

commitment to provide 40 percent of the excess cost of educating students with disabilities, there is no doubt that IDEA has been an important part of ensuring that students with disabilities are able to become full and productive members of society.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 329.

I yield back the balance of my time.
Ms. HIRONO. Once again, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 329.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

BRANDON RANDOLPH MICHAEL

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. Mr. Speaker, I recently got a letter from a grieving family in Florida. Their young 21-year-old son was killed 3 years ago in a senseless homicide by an illegal. The family is still seeking justice, however. This is their son's story.

On August 15, 2007, Brandon Randolph Michael was on the way to his lunch break. This is Brandon's photograph right here. He was driving to the credit union to cash his payroll check. His vehicle was struck by a car driven by a twice-deported illegal named Mario Tellez. Brandon's car flipped over several times and landed on its hood. Brandon was thrown into a ditch.

The illegal driver, Mario Tellez, got out of his vehicle and calmly sat on the curb. He did nothing to help Brandon.

He did not call for aid. He did nothing but watch Brandon struggle when he took his last breaths.

Tellez refused to admit he was driving the vehicle, and Brandon's family had to go through a torturous, lengthy trial.

Brandon's family found out that Tellez had been in this country illegally for 7 years. He was working and sending his money back to Mexico, even after having already been deported two times.

It took a jury only 20 minutes to find him guilty of driving without a license and causing the death of another person, that being Brandon. The defendant was sentenced to only 2 years in the penitentiary, 2 years for taking the life of another individual.

Tellez has now served the 2 years for murdering Brandon Michael, and, upon release, he was deported yet again. But here is the rest of the story.

Tellez's friend, a Richard Curtis, admitted during the trial that he harbored the illegal fugitive for years and hid him out, and Curtis was never prosecuted.

It was Richard Curtis' automobile that Mario Tellez was driving when he killed Brandon Michael. Curtis worked for the Federal Government. And, get this. He worked for the IRS. Don't the laws apply to Federal bureaucrats as well as other people in this country?

So the family asked the Florida State Attorney's Office, ICE, State, and local law enforcement officers to enforce the law. The family is asking them to charge Richard Curtis with harboring, aiding, and abetting an illegal fugitive in this country.

But no one has prosecuted this apparent lawbreaker. And why not? No one seems to be talking. Brandon's family deserves some answers.

Brandon's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Michael, wanted me to know how precious their son Brandon was to them.

□ 1800

Here is what they said about him. They said he was a fun person to be around. He loved life, he celebrated with people, and he was seldom ever sad. He made others happy. He was looking forward to getting married and starting a family. And he was a Dallas Cowboys fan. He played the keyboard. And he played several different sports growing up, from T-ball as a small child to football in high school. He grew up with a loving middle-class family that raised him to respect people and respect the law.

Brandon loved giving to those that had less than him. He helped feed the hungry. He often called his friends and asked them for blankets, coats and shoes so he could give them away to the needy in his area. While in middle school, Brandon and his sister were pages for the local city council meetings. He worked hard for the car that he was driving on that dreadful day he was killed by a person illegally in this country.

Brandon loved animals and had just about every type during his childhood. He wanted to be a veterinarian.

This is a real American family, suffering real consequences because of lax immigration and border enforcement laws in this country. Brandon's life was cut short by a twice-deported illegal who should not have been in the country in the first place.

Brandon's family is a very close-knit group. They told me they have worked hard to raise children that loved the Lord and loved others and loved this country.

The family said others things. The father, Richard Michael, well, first of all, he defended this country for 20 years in the military, and the family feels as though our country has turned a deaf ear on their plight and their situation. Our government officials that they have trusted seem to have turned their backs on this case and Brandon's death.

The time to enforce the laws in this country is now, and they asked me how many American children such as their precious son have to be killed at the hands of illegals before our government gets serious about enforcing the laws of the land? They said, "We cannot afford to ignore this enormous problem any longer. We don't want another family to endure what we have been through and are still going through."

Mr. Speaker, Brandon Randolph Michael is worth the fight to get it right in this country, to enforce the laws that we have, to prosecute the guilty, to deport criminal aliens, and to secure the borders, because it is a national security issue to protect the lives of people like this.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER AS AMERICAN DIABETES MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, every minute, three people are diagnosed with diabetes. Every day, almost 200 people undergo an amputation because of the disease. Fifty people go blind and one hundred thirty people enter end-stage kidney disease programs. If current trends continue, one in three children will face a future with diabetes. That is one of the most frightening statistics I have read in a long time.

The disease is at epidemic proportions, with nearly 24 million children and adults living with the disease and another 57 million Americans with prediabetic conditions, according to the American Diabetes Association.

So what is the cost of this epidemic? Almost one in every five health care dollars is attributed to caring for someone with diabetes. Just in my district in Pennsylvania, a 2007 estimate says it cost more than \$323 million. Nationwide the price tag is \$218 billion and climbing, but that figure includes

complications from undiagnosed diabetes, prediabetic, and gestational diabetes.

November is American Diabetes Month. I have cosponsored H. Res. 1690, a resolution recognizing November as American Diabetes Month, and I encourage Members to visit diabetes.org to learn of the ABCs of diabetes and keeping it under control.

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

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

PUTTING WASTEFUL DEFENSE SPENDING ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, last week the cochairs of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform released their draft proposal. I don't agree with all of their recommendations, but I am encouraged to see that they believe wasteful Pentagon spending can and must be a prime target.

For years I have been calling for substantial cuts in the kinds of defense systems and programs, many of them left as relics from the Cold War, that are doing absolutely nothing for modern-day military preparedness.

The Congressional Progressive Caucus has outlined specific cuts totaling more than \$600 billion. I am pleased, for example, that the Commission shares our contempt for the V-22 Osprey, which has been notorious for cost overruns as well as safety problems that have led to the accidental deaths of 30 servicemembers; billions of dollars over budget for a weapons system that is killing our own people. Not a good deal. Not a good deal for the taxpayers, to say the least.

Likewise, I am inclined to support the Commission's proposal to eliminate one-third of overseas military bases, and I agree that it is time to pull the plug on the Marine Corps' Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle, which breaks down every 8 hours on average and doesn't steer well in water.

On the other hand, I don't agree with the Commission that any kind of salary freeze is the way to go. The last thing we should do is take out our fiscal woes on the men and women, civilian or uniformed, combat or noncombat, charged with protecting the country.

My hope instead is that this body will consider some of the other Congressional Progressive Caucus recommendations. For example, has our military defense system really justified its enormous expense? And what about

our nuclear weapons stockpile? We could save \$15 billion a year by reducing that number of warheads to 1,000, which is still enough, Mr. Speaker, to blow up that world many, many times over.

There has been much noise made on the other side of the aisle about the size of government and supposedly out-of-control Federal spending. But many of the same folks using those talking points haven't exactly shown great restraint when it comes to the defense budgets. So I will be curious to see when they take over the majority in January, will they move to cut bloated defense programs, or does their zeal for spending cuts extend only to those domestic programs that are helping struggling families get through a recession?

That bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is this: You are not serious about closing the deficit unless you are prepared to put military spending on the table. By recommending specific cutbacks on the defense side, the Deficit Commission has at least started the conversation.

Of course, the Commission doesn't really address the elephant in the room, the ongoing war in Afghanistan and our continued military commitment in Iraq. Together their cost has already exceeded \$1 trillion over the last decade. And what have we gotten for the expense? A foreign policy blunder of epic proportions, one that has cost thousands of Americans their lives without truly stabilizing the countries we invaded, without combating terrorism in a meaningful way, without advancing our national security interests.

Fiscal responsibility, Mr. Speaker, and enormous cost savings; yet one more reason to bring our troops home and bring them home now.

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

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

FAREWELL REMARKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I will leave Congress at the end of this session with a sense of duty fulfilled, having given my all to the people of the 21st District of Florida, who have honored me by electing me and reelecting me to nine terms in Congress.

I feel deep satisfaction not only in the achievements of my term of service, such as the codification into law of the U.S. embargo on the Cuban tyranny, requiring the liberation of all po-

litical prisoners without exceptions, and the scheduling of free and fair multiparty elections in Cuba before the President of the United States can lift U.S. sanctions; or the Nicaraguan adjustment and Central American Relief Act, which granted legal residency in the United States to hundreds of thousands of our Central American brothers and sisters who were previously facing deportation. My most profound satisfaction comes from having given my all, each and every day, to my constituents.

□ 1810

I, as a private citizen, will work to help the freedom fighters inside Cuba who are resisting the brutality of the Castro tyranny with ultimate courage and patriotism. They are my heroes. As Cuban political prisoner Angel Moya wrote from his dungeon in the Castro-Cuban gulag a few days ago: "My spirit is the same; it is full of joy because I am in prison for fighting for the dignity and rights of the Cuban people. I am ready to continue resisting—physically, morally, and spiritually." Mr. Speaker, I will continue to do all in my power to help in the struggle for the freedom of Cuba.

This country, the United States of America, is a miracle—a miracle of generosity of spirit, a miracle of freedom, of human dignity, and opportunity. May God forever preserve and protect this great land and people. For the rest of my days I will feel deeply honored to have been a Member of the Congress of the United States of America.

To all of my colleagues, those who have helped me and those who have opposed me, thank you. Thank you for the honor of having been able to serve along with you.

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

(Ms. KAPTUR 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. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL 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 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 Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.