items, legislation that will kill American jobs and raise energy prices.

Simply put, Democrats are using the oil spill as an excuse to raise taxes and increase spending. The bill imposes a new \$22 billion energy tax and has over \$30 billion of new unrelated mandatory spending. What the Democrats are doing, Madam Speaker, is rushing ahead of the facts and writing laws before investigations into the spill are finished.

Reforms are needed to make American offshore drilling the safest in the world, but that doesn't require tax increases or billions of dollars of unrelated spending and inflicting greater economic pain and lost jobs on Americans.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the CLEAR Act.

HAMOT MEDICAL CENTER

(Mrs. DAHLKEMPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the exemplary health care institution in my district, Hamot Medical Center in Erie, Pennsylvania.

For more than 125 years, western Pennsylvanians have taken advantage of the excellent quality of care at Hamot Medical Center. This week, Hamot Medical Center is being recognized yet again for their high standards of quality and excellent patient care. U.S. News & World Report announced that Hamot Medical Center has been ranked among the top medical facilities in the Nation in the specialty of pulmonary medicine, which treats diseases of the lungs and respiratory tract. U.S. News & World Report's Best Hospitals 2010-11 includes rankings of 152 medical centers nationwide on tough standards of care and the number of patients served, among other factors.

I want to congratulate Hamot Medical Center for its commitment to its patients and to our community. Hamot is truly an asset to my district.