

breaks to be temporarily extended. Instead of using the issue to score political points, let's come together and find a way to extend these tax breaks for 2 years and revisit the issue when the economy is on better footing. It is the least we can do to provide economic stability in an otherwise unstable time. We need to work for America for a change, not for party labels. You can't tell me that all Republicans are right and all Democrats are wrong. We need to come together as Americans and stabilize our economy for the long-term benefit of our country as a whole.

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

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

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

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

TRAGEDY IN SAN BRUNO, CALIFORNIA

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday September 9, 2010, at a few minutes before 6:30, life changed forever in San Bruno, California. The first view from my district office led one of my staffers to believe a plane had crashed in the hills. After all, San Francisco International is in my district and airline jets fly over nearby San Francisco International Airport routinely passing over San Bruno every day.

The flames shot up over 100 feet in the air. But after 15 minutes, the flames didn't subside. It was as if a giant torch had been placed on what is normally a verdant hillside.

This was a distant view of the PG&E natural gas pipeline explosion. Closer up, the scene was horrific. Four confirmed dead. Scores of people hospitalized with second- and third-degree burns, some over 50 percent of their bodies. And 6 days after this tragedy, three people are still missing. Thirty-seven homes were completely destroyed—nothing but concrete pads left, or a weeping chimney, indicating what once had been. Twelve homes were standing shells and another 10 were damaged.

We are at day six. The smoke has cleared. The ash has settled. And one thing is really very clear: the community of San Bruno rose together. Mayor Jim Ruane, City Manager Connie Jackson, Police Chief Neil Telford and Fire Chief Dennis Haag all showed extraordinary leadership and courage in bring-

ing this community together and securing the flames within a box so that more homes were not destroyed and more lives destroyed as a result.

But on other fronts, questions remain—in fact they are multiplying—about the causes of this immense pain and suffering that has been visited upon San Bruno and surrounding areas. But no question—I repeat no question—has been more penetrating to me than asked by Sue Bullis a day after the explosion. I walked into the center that was set up to establish relief and support for the families and sitting at a table by herself looking distant was this woman. She looked at me and said she couldn't locate her mother-in-law, she couldn't locate her husband, she couldn't locate her son. Six days later, they still have not been found.

The explosion was so hot that glass windshields on cars melted. Bones have been found. The blast epicenter functioned as a crematorium. And through it all, hour after hour, Sue Bullis, who lived at 1690 Claremont, is hoping and praying for an answer. She lost her house. All her documents. She has nothing but hope. And now that hope will have to be converted to inner strength if she is to go on.

I will help Sue get her documents, her insurance payments from PG&E, and I will try to ease her pain just as thousands of others are helping to ease the pain caused by this explosion. But nothing is going to relieve the pain that she has coping with the loss of three of her family members.

On Friday, we will bury Jacqueline and Janessa Grieg. Ironically, Jacqueline Grieg worked at the California Public Utilities Commission in the gas pipeline area. Her daughter Janessa was an eighth grader at St. Cecilia School in San Francisco. She was also the student body president of that grammar school. On Saturday, we will bury Jessica Morales, the fiancée of a young man who is now in intensive care with 50 percent of his body burned. Jessica was just coming into her own, finding her way, finding work and employment and opportunities at school. We have just found out that Elizabeth Torres, an 81-year-old mother who has two family members still in the burn unit, has passed away, and she too will be remembered as well.

People are anxious to return to their homes, to retrieve those belongings that remain. Some may want to rebuild. A few may not. We face months and months of hard work, but at this moment, this very moment, I bow my head in silence for the family of Sue Bullis, Jacqueline Grieg, Janessa Grieg, Jessica Morales, and Elizabeth Torres.

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

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

SHATAVIA ANDERSON—MURDER VICTIM

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. In early August, August 7 to be exact, in Houston, Texas, right after the sun had gone down, about 9 o'clock p.m. on a hot summer night, a young girl was walking home. Shatavia Anderson. She went by Ta. And she was walking down the street not far from where she lived in a very modest community; 14-year-old, happy, spirited child.

She was confronted by two individuals who ambushed her, who taunted her, who robbed her, and as she tried to get away, one of them shot her in the back and murdered her not far from where she lived. This is who Ta was. This is her in the pink. She is next to her mother, Keisha Lambert. She's a real person, Mr. Speaker, a real victim of criminal conduct, died in the early teenage years. Ta's father, Leroy Anderson, said that his beautiful daughter loved life. And you can tell by looking at her that she is a happy, spirited child.

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It could have been any of our children.

Over the years in my career as a judge in the courthouse in Houston, Texas—22 to be exact—I've seen a lot of criminal cases, tried a lot, came across many victims, but this case has bothered me a great deal. I don't know the reason, maybe it's because I have four children—three of them are girls—eight grandkids—five of them are girls, but this one has bothered me a lot just by looking at who this young lady was. Ambushed by two individuals that were caught by the Houston Police Department, Melvin Alvarado, he was the cowardly shooter who shot her in the back. It is not his first experience with the criminal justice system in business Texas. He likes to drink and drive. It turns out, of course, like some others, he was illegally in the United States. He had been deported twice before to his native country of El Salvador, but that didn't make any difference to him. He came back to Houston and committed this crime and robbed this precious child of not only some money, but he stole her life when he came back and shot her in the back not far from where she lived.

There was another individual, Jonathan Lopez-Torres, the getaway driver of the car as they snuck away in the darkness of the night after murdering this beautiful child; he's from Honduras, although he was legally in the United States. He had been arrested for auto theft. The Houston Police Department said when these criminals were arrested they showed no remorse, no sadness, almost arrogant in the crime that they committed here in the United States. Melvin Alvarado confessed to this crime and told the police what he had done.

Joe Lambert, the uncle of Ta, said this about this crime: "Illegals are a big problem in Houston. It is really senseless what happened to my niece, and I don't like it. They are starting to come over here and they do whatever they want to do. What is happening is they are given the green light and saying to the rest of us, hey, you can do whatever you want." Yes, that's what these two arrogant criminals did, but they can do whatever they want. They wanted a little property from this young lady, they shot her because she tried to get away. These are real people, real children, real victims of crime.

The duty of government, Mr. Speaker, is to protect the public. That's why we have government, to protect us. The national government has failed totally in protecting people in the United States from those criminals who come over here to commit crime. We give a wink and a nod to border security, but it doesn't happen. They cross back and forth, they get caught, they get sent back home, they come over again because the border is not secure, Mr. Speaker. It's time for the Federal Government to secure the border so more children don't get murdered by those illegals who come over here for the purpose of committing crime. I'm certainly not talking about all people who come here illegally, but we are talking about one child that was murdered by one.

The answer is not, of course, amnesty—as some advocate in this House who know nothing about the real world—the answer is securing the border by putting the National Guard on the border immediately to prevent people from crossing, and make sure that when we deport those people, they don't come back to the United States.

These individuals, Alvarado, stole the most precious thing we have, that is a human life. No parent wants to lose their child before its time, and the worst thing that can happen is for us to see a child die. And when this young lady was murdered by these criminals, they stole everything she was and everything she will be, and that ought not to be. That should hopefully make us, as a body, do something about cross-border crime. The time is now. And that's just the way it is.

AMERICA NEEDS ECONOMIC RECOVERY

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Let me just say, before I start my 5-minute Special Order, Mr. Speaker, that I concur with what my colleague from Texas (Mr. POE) just said. There are innumerable crimes that are being committed by people who are illegal aliens. And he is absolutely correct, we've got to secure that border, and we need to do whatever is necessary. The President of the

United States has the responsibility to protect that border, and he needs to get on with it.

States like Arizona and other States are very concerned about what is going on. There is a sign 80 miles north of the Mexican border in Arizona that says don't go south of here because it's not safe. That's unconscionable. The American people should not have to worry when they are in their own country about terrorists or criminals coming across the border from another country to kill them. So I would just like to say to Mr. POE that I really appreciate your comments.

Let me just say in my Special Order, there was a book called "A Tale of Two Cities" by Charles Dickens that said "It was the best of times and it was the worst of times." I heard some of my colleagues on the other side saying earlier tonight that we really ought to do something about extending the tax cuts that are in place that were put there during the Bush administration. We really need to do that. If you're one of the 10 percent that are unemployed or one of the 15 or 16 percent that are unemployed or unemployable right now, you realize how really bad it is.

We live in the greatest country on the face of the Earth in the history of the Earth, so from that standpoint it is the best of times. But for those who are out of work and struggling right now, it is the worst of times. I had town meetings this past week, and I can't tell you how many people told me how bad it was and how soon they were going to lose their jobs, or their husbands or wives had lost their jobs and they're suffering, so what we need to do is take the steps necessary to bring about economic recovery.

As I've said many times on this floor, when Ronald Reagan took office in the early eighties, he came in, and instead of raising taxes he cut taxes and we had 20 years of prosperity. We had 12 percent unemployment and 14 percent inflation. And what happened was he came in, and when they said he had to raise taxes in order to get the economy moving, he did just the opposite and the economy took off. That's what we ought to be doing today.

If I could talk to the President—and I know I can't because I'm here on the floor—I would say, Mr. President, look at history. Look at John F. Kennedy, a great Democrat President, and look at Ronald Reagan—who I think was the greatest Republican President in our lifetime—and see what they did to bring about economic recovery, and that is, cut taxes, cut government spending, move the country in the right direction, even if it's just for a couple of years that we have the tax cuts in place. But right now is the wrong time to be increasing taxes or letting the Bush tax cuts expire.

And I don't want to be political, but I think I have to say to my colleagues who may be paying attention in their offices right now, there will be a price to be paid in about 6 weeks for those

who don't heed the message that is coming from the American people. They want economic recovery, and they understand what needs to be done. And they're going to hold those of us who don't listen to them accountable on November 2.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING UNITED STATES ARMY CAPTAIN DALE A. GOETZ

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

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, United States Army Captain Dale A. Goetz, an Air Force veteran with ties to Colorado, joined the Army's chaplaincy out of a strong desire to help others.

Captain Dale Goetz and his wife Christy both graduated from Maranatha Baptist Bible College in 1995. He was a former pastor of First Baptist Church in White, South Dakota before being stationed at military bases throughout the world.

Earlier this year, Captain Goetz was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado, and the family moved to Colorado Springs in January of 2010. This allowed his wife Christy and their sons Landon, Caleb and Joel to be closer to his mother, Hope Goetz, an Elbert County commissioner.

Captain Goetz and his family joined High Country Baptist Church in Colorado Springs the day before he deployed to Afghanistan. Captain Goetz, who had previously served in Iraq, cared about the soldiers he worked with as an Army chaplain, and according to his pastor at High Country Baptist Church in Colorado Springs, his goal as a chaplain was not to be a social worker but to be a spiritual guide. Captain Goetz is described as having "a calm demeanor that helped soldiers find strength in the darkest of times," according to Reverend Stuart Schwenke, a fellow pastor he had gone through ministerial training with.

On August 30, 2010, Captain Goetz was on a mission in Arghandab River Valley, Afghanistan when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device which detonated near their military vehicle.

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Captain Goetz was gravely wounded and died of injuries sustained during the attack. Four of his fellow soldiers from Fort Carson, Colorado, were also killed in action as a result of the incident.

Captain Dale A. Goetz is a shining example of the United States Army's service and sacrifice. As a former member of the United States Army and a retired Marine Corps combat veteran, my deepest sympathies go out to his mother, Hope Goetz, an Elbert County