

come today to pay tribute to Ms. Faye Stevens-Jett and the Up2Us organization that is in town this week.

Athletics has been and continues to be a road to success and a better life for thousands and thousands of people. For many of them, it has been because they had a coach, a mentor, or a friend with whom they connected and formed lasting friendships and relationships in their athletic endeavors.

One such coach has been Ms. Faye Stevens-Jett, a physical education teacher and athletic director at the Morton School of Excellence in Chicago, Illinois, located in my congressional district. Ms. Stevens-Jett is a single mother of two boys, and yet finds time to be engaged with a large number of other young people through her coaching of double Dutch, cheerleading, and pom-pom teams.

Ms. Stevens-Jett has been selected by Up2Us as a coach of the year. Up2Us is an organization that supports programs that use sports to address critical issues facing youth in America. It also helps to address serious health issues such as obesity and other childhood illnesses and diseases.

Ms. Jett is a member of my congressional district, and I take this opportunity to commend and congratulate her and Up2Us for their outstanding work.

I also urge support to increase physical fitness as a part of our everyday lives. It is up to us.

WHAT DOES THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN MEAN?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to talk about the war in Afghanistan.

We've been in Afghanistan since 2001. What does that mean? I'll tell you what it means.

It means 3,650 days of violence and suffering. It means 1,695 American lives lost. It means \$454 billion added to our deficit. It means that this war has got to end.

It's time to apply the Republican mantra, "cut, squeeze and trim" to the Afghanistan war because the cost is simply too high. Also, we can't afford to lose another life in this war. We can't afford to spend another dollar on it.

And if our spending reflects our priorities, then we're totally missing the point. Americans don't seek war. Fifty-nine percent of likely voters want U.S. troops brought home from Afghanistan.

But I'll tell you what Americans do want. They want jobs. And if we had taken all the money we've spent on the war, we could have created almost 1 million education jobs, 780,000 health care jobs, or 364,000 construction jobs. But we didn't do that.

We have 9.1 percent unemployment nationwide, and parts of my district have over 18 percent unemployment.

Almost one in every five persons is unemployed. The unemployment rate among our veterans is at least 2 percent higher than among civilians.

America can do better than this because America is a country about peace and prosperity and opportunity. These ideals don't have a price tag, but they do have a value.

So let's end this war now. Let's restore peace now. And let's show what America really believes, what our real values are: peace and understanding.

CIVILITY IS NEEDED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, thank you for your indulgence.

We were in a Judiciary Committee hearing on the importance of protecting this Nation from weapons of mass destruction and then in a hearing on the Homeland Security Committee, on which I serve, in trying to ensure that we secure this homeland and also respect the privacy of our citizens. I believe that is a very important challenge.

□ 1110

I wanted to come to this floor to call for civility and understanding. Those are two conflicting terms. But as a member of the Judiciary Committee, having the privilege to oversee the Constitution of the United States, I hold very dear the idea of the Bill of Rights, which allows our citizens the right to the First Amendment, the right to association, and the right to freedom of religion.

But sometimes you have to call upon your right to explain or to express your abhorrence with ugly speech.

So I want to say that over the past couple of days, we have had Herman Cain shouting out about brainwashing of a certain population of people, African Americans, who I guess he suggests that we are not educated persons and as different as any other population of Americans. The greatness of Americans is that we are mosaic, we are diverse. Though I may challenge the philosophy of the Tea Party and have great abhorrence of their views, I would never suggest that those individuals didn't thoughtfully think about who they wanted to associate with. So again to Mr. Cain, get your vocabulary straight and understand that we have a brain as well and make choices on our interests.

Then my good friend Hank Williams, who I guess professes to be one of America's great philosophers, when he was posed a question about the President of the United States and the Speaker of the House attempting civility through what a lot of Americans do, playing golf, he chose to use a, what I think was both an unhelpful and disgraceful comparison. Now, I don't know who he was calling what, but he used the phrase that it would be like

the Prime Minister of Israel meeting with Hitler.

And one would have to argue, am I defending the Speaker of the House or the President of the United States? I'm defending the idea that ugly speech should be called out any time it is utilized. Mr. Williams, you might stick to the penning of a new hit that you haven't had for a long period of time, although I'm sure you have many fans, for you to characterize any leader as the dastardly and heinous person that Hitler was, the dastardly and heinous and horrific acts that he perpetrated on people who were innocent. From those who happened to be of the Jewish faith to Polish people to people of many different backgrounds that lost their lives in this disgraceful era that was led by Hitler during the time that Germany was led by the Nazis.

What a disgraceful statement.

So I would ask that we understand that America is a great country because people view us as being tolerant of so many different things.

And I conclude by suggesting that those who are watching those on Wall Street who have gathered now, 700 of them were arrested, college students may be out of their classes at 12 noon, and I say hurray for people who are standing up and asking the question, where is my country going?

I want to take it back. I do believe in saving Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, Pell Grants that are on the cutting board. I want a job, and I want banks to be able to give access to credit to small businesses. Of the five that I visited over my time in my district, and more that are coming as I go to many others, I hear over and over again, are we going to respond to the needs of small businesses or are banks going to continue to crush the backs of small businesses by not lending them credit? People have a reason to be upset. But we don't have to use ugly talk.

But don't judge people because they're out in the streets. I disagree with the Tea Party because of the stranglehold that they have on this Congress that doesn't allow us to come together in a civil manner and come together on behalf of the American people. But at the same time I recognize their constitutional rights, recognize the constitutional rights of those that Wall Street and other places have chosen to be arrested because they don't like what is going on in this Nation. They don't like the fact we are in an obstruction form of government, that we would take from those who need us most and we would use them to balance the budget.

I'm going to stand with the people who are out in the streets and say, you are right—and tell Hank Williams to try and write another song that might get him a hit so he doesn't have to talk so much.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 15 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of this assembly as they set upon the work of these hours, of these days. Help them to make wise decisions in a good manner and to carry their responsibilities steadily with high hopes for a better future for our great Nation.

You have created Your people to live in an environment of great diversity of race, color, creed, and opinion. These differences enrich our human experience but also demand of us the need to negotiate preferences and opinions toward a common goal.

Please give to the Members of the people's House, in abundance, the wisdom, skill, and patience to see past their differences toward their commonalities in order to forge a strong and secure future for our Nation.

May Your blessing, O God, be with them and with us all this day and every day to come, and may all we do be done for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. RIGELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. RIGELL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 771. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1081 Elbel Road in Schertz, Texas, as the "Schertz Veterans Post Office".

H.R. 1632. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5014 Gary Avenue in Lubbock, Texas, as the "Sergeant Chris Davis Post Office".

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO LEAD THE WAY PROMOTING JOBS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, a native of Dillon, South Carolina, testified before the Congressional Joint Economic Committee. He sadly stated that economic indicators point toward a "sluggish job growth" and that the so-called economic recovery is "close to faltering."

Chairman Bernanke went on to say the primary factor affecting consumer confidence was the lack of job growth. He further characterized the country's long-term unemployment rate as a "national crisis." This follows the President's admission Monday that voters are not better off than they were 4 years ago. With failed policies, the President needs to change course.

House Republicans have sent nearly 90 bills to the Senate for consideration, but only 20 have passed the Senate. Much of this legislation dealt directly with limiting spending, terminating failing housing programs, and encouraging job creation.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

FORD AND THE UAW

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great satisfaction that I report to the House today on the agreement reached between the Ford Motor Company and the United Auto Workers and its positive impact on the Nation and in western New York.

Under the agreement, Ford will increase its workforce at its plant in Hamburg, New York. Not only will they offer to rehire 120 workers who were laid off earlier this year, they will create 400 new jobs and create a \$136 million investment in the facility. This is a substantial and generational commitment.

How did this happen? It was the recognition that western New York has a highly skilled and dependable work-

force, with a long history of labor and management working together in cooperation. It is also the result of labor and management working diligently to get a deal done. Their goal was business growth and job creation, and they accomplished it without the brinksmanship and manufactured crises that have become far too common in Washington this year.

Perhaps Congress can learn from Ford and the UAW that when two sides sit down at the table and bargain in good faith toward a common good, the end can be more satisfying, resulting in new business investment and job growth.

THE CEMENT SECTOR REGULATORY RELIEF ACT OF 2011

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

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I had the opportunity to meet with Hilltop Resources, a concrete company that has a presence in my southern Indiana district. They were here to talk about how the new Cement MACT regulations would affect their business and their workforce.

Their cost of production would go up 7 to 10 percent—a huge hit for any business. They would have to import more of their raw materials from places like China—materials that are of a lesser quality. And those increased costs would require them to scale back their American workforce at a time when we need them to expand.

We cannot keep letting the EPA impose these burdensome and job-crushing regulations without any concern for how they affect our constituents. When we take up H.R. 2681 later today, we have the chance to help an industry that has already been hit hard by the recession. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

UP2US ANNUAL COACH OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Up2Us, a leading youth sports development organization working to address childhood obesity and promote improved academic performance and constructive activities for youth. Up2Us supports a national network of nearly 500 member organizations operating in all 50 States, serving 25 million youth through both traditional and nontraditional sports programs.

Sharing best practices, advancing initiatives that extend opportunities to new players, and delivering quality programs in underserved communities, these are but some of the ways where a tremendous need for constructive outlets for our youth are occurring through this organization.