

THE STIMULUS IS WORKING

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, if Americans are believing that the stimulus isn't working, then the media must be telling them that. So I am kind of curious about the previous argument.

The facts are that the stimulus in my district in California is in fact working, and without it, there would be even more layoffs. It's not that this whole thing started in January of 2009. The Great Recession started the previous 2 years, so we've been trying to catch up.

The stimulus is actually working. Thousands of teachers are working in California as a result of the stimulus. Thousands of jobs have been created. And in my own district, schools are being repaired and major transportation projects are going forward.

So I know in my district that the stimulus is working regardless of what the media may be saying. It is working. Without it, there would be even greater layoffs.

□ 2100

FRITZ CUBIN

(Mrs. LUMMIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of my friend, Dr. Frederick "Fritz" Cubin, husband of former Wyoming Congresswoman Barbara Cubin who served the Cowboy State for 14 years in this U.S. House.

After a lengthy illness, Fritz passed away this past Monday. Our condolences go out to Barbara, sons Bill and Eric, and their family and friends.

Fritz had many passions: his family always first, hunting and politics taking the silver and bronze.

Dr. Cubin served his country in the United States Air Force. He served his family as a confidante to his wife, a devoted father to his sons. A family doctor for many, he also served his community, making his appointed rounds to Casper's retirement homes to the very end.

Fritz Cubin was a fierce patriot, with apologies to no one. He will be missed.

HONORING PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS LARRY ALLEN STONE AND PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS MARIO MAESTAS FOR THEIR SERVICE

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished careers of Navy SEALs Petty Officer Second Class Larry Allen Stone and Petty Officer Second Class Mario Maestas. These officers were accomplished

SEALs who selflessly dedicated themselves to serving our country and gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Stone was a member of the United States Navy SEAL Team Two, Little Creek Amphibious Base, where he was a lead communications instructor for the team. His superior skill with communications and equipment earned him a job instructing new SEALs, and his athletic prowess earned him the title of Outstanding Athlete in his unit.

Maestas served 5 years in the Navy before becoming a Navy SEAL in 2000. As a SEAL, he participated in combat missions in Kosovo, including deployments in support of Task Force Falcon, Kosovo, from which he earned the Navy Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and a Flag Letter of Commendation.

We are honoring these fallen SEALs during a memorial and building dedication for the Naval Special Warfare facilities at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, Saturday, February 27, 2010.

Stone and Maestas devoted their lives to our country. They are truly American heroes who will be remembered for their service and sacrifice.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PERRIELLO). 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.

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

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas 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 gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

MEMBERS HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO DEAL WITH OUR ECONOMY

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

Mr. SPACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss our economy. I do not rise, however, to cast blame, engage in political posturing, or cast aspersions against my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. I rise to speak to what I believe all of us who have been blessed with the right of representation for our constituents have an obligation to do; that is, to deal with our economy.

Our constituents don't really care how we got here; they don't care who is to blame; they, frankly, don't care who

comes up with the solutions, but they deserve and need resolution to these economic problems that we are facing right now. What our constituents on both sides of the aisle deserve is vision: vision of the future, vision of a new economy.

Back in Ohio's 18th Congressional District, Mr. Speaker, things are especially difficult. It is the area known as Appalachian Ohio, consisting of 16 of the poorest counties in the State of Ohio with the highest unemployment rates, the highest poverty rates. And with those high poverty rates come the manifestations of poverty, including hunger, homelessness, the breakdown of the traditional family unit, a lack of access to health care, a lack of access to education. The list goes on and on.

What I have been attempting to do in southeastern Ohio and what I urge my colleagues to consider doing around the country is to look forward to a future of economic prosperity, one where we know that things will be better.

For example, in the area of energy, I have organized an effort called Renew Ohio that is designed to focus on the jobs of the future. One of those fields that we know is an emerging sector is the field of energy. Not only will developments in technology and investments in energy sectors ultimately bring down the cost of energy, ridding ourselves of this dangerous and cancerous dependence on foreign oil, it will also create millions of jobs. It is obvious and it is promising.

Another sector, health care. Because of the aging nature of our society, we know that there will be future prospects for employment in the field of health care.

Another sector, technology. By bringing broadband, for example, to unserved and underserved areas of America, we are going to be advancing opportunities for economic growth and bridging the divide that exists right now in rural America when it comes to access to health care and education.

And, finally, agriculture. Agricultural jobs of tomorrow are quite different from the ones we know of today and the jobs of yesterday. It is a field that shows promise when it comes to trade, a field that shows promise with its relationship to energy, and one that, if we position ourselves correctly in, will create jobs for tomorrow.

This crisis that we are dealing with in this country, which has become very personal to every American, is one that we must address without regard to partisan politics. Our constituents clearly are ahead of Congress on that issue. They don't want blame. They don't want aspersions. They don't want excuses. They want answers and they want vision and they want leadership.

I urge Members on both sides of the aisle in this hallowed Hall to work together to find consensus and to move forward for a brighter tomorrow.

CONCERN AFTER IRAN
"WARHEAD" REPORT

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. Mr. Speaker, one of the biggest problems facing the Middle East and the entire world is the nuclear development program that Iran is involved in right now.

The International Atomic Energy Agency in just the last few days has said that Iran is probably developing a nuclear warhead that they could use at some point in the future as their nuclear development program continues to expand. They have 3,000 or 4,000 centrifuges over there refining weapons-grade nuclear material right now.

The reason this is important is because it not only affects the United States and our capability to provide energy for this country that will be very important for our economy down the road, but our biggest ally and friend in the entire Middle East is Israel, and Israel right now does not yet have the capability to hit a major underground nuclear development site that may be developing a nuclear warhead that could destroy Tel-Aviv, could destroy much of Israel and kill millions of Israelis who are friends of ours and great allies.

It is extremely important that this administration do everything they can to support the Government of Israel in order to make sure that they have the capability and the ability to stop Iran's nuclear development program when it starts to imperil and jeopardize the entire Middle East.

Our energy sources that come from there, maybe 35 percent of our entire energy is dependent on the Middle East. If we have a conflagration over there, it is really going to hurt us, but it will hurt our great ally Israel even more. That is why we need to tell Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that we support him, and we are going to give him the material and the equipment necessary to deal with Iran should they continue down this path, and that means the bunker busting bombs that will be able to go down 50, 75, 100 feet underground or maybe 150 feet into a mountainside to knock out a nuclear development program if it imperils the existence of Israel or threatens the entire Middle East.

I can't stress how important this is. The leader of Iran, Mr. Ahmadinejad, has said numerous times that he wants to see Israel wiped off the face of the Earth. They are developing a nuclear weapons program, and now the IAEA is saying that they are developing a nuclear warhead that will be able to strike should they be able to use their missile program. So we have to pay real attention to what is going on over there and give Israel the ability to do what is necessary, and we should support them in every way possible. If we don't do that, we are going to rue the day that they finish that nuclear development program in Iran.

Bibi Netanyahu is going to be here before too long speaking here in the United States. I hope that the President will reach out to him and say, We are going to give you all the tools necessary to be able to stop the nuclear risk that Iran poses over there if we have to do it. The United States and President Obama should work with Mr. Netanyahu to make sure that we get that job done. We certainly don't need a terrorist state like Iran developing a nuclear weapons program with a delivery system that could deliver a nuclear warhead.

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.)

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

□ 2115

CORPORAL DUSTIN LEE
MEMORIAL ACT

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. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced H.R. 4631. The text is "to authorize the adoption of a military working dog by the family of a deceased or seriously wounded member of the Armed Forces who was the handler of the dog." This act may be cited as the "Corporal Dustin Lee Memorial Act."

Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, it was brought to my attention that a family in Mississippi, Rachel and Jerome Lee, their son, Dustin, a marine, was killed in Iraq for this Nation. Also with Dustin was his dog, Lex, who was wounded. In fact, the Marine Corps brought the dog, Lex, to Dustin's funeral.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee gave their son for this country, and all they asked of this Nation was to please let them have Lex, the dog that their son, Dustin, loved so much. Well, we all live here in Washington in a bureaucratic world, and there is some reason I guess for that, but the Marine Corps said to the family that Lex has 2 more years of service before he can be retired.

I heard about this story, and I called Mr. and Mrs. Lee in Mississippi. They told me, Congressman, we understand that this dog is very important to the cause of our Nation, but this dog meant so much to our son that that's all we would like to have. Well, I want to thank General Mike Regner, who I

called and asked General Regner, is there any way we can expedite the retirement of Lex? And he said we will do our best to make this happen.

Well, these dogs that are trained work magnificently for this country. In fact, they give their lives many times to save a service person by seeking out these IEDs and other explosives. Well, it took about 3 weeks—that is not a whole lot of time, it really is not, but I think in the situation of these dogs, when the handler is killed for this country or seriously wounded, that we should be able to expedite this small gift to the family.

I will say to my colleagues, I am going to send a "Dear Colleague" around in the next few days that the Department of Defense has worked with us on. They support this legislation, so I hope that my colleagues will join me, and let's move this legislation through the House I hope expeditiously.

Mr. Speaker, this is a photograph taken by the family. When they got Lex home, they let Lex remember Dustin by having his clothes and his boots that had been returned from Iraq, and they let Lex remember the fragrance of their son. Then they took Lex to the cemetery—this is a rather large cemetery—and they said to Lex, Find Dustin, find Dustin. And the dog ran around the cemetery and then came up to the headstone. This is the headstone. It is a picture of their son Dustin with Lex. Dustin is kneeling and Lex is sitting there beside him. Lex came up to this headstone and laid down beside the headstone.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will ask my colleagues, please join us in H.R. 4639. This is the least we can do for the family or the wounded individual.

Mr. Speaker, as I always do, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God, in His loving arms, to hold the families—like the Lee family—who gave a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. And Mr. Speaker, I will ask three times from the bottom of my heart: God please, God please, God please continue to bless America.

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

(Mr. McDERMOTT 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 gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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