

meltdown. We have lost more wealth from mortgages being under water than from any other financial kinds of transactions. And if we had had a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in place when this calamity was taking place, we wouldn't be in the financial mess that we are in today.

HONORING MARTINA CORREIA

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Martina Correia, who passed away recently from breast cancer. Martina was a courageous and inspiring woman who proved what President Obama has often said, "In the face of impossible odds, people who love this country can change it." For decades, Martina fought for human rights in defense of her brother, who was sentenced to death based on unreliable eyewitness testimony that was later recanted. Martina's brother, Troy Anthony Davis, was on death row for 20 years until his execution this year.

Thanks to Martina, people rallied around Troy's case and began to really think about how it is that a society such as ours can execute a potentially innocent man. Inspired by Martina, a diverse array of men and women in the United States and from around the world, people like Amnesty International's Laura Moyo; NAACP President Ben Jealous; Reverend Raphael Warnock, pastor of the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church where the reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once pastored; British MP Alistair Carmichael; former President Jimmy Carter; Pope Benedict XVIth; and a large group of other distinguished leaders from around the world whose names are too numerous for me to recognize at this time. These folks banded together to fight for Troy Anthony Davis' life.

From her humble roots in Georgia, Martina led this international campaign to save her brother and prove his innocence. Martina advocated for justice and fought to save her brother's life. And in so doing, she became a death penalty abolitionist in the movement to move America to renounce and abolish the death penalty, whereupon America could finally join the ranks of the other industrialized nations of the world that have barred the use of this barbaric form of punishment.

She became an international human rights advocate, and it will, in part, be due to her efforts that we will one day cheer the abolition of the death penalty in this country. I will remember and thank Martina when we reach that milestone in our development as a Nation and as a people.

Martina fought this battle for her brother while fighting her own battle with breast cancer. You see, she was diagnosed with breast cancer 11 years ago, and at that time, she was given 6

months to live. She beat the odds and fought to stay alive so that she could fight for her brother. Before her diagnosis, Martina was a nurse, and she was also a veteran who served her country in the 1992 Gulf war.

Martina's illness eventually forced her to stop working for a living, but she continued to advocate for what was important to her. In addition to her work on behalf of her brother, Martina also was a leader of the National Black Leadership Initiative on Cancer, where she advocated for a cure. Her mother, Virginia Davis, died in April 2011 shortly after her son, Troy Anthony Davis, suffered defeat on his appeal. Martina is survived by one son, Antone De'Juan Davis-Correia; two sisters, Kimberly and Ebony Davis; and one brother, Lester Davis.

It was an honor for me to know Martina and an honor for me to meet her mother and an honor for me to meet her brother. I'm comforted in knowing that she will reunite with her dear mother and with her brother, Troy, as their lives are linked for all eternity.

Strong and fearless, fighting to the very end without giving up or giving in, she fought a great fight. And now it's time to rest for a little bit, Martina. You rest in peace. But rest knowing that the movement to abolish the death penalty will continue, and with your example at the top of our minds, we will never give up until the job is done.

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TAKING ON CURRENCY MANIPULATORS

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

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today because it has been weeks since the bipartisan majority in the Senate passed legislation to take on currency manipulators. Weeks have passed, and House leadership has refused to allow a stand-alone up-or-down vote on currency manipulation legislation right here in the House of Representatives. Legislators from both sides of the aisle talk about the importance of creating jobs every day. Why wouldn't we take this opportunity to work together to not only create jobs but to also protect the good-paying jobs we already have here in America?

Recently, the Peterson Institute for International Economics concluded that China's currency is undervalued by 24 percent against the dollar. That means that America's manufacturers are competing with Chinese manufacturers who are enjoying a permanent 24 percent off sale. Isn't it time to do something about these problems, problems that are damaging the U.S. economy, and to stand up for American manufacturers?

When countries are allowed to keep the values of their currencies arti-

cially low and, in turn, the price of their exports into the United States, American companies face an unfair disadvantage. American companies are currently playing on an unlevel playing field where their competitors are able to maintain a permanent sale on all the products they sell. As our trade deficit increases with countries like China, we lose American jobs. In fact, the Economic Policy Institute released a study this fall showing that, between 2001 and 2010, the U.S. lost 2.8 million jobs, including nearly 62,000 jobs in my own State of Indiana, as a result of the expanding trade deficit with China.

The Senate has already acted on this issue. It passed the Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act in October. The passage of this bill assures that correcting unfair trade practices is not a Democrat or a Republican issue—rather, it's an American priority. Sixteen Republican Senators joined 47 Democrat Senators in voting for this bill to counter the currency manipulation that is damaging our economic recovery. In a time of too much partisan bickering, we need to take the opportunity to work together and stand up for American businesses and American workers. That's what we were sent here to do.

In addition to the Senate-passed bill, we have a piece of legislation, which is waiting for a vote right here in the House, with 225 cosponsors of both Republicans and Democrats. That's more than a majority. The Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act would allow the Department of Commerce to counter imports, made cheaper by currency manipulation, with a corresponding tariff. A nearly identical bill passed the House last year with 348 votes. The support is here. We just need to take this vote.

When I travel around north central Indiana, I often hear from small businesses and manufacturers on this issue, and they never ask that Congress guarantee their success. They simply ask for a level playing field and to have the rules the same for everybody. All they want is a fair fight.

So, today, I echo my request from 2 months ago to the House leadership: It is time. It is time for bipartisan legislation that addresses currency manipulation and to have a vote on it here in the House of Representatives—a stand-alone up-or-down vote.

As I said then and as I'll say again to our House leadership: Who do you stand with, the Chinese Government or the American workers? It is time to stand up for our country—for all of the people who work in our country and for all of our citizens. Let's have a vote.

SMART SECURITY: A BETTER INVESTMENT THAN 10 YEARS OF WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, this week, representatives from several nations will meet in Bonn, Germany, to discuss the future of Afghanistan. The Bonn Conference comes exactly 10 years after the first Bonn Conference, which established the Karzai government. So right now is the perfect moment to assess and reflect on where we are and where we're going in Afghanistan.

By any measure, Madam Speaker, the war we have been waging in Afghanistan for the last decade has been a failure. Our hard-earned tax dollars have been tragically wasted on a policy that has projected the worst image of America to the rest of the world. It has undermined our interests and damaged our national security—and let's not forget the human cost. More than 1,800 American families will sit at their tables over the holiday season—tables with a person missing. If we want to eliminate fallen warriors, we must bring them home while they're still alive.

Hopefully, the Bonn Conference will pivot us to the next phase of our Afghanistan engagement: from military occupation to constructive partnership, from waging war in Afghanistan to helping in the spirit of peace and friendship. Ten years after we supposedly liberated them, the people of Afghanistan have enormous humanitarian needs. We need to help them rebuild their infrastructure, strengthen their democracy, and safeguard the rights of their people, all of which can be done for pennies on the dollar compared to spending military dollars. In short, we need the SMART Security approach that I've been advocating for years.

In Bonn, President Karzai is saying that Afghanistan will require foreign economic assistance for at least the next 10 years. The estimated cost of \$10 billion a year, which sounds like a lot for that support, makes you realize, however, that we're spending at least that much, probably more, every month in Afghanistan. As a nation, we should eagerly embrace the responsibility to make these relatively modest investments in nonmilitary aid to Afghanistan. It's the right thing to do, and in the long run, we'll discover it's a far greater investment than 10 more years of war.

The past 10 years of war have done little to improve the lives and to advance the rights, for example, of Afghan women. Many of us are familiar with the story of the Afghan woman who was raped and then impregnated by a male relative when she was 19 years old. She was then sent to jail for the crime of adultery. Her initial sentence was 3 years; then, after a second trial, it was increased to 12 years, but a judge offered her clemency under one condition—she had to marry the man who raped her. At long last, Madam Speaker, after a petition drive organized by the woman's lawyer yielded 6,000 signatures, President Karzai

granted the woman an unconditional pardon—she will be released from prison without having to spend her life with her attacker.

It's a relief that moral decency prevailed in this one case; but the fact that this qualifies as a human rights victory in Afghanistan reveals just how far we have to go. There are many more Afghan women like her who suffer humiliation every single day, who have no control over their destinies. The true measure of American leadership is what we do to help these women and so many other Afghans who want nothing more than to live a decent life of hope, freedom, and relative comfort. We won't help by extending a war that has already failed these people and has violated our most fundamental values. It's time to bring our troops home and to make the transition to SMART Security now.

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 a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Reverend Bryan Thiessen, Journey Church, Bridgeville, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Father, we thank You for this Nation, Your love, and, most of all, Your forgiveness of sins.

We acknowledge, as Scripture states in James 1:5, that You are the giver of all wisdom. May You give these men and women, whom You have placed in leadership over this Nation, Your wisdom in all their deeds and discussions.

According to Romans 13, "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established." May these here be good stewards of this responsibility, leadership, and Your gift of freedom for our Nation.

We ask for Your special protection over our military and blessing for their families. We pray for our enemies, as You instruct us in Matthew 5:44. May their plans be thwarted, and may they come to the love and grace that You offer.

In the only name through whom man can be saved, Jesus Christ. 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 Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND BRYAN THIESSEN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce today's guest chaplain, Pastor Bryan Thiessen of the Journey Assembly of God Church in Bridgeville, Pennsylvania.

Since the first House chaplain was elected by Congress in 1789, it has been tradition for a prayer to open the House's daily floor proceedings, and I thank the Office of the Chaplain and the Reverend Patrick Conroy for allowing Pastor Bryan Thiessen to have the opportunity to continue this tradition and lead us in prayer.

Pastor Thiessen joined the Bridgeville community in April of 2011, along with his wife, CaRanda Thiessen, and has been a driving force in improving the community since the moment he stepped foot in southwestern Pennsylvania. During Pastor Thiessen's tenure, he has seen his parish grow in size, which can directly be attributed to the exceptional work he has done in leading his church. He has also been elected president of the Bridgeville Ministers Association, where he leads Bridgeville-area churches, nonprofit organizations, and community outreach events. He also serves as the Christian education director of the Southwest Metro section of the Assemblies of God. As director, Pastor Thiessen guides 35 churches in Christian education programs and ministries in the southwestern Pennsylvania region.

I especially thank Pastor Thiessen and members of his parish for making the trip to Washington this morning. The House is very pleased to have all of them, and we are excited to hear the words of the Lord he has chosen to share with us today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FITZPATRICK). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE REINS ACT

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