

**HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF
LIEUTENANT BRENDAN LOONEY
AND LANCE CORPORAL TERRY
HONEYCUTT**

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise for a sad occasion, but an appropriate occasion. I rise to pay tribute to two proud natives of Maryland who lost their lives in Afghanistan this fall, Navy Lieutenant Brendan Looney of Owings and Marine Lance Corporal Terry Honeycutt of Waldorf. I attended both of their burials at Arlington Cemetery. As I say, it was a mixture of deep sadness to lose these two young, extraordinarily capable, patriotic Americans, to be with their families, to learn what committed young men they were. At the same time, to be filled with pride that America has people like these two brave souls, willing to give their lives in the defense of freedom and justice and democracy and the safety and security of our people. I know that the grief their family feels is still fresh and that nothing can replace the loss they have suffered. But I want them to know the honor and awe in which we hold their sons' sacrifices.

Now it is our responsibility to keep their names, their memories, and their examples alive. Lieutenant Looney, a 29-year-old Navy SEAL, died with nine other American servicemembers in a helicopter crash in southern Afghanistan. Most of you read about that incident. He was a star lacrosse player at the Naval Academy and then chose to complete the grueling training required to become a Navy SEAL. Lieutenant Looney was recognized as the Honor Man, or top member of his SEAL class. And just 48 hours after marrying his wife, Amy, he deployed to Iraq. He served four deployments, four deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan and tragically died just 2 weeks before he was to return home from that fourth deployment. He is buried next to his Naval Academy roommate and best friend, First Lieutenant Travis Manion, who died in Iraq in 2007.

Lance Corporal Honeycutt, the other young man to whom I referred, died at the age of 19 in the blast of an improvised explosive device in Helmand province, Afghanistan. As long as his parents could remember, their son wanted to be a marine. He stood out for his commitment in his high school Junior ROTC program, and on graduating, he met his goal. Sadly, his life was cut far too short. But all those who remember Lance Corporal Honeycutt speak of a man who lived to serve his country and who embodied the marines' deepest ideals of service, sacrifice, and inner strength.

□ 1430

In the words of his mother Christine, whom I talked to Monday this week, "We have so much honor and pride and

joy, knowing that he was the person that he was, and I can't describe," she went on, "how proud we are of him. We knew him as the type of person that was ready, willing, and waiting to do anything for anybody."

He did that for his country, for all of us who serve in this Chamber, for every one of our fellow citizens.

These two irreplaceable lives are among the latest costs of a war that has lasted more than 9 years. This is not the time or place to speak about that war's future or its end.

But I ask my colleagues only this: We must remember that its costs are measured in lives like Brendan's and Terry's, and treat every debate and every decision about this war with a gravity that honors those two souls and the souls who have also been lost and who currently serve.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my deep sympathy for the families who have lost so much: To Lieutenant Looney's wife, Amy; to his parents, Kevin and Maureen; to his brothers, Billy and Steve; and to his sisters, Erin, Kellie and Briget; and to Lance Corporal Honeycutt's parents, Terry and Christine; his sister, Dawn; and to his sister's husband, who currently serves as a member of the United States Marines; and to all the grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts, and uncles whom we join in mourning the loss of these two brave, patriotic, extraordinary Americans. May God rest their souls and give strength and peace to their families.

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.)

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

(Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts 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 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.)

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

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

**THE "START" OF MORE
OBSTRUCTION**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the 111th Congress has been an astounding success, but throughout the last 2 years, when we have failed to pass good laws, it's usually because our colleagues on the other side of the Capitol have stood in the way of our progress, proudly engaging in stubborn obstructionism.

The Senate is where good legislation goes to die. So I guess we shouldn't be surprised that it remains so right down to the final days of our session.

It appears now that there may not be enough Republican votes to ratify the New START Treaty, which would make huge strides towards reducing the threat of nuclear destruction.

This is distressing news, Mr. Speaker. After years of negligence on nuclear issues, the New START could finally put us on a course toward the eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons. It would drastically reduce the size of nuclear arsenals here in the United States and in Russia. It would improve our access to Russian nuclear facilities, which we've been unable to inspect since the expiration of the original START treaty nearly a year ago. And it would put our relationship with Russia on more solid footing, enhancing bilateral cooperation on a host of issues.

In the words of the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. KERRY, he said, and I quote him: "Ratifying New START is not a political choice; it's a national security imperative."

But apparently, Mr. Speaker, some over in the other Chamber aren't moved by national security imperatives. For them, 1,550 strategic warheads, the level mandated by New START, isn't a sufficient arsenal, even though 1,550 strategic warheads is enough to blow up the world several times over. The only way they know to deal with national security, it appears, is to send thousands of American troops to die in failed wars that carry a combined price tag of over \$1 trillion.

New START isn't perfect. I wish it were less incremental and more ambitious. I wish it embraced more of the principles contained in my resolution, which is called "Nonproliferation Options for Nuclear Understanding to Keep Everyone Safe," or "NO NUKES" for short. NO NUKES would move more aggressively toward complete nuclear global disarmament, which was exactly the long-term goal we committed to as a Nation when we signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty 40 years ago.

But New START is most definitely consistent with the SMART Security platform I laid out from this podium so many times, Mr. Speaker. Specifically, it advances the idea that we make the world safer, not through violence, not through acts of war and weapons escalation, but through diplomacy, cooperation, and conflict resolution.

New START is good enough as a first step. It's good enough for the top military brass, past and present, who have endorsed it. It's good enough for leading foreign policy dignitaries from across the political spectrum. The only holdouts are a minority of Senators who seem more interested in embarrassing the President on the international stage than they are in a major international security breakthrough.

Concessions have been made to these lawmakers. Their opinions have been heard, their concerns addressed. Now it's time for action. For the safety of the American people and possibly for the future of human civilization, it is time to pass New START.

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 California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHERMAN 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 gentlewoman 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 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 gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONSTANTINO DELSIGNORE

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

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary life of Constantino DelSignore and mourn his sudden passing at the age of 47.

Born on December 2, 1962, Tino DelSignore graduated from Detroit Catholic Central High School in 1980. He immersed himself in the DelSignore family's businesses, the Fonte D'Amore restaurant and the Laurel Manor.

Tino dedicated his life to serving our community through many philanthropic efforts. He was founder of CDS Foundation, cofounder of the Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Foundation, as well as being an advocate for many other local, national, and international humanitarian causes.

Tino committed his considerable efforts to Angela Hospice, the Aliaga Foundation, the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, St. Mary's Mercy Hospital's Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, Botsford Hospital Foundation, the McCarty Foundation, Madonna University, Hunters Feeding the Homeless, the Livonia Italian American Club, Hockey Has Hearts, and numerous veterans' organizations and Rotarian organizations. Tino DelSignore gave with an open heart and, like the entire DelSignore family, was always willing to help.

Regrettably, on October 26, 2010, Tino passed from this earthly world to his eternal reward. He is survived by his beloved son, Giovanni, and his parents, John and Lina. A devoted brother to Luciano, Nancy, and Renata, Tino leaves a legacy in his nieces and nephews: Ryder, Caprice, Coco, Alexa, Olivia, Alexandria, and Max.

If, in the end, a person's wealth can be measured by the lives he has touched, Constantino DelSignore went home to God a very wealthy man. Courageous and honorable, Tino will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, Constantino DelSignore is remembered as a compassionate father, a dedicated son, a treasured brother, a caring leader, and a true friend. Tino was a man who deeply treasured his family, friends, community, and country. Today, as we bid Constantino DelSignore farewell, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning his passing and honoring his unwavering patriotism and legendary service to our country and community.

□ 1440

TAX CUTS FOR THE RICH

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

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I am returning to a subject that I began yesterday. This is the second episode of

what the rich are going to do with all those tax cuts that the Republicans want to give to them through extending the Bush tax cuts for the rich in lieu of the Obama tax cuts for the middle class.

As I said yesterday with regard to the 1 percent top income group in this country, the high and mighty who earn more than \$1.3 million a year in taxable income, according to the Republican plan each one of them will receive a tax cut, every single year, of \$83,347 each year.

I have given a lot of thought to what they are going to do with that money. I made some suggestions yesterday, and here are some more suggestions about what they could possibly do with this windfall that the Republicans want to hand to them at a time when this country has 9.5 percent unemployment, 40 million people who cannot see a doctor when they are sick, and so many people who are in danger of losing their homes.

For instance, the rich, the idle rich, the high and mighty, the ruling class, they can buy three tickets to the most expensive suite at the Super Bowl. That costs only \$75,000. They will have \$12,000 left over in pocket change.

Here is something else that they might do with the windfall that the Republicans want to give them. They can go to the top of Mount Everest. That costs only \$65,000, a luxury climb to the top of Mount Everest, with somebody holding your bag for you the whole way up. Just one thing: Make sure you don't fall down.

Here is something else that they can do with the Republican tax plan to give \$87,000 a year to the rich. They can take a beautiful 110-day cruise around the world. That costs only \$80,000. And it is up to them what they do with the other 250 days a year, but think about that. Think about people in the middle class who struggle, save for vacation year after year, and sometimes occasionally get to go on a 3- or 4- or even a 5-day cruise. With the Republican tax cut for the rich, the millionaires can go on a 110-day luxury cruise, not just 1 year, but every single year.

Here is something else that they can do. They can enjoy two nights at the Hugh Hefner SkyVilla at the Palms Casino Resort in Las Vegas. That costs only \$80,000. They will have \$7,000 left over for tipping the bellman. And remember, what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas.

As I pointed out yesterday, the Republicans want to stuff so much money into the pockets of rich people in this country, the millionaires, the people who make an average of \$1.3 million a year, that every single one of them, every single one of them every year for the next 10 years will be able to enjoy a luxury cigar in the morning and a luxury cigar in the evening as well, and they can light each one of those cigars with a \$100 bill.

Now, I don't know about you, but I'm not sure that that's the best use of \$100