

Ms. SPEIER. Sixty years.

Mr. GARAMENDI. —60 years was a net exporter of oil, a net exporter. We had achieved energy independence. We were exporting more than we were importing for the last quarter of last year and the first quarter of this year. I don't know if that's going to continue, but it flies right in the face of what the oil industry was telling us as the fake, false crisis of the spring occurred. My guess is it was speculation. My guess is it was greed on the part of the oil industry.

My solution is to end the subsidies, bring that money back and use it on the green technologies and conservation. My solution is to enforce the Dodd-Frank laws and to make certain speculators are not robbing the American people day in and day out. Those are two things we can do. And as you said earlier, we will continue to produce energy in the United States, and we'll Make It In America.

I thank you so very much. I do have another meeting. I'm going to have to run, but this is good. It's good to get the information out there. Thank you for bringing us together tonight.

Ms. SPEIER. Well, thank you, Congressman, for your great presentation and your passion around making it in America, which should be underscored, because one of the great things that happens in my district is a lot of innovation.

Tesla, which is an electric car company that is making it in America, building it right there in Fremont, has a showroom right outside my district. And a gentleman came in to test-drive the sports—the Roadster, which has a hefty price associated with it, but very fast.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Is this the one that goes a gazillion miles an hour in 5 seconds?

Ms. SPEIER. Yes. It goes very fast, and it's all electric.

So he took it for a little spin, came back and said, I want to buy it. The salesperson says, Well, you're the first person who has ever come in here and literally bought it after just a test-drive. The purchaser said, Well, my neighbor on one side and my neighbor on the other side have already bought one.

Now, the funny thing about that story is not the keeping up with the Joneses so much, but the fact that in terms of the grid, having three electric cars on the same block charging overnight is going to create a little indigestion. So that's one of the good problems that we're going to get as more people are driving electric cars.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I was going to head out the door, but your Tesla story caught me as I was about to leave.

The grid, we need to have a smart grid. This is one of the things that is in contention here. This is about energy research. Now, we need to understand, how can we make that grid smart enough and robust enough that we will be able to charge, on any given block,

one, two, three, four, five, or six more homes at night?

□ 2010

To do that, we need to have research and understanding, not only on how we produce the energy in an environmentally sound way that reduces the carbon emissions, but we also need to know how to distribute that power and when it's going to be needed. That's called the smart grid.

Now, to do that requires research. It requires us to invest in research to understand how the grid works, how it can be improved, how we can create the efficiency in the grid, how that power can be distributed to where it is needed when it is needed. That takes money. The Federal Government has, over the last several years, provided that research money in the budget that we're debating here now. Well, we're not debating it. It actually passed.

The blueprint for the current budget from this House reduces the energy research in the United States. So it may be some time, if our Republican colleagues have their way about the energy research, before those three people will be able to plug that thing in at the same time at night.

Ms. SPEIER. Well, let's hope we do it sooner than later so that they can be driving their Tesla Roadsters.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Thank you so very much.

Ms. SPEIER. Thank you. And I think at this point we have covered all of the issues we wanted to cover during this Special Order tonight. And I just want to leave my colleagues with this message. Again, this was quoted in USA Today. Citigroup analysts declared in a recent report, energy independence in the United States is not a pipe dream. The U.S. is already the world's fastest growing oil and natural gas producer. Counting the output of Canada and Mexico, North America is the new Middle East.

We've got many exciting things happening in the oil and gas industry.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLES COLSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RUNYAN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of my special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, it is with mixed feelings that I come to this

body tonight and will have many of my colleagues joining me over the next hour to remember someone who has had a huge impact, not only on this city and on this Nation, but on our world, a gentleman who had a very personal impact on my life, who passed away on April 21, 2012, Charles W. Colson.

Chuck Colson, as many of us knew him, was a very intelligent man, a very well-spoken man, a passionate man who served people, who looked for ways to honor them, recognizing the value of every single person. His life dramatically changed through a circumstance that he went through by going to prison. And I'm going to pull out some information here.

We were honored to have a service today, a memorial service at the National Cathedral that was a memorial and remembrance of Charles Colson's life. Charles Colson was born on October 16, 1931, in Boston, Massachusetts. He graduated from Brown University. He served in the Marine Corps, went to law school at Brown, and then went on to practice law.

At a very young age, in 1969, while he was under 40, he was selected by President Nixon to be Special Counsel to the President, and served directly under the President from 1969 until 1973. During that time, he was known as a very tough guy. He was known as Richard Nixon's hatchet man, and was very intelligent, understood policy, understood politics, understood how to get things done, very driven, very focused, very tough. So he used his Marine Corps background, his tough upbringing in Boston, and his sharp intellect to be a huge impact for President Nixon.

Well, he was also, in that time, involved peripherally with Watergate, and through that, he felt that he was called to be honest with his involvement in there and pled guilty and entered a plea of obstruction of justice and was sentenced to serve time in prison. And it was really as he was preparing for that time in prison that he started to examine his own life and to see what he had done, why he had done it, and what life was all about.

It was really through a writer that he had read, a book that had been given to him, a book by a great author and great thinker, C. S. Lewis, "Mere Christianity." And through that book, and through the testimony of one of Chuck's good friends, that Chuck Colson came to see his own failings, his own sin, his need for a Savior and his need for a change. And it was really in the friend's driveway, as they were talking, that he heard his friend's testimony of what Jesus Christ had meant to his friend, and the floodgates just opened up.

All of a sudden Chuck Colson understood what the fact of his need for a Savior, the fact that he needed to turn his life around, that he was going to have to pay a heavy price for his involvement in Watergate, that he was

going to have to leave his friends and family, his young children, his wife, to go to prison for a long period of time. He wasn't even sure how long it was going to be. But it was that night, in that driveway that he gave his life to Christ. And from that time on, before he entered prison in the early seventies, through his death here in 2012, Chuck Colson was an incredibly faithful servant of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

But more than that, he also was a servant to the least among us. He never forgot that service, that time in prison, while he was there, and seeing the conditions that prisoners suffer under, the fact that we are all of incredible value, not because of what we've done, not because of what we know, not because of how much money we can earn, but because of how we have been created and the sacrifice that has been given for each and every one of us. He saw that, and he never forgot that.

So through this time we're going to talk about much of his life since that time of going to prison and coming out of prison. As he came out of prison he had opportunities where he could have gone immediately back into the private sector after being one of the chief people in the White House. He certainly had many connections, could have had a seven-figure income coming out of prison, but he decided not to do that.

Instead, he decided to start a ministry to fellow inmates. And it was from that start that literally, hundreds and hundreds of thousands of inmates, millions of inmates around the world, have been impacted by the ministry of Chuck Colson and Prison Fellowship Ministries, and many, many other ministries that have come out of that.

Angel Tree is another one that I'll talk about a little later on, of serving the victims of crime that we don't talk about very often, and that's children of inmates, unintended victims. Angel Tree is a service, a ministry that provides gifts to kids whose parents are in prison, a wonderful ministry that's provided gifts to millions of young children around the world.

I am so honored tonight to be able to recognize, to honor, to talk briefly and to share this time with some good friends of mine and to be able to talk about someone who had a huge impact on my life, Chuck Colson. I am going to hand it over to my friend STEVE PEARCE in a few minutes here.

But very personally, let me talk about the impact and my connection. I had known about Chuck Colson for the last 25 years or so, 30 years, through many of his books. He's written well over 25 books. He's been a speaker around the world. He had a weekly radio show called BreakPoint that would talk about issues that were going on in the world and, really, a Christian world view to addressing issues that we were facing here.

But throughout all of his books, all of his speaking, all of his literature,

every time that he was talking, it was a connection that he cared for people. He loved people.

One of my favorite stories that I hear over and over and over again about Chuck Colson is, as he would travel around the world and travel into the worst of the worst prisons, that he would go in there and meet with prisoners. Oftentimes the warden wouldn't even go into some of these areas and meet with prisoners. The wardens of these prisons would be afraid. And yet Chuck Colson would go in, unarmed, without guards right with him, but would go up and meet with the prisoners, talk with them, touch them, hug them, and just interact with them and let them know that he was going to continue to be thinking about them, praying for them, caring for them, loving them, and that he would be back. That made a huge impact on my life.

Reading many of his books, he often talked about what is our role in government, and how should we view the challenges sometimes that we see? As Christians, how should we be involved in government?

□ 2020

He talked very clearly about that—of the respect of government but also of the importance of everybody from all faiths to be involved in government—and to recognize that this is our responsibility as citizens to be engaged and involved in the political process. So I had learned much about Chuck Colson through his readings, through hearing him speak.

I had a wonderful opportunity a couple of years ago when I had heard about a program that he did, that he had started up about 10 years ago, called the Centurions Program. What this is is a program that Chuck Colson and Prison Fellowship Ministries puts on. It's a yearlong program of study—of seminars, of training—of really talking about how to be involved in our country, to be involved in our government, to make an impact in our communities. It involved dozens of books that we read in a year: going through what impacts our culture, looking at movies, looking at music, looking at government, looking at education—every single sector.

Then we would come from all over the country out to Washington, D.C., three times during that year, to spend a long weekend together. Chuck Colson personally led those seminars, along with wonderful speakers from around the country who had come to train men and women from all over the Nation to be more effective in their communities, to be more effective in their families, to be passionate about using their gifts to impact others for good.

I was privileged to be selected to be a part of this Centurions Program in 2009, and I went through that yearlong process. Little did I know at that time, honestly, that I would have the opportunity to serve in Congress. This was before I even considered the idea of

running for Congress, but it was really through that program and through much that I had learned that I was brought to start thinking about this, to pray about it, to talk to my wife, to talk to my family, to talk to my kids of how important this is and what a pivotal time in our Nation this is right now. So it was much through the impact that Chuck Colson had on my life and that the ministry had on my life that I decided to run for Congress.

I was so excited to have Chuck Colson here in the Cannon Caucus Room just several months ago to be able to meet with Members of Congress and to make the connection again. I had spent so much time with him in that year but hadn't had a chance to really connect with him since I had been elected to Congress. He came up to me and gave me a big hug and said, I am so proud of you. He wrote me a little note just saying, again, of how excited he was and how he wanted me to continue to be faithful in all that we had been studying together and learning together. He continued to challenge me, and we talked about how we were, hopefully, going to work together for many years to come.

Unfortunately, there was his untimely death. It was a very sudden death. He was speaking before a group of people and had a dizzy attack. Within a short period of time, he had a blood clot in his brain, which had an impact there. Over weeks, they tried to do everything that they could to save him and weren't able to. Unfortunately, we won't be able to continue to work with him, but his legacy lives on in me and in so many others, in literally millions of others around the world whom he touched. So that is why it is such a privilege for us to be able to honor him tonight as to the direct impact that he had on us.

Really, before I had the chance to get to know him more personally, part of the impact that he had was on the studies that I was doing when I was involved in our State legislature back in Illinois. My wife and I had had our fourth child, and we were trying to think of a good name for our new son. We decided together that we would name him Koleson. We call him Kole, but his name is Koleson, named after Chuck Colson. So it is such a privilege and a reminder all the time as I'm now with my 8-year-old little boy, Koleson, of the legacy that he has, of the big shoes that he has to fill and, really, of the power that his name means to me of a man who had a huge impact on my life.

So, again, we will take this time over these next minutes to honor a man we could spend days talking about. I am so privileged to have my colleagues here tonight, and I am going to turn it over to my good friend from New Mexico, STEVAN PEARCE.

Mr. PEARCE. I thank the gentleman for bringing this issue before the House.

It is rare that a person can impact your life in a very strong way. It is almost never that a person can impact your life in a very strong way on different ends of the spectrum.

In 1970, I graduated from college. I had drawn a very low draft number earlier in my college career. I had joined the Air Force ROTC in order to avoid going to Vietnam in the middle of my college career; but, as an ROTC graduate, I then had an obligation to go to pilot training. I attended pilot training and then went overseas. I was assigned to the C-130s. We were stationed at Clark Air Base in the Philippines, but most of our missions were in Vietnam. For the next year and a half, that's where I was.

On one particular mission there in that time of 1971 and 1972, I was a copilot who was flying into Cambodia. Now, at that time, we were supposedly not going into Cambodia, and we were supposedly not going into Laos, but we were in and out on several trips that day. That evening, when I got back to the BOQ, to the quarters there at Korat Air Force Base, which I think is where we were stationed at that time for 2 weeks, I was interested to see that President Nixon was on TV. The camera zoomed in very close to him, and he described that American soldiers were not in or around Cambodia, that that mission was not one that we as soldiers were fulfilling.

Now, having just been in and out around Cambodia the entire day, that struck me as unusual that a President would say things that were completely untrue, that I knew to be untrue. In my heart, I began to believe that he could have said, I don't think the American people have a right to know. He could have said, It's secret, and that's classified information. But he came out with the camera looking him square in the face, and he said that we were not there. Now, maybe he did not know. I'll give him that.

Yet, when I got back to the U.S. and had found out about Watergate—that was beginning to unravel—the idea of who to vote for in those 1972 elections was ever present on my mind. His opponent, there was no chance I would vote for him. His opponent was Eugene McCarthy. I would not vote for him, but I ended up filling my ballot out that neither man was qualified or deserved this office. I did not vote for a President that year simply because of my personal experience. Then in watching this whole problem with Watergate, Chuck Colson, Haldeman, those guys who were inside—the Plumbers—it began to give me a sense that this was a very bad point in my life and that Mr. Colson was a part of that group that was willing to mislead a Nation, that was willing to say things that weren't true. At the end of the day, President Nixon, as you know, stepped down. He gave up his office because of misdeeds that a small group of them pulled together.

Now, it was with that background that I knew Chuck Colson for most of

my life. Then in 2003, when I arrived here at the Capitol when being first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, I started going to just a very small lecture series, and it was hosted by a gentleman named Chuck Colson. It didn't take long to make the association; but he was bringing in some of the best Christian worldview thinkers in the entire country, and I was able to experience Mr. Colson in a far different way than that remote acquaintance I had made in the early seventies.

In this way, he was one of the most compelling thinkers in the country. It was he who said that he lived in the dark until he saw the light. It was he who committed himself to a different view of the world, one that said that we must have redemption, that we must have a savior, that there is no hope for us as human beings if we are not to deal with those problems that each one of us faces in our lives. As he began to develop his insights and began to be one of the premier organizers of the Christian worldview, bringing in literally people from around him, he established his pillars for glorifying God through the works that we do.

Those pillars are: One, prepare well; two, keep an eye on the horizon rather than up close to you; three, engage and enlist others; four, run assessments; five, seek the abiding fruit, not just that that is temporary; and, finally, have guidelines that you have applied.

It is in those principles of glorifying God that Mr. Colson really developed a presence that affected the world and affected my life significantly. He began to compel those of us attending this lecture series in this House of Representatives, in one of the rooms beneath us, to enlist those around us, to be a light that shines out to others, to let our lives be different, to let our lives be the equivalent of salt and light, which are rubbed, so to speak, into the fabric of the American mind-set so that those around us will know that they have embraced a lie.

□ 2030

It was Mr. Colson who told me the most dramatic thing. His perception was—and I believe it is still—"The greatest problem facing America," he said, "is truth." We don't know the truth in this country anymore. It's not revered. As we don't know the truth, then we see the fragments of society beginning to come loose around us.

I hear my own daughter and grandchildren say: Which side is right? They're all saying different things. When we as a Nation walk away from the concept of truth, when we as elected officials fail to honor our obligations to speak the truth as we know it, when our courts declare that there is no truth, then the Nation truly does suffer.

He made that extraordinarily clear and lived it in his life. It's at that point that I began to be compelled that I should be more honest and transparent in my own faith. Not that I

would go out and be interrupting people and thrusting myself into their consciousness, but that they would look and see there's something different. They would say: Maybe we can trust that viewpoint.

So it is with sincere appreciation to my friend who is honoring Chuck Colson with this time tonight—because I believe that the Nation has lost one of the premier thinkers, one of the premier people who would guide us along a path, who would give us a wake-up call saying that we must find that salvation, we must find that way back when things have gone wrong. He was speaking from his experience of having gone so desperately wrong at a young age, being upheld and lifted into the very White House in this country, and having stumbled so badly.

He could speak with experience saying we all have to come back. There are things that every single one of us slip into that eventually we're going to want to change course. It's through his example, through his words, through his values, through his ideas that I know there are many here in this Congress who have lived a different life because of those ideas.

He came to New Mexico a couple of years ago. They had a large conference on the weekend. Again, I remember the same clarity, the same professionalism, the same looking toward the horizon there at that conference in New Mexico as we heard in this building here. He was a constant. He was refreshing to speak so openly about his problems. He was never able to let them loose, never get them away from him, never get that stain off of him. But he embraced that, yes. That's who he was and now he was different, that he had lived in the dark until he had seen the light.

Each one of us, if we were to make those same understandings and give those same acknowledgements, I believe, would live better and more transparent lives with truth being a greater part of that life. And I think the Nation would be better off for us living, as it is for him having lived.

We mourn his passing, but we also glorify God that he was placed into our midst that he might truly shine the light of truth into the darkness that he found around him.

My friend, I will stay around to hear what else we have. Thank you very much.

Mr. HULTGREN. I want to thank my colleague from New Mexico. I thank you so much.

Now I want to yield to my good friend from North Carolina, MIKE MCINTYRE.

Mr. MCINTYRE. Thank you so much.

Mr. Speaker, I share with these dear friends today marking the passing into glory of Mr. Charles Chuck Colson. We new Chuck as a dear friend and Christian brother, author, radio commentator, and also one who challenged us all to think more about our world view.

With his passing, our Nation has lost an uncommon leader, a true example of

the transformative power of Jesus Christ, and a reminder of the beauty of second chances in life. While some will forever remember Mr. Colson for his role in the Watergate scandal, I will remember and honor him for the grace and perseverance with which he advocated for the least of these in our society: those that were marginalized, those who were seen as helpless.

With his work through Prison Fellowship, the world's largest organization for outreach to prisoners and former prisoners and prisoners' families, and through his inspirational books and commentaries, Chuck Colson touched thousands of lives and advocated tirelessly for programs that would not only address the physical needs of those in our Nation's prisons, but also their spiritual needs, as well.

In addition, Mr. Colson's daily radio show "BreakPoint," during which he would share a commentary on the life of Christ and also on the Christian world view on the issues of the day, was such a challenge and an inspiration to me that as a young lawyer in southeastern North Carolina, in my hometown of Lumberton, I actually put copies of his "BreakPoint" commentaries out on the coffee table so that those clients and prospective clients who came to our law office would take time to hear from this lawyer, Chuck Colson, whose life had been so transformed by the experiences he had gone through.

When I think about his insights, it's because they were so challenging and so clear in their wisdom that they were so touching. His books challenge you to think deeply about your own calling in life: What was God calling you to do, and how could you take even the worst of experiences? I remember him describing looking out on the south lawn of the White House thinking he was just one door down from the President and the neatly manicured lawn. I remember Chuck two or three times in different testimonies describing that experience and thinking, You know, I've made it.

But then Chuck Colson went from the White House to the very depths of understanding what it meant to be in prison. But instead of letting that ruin his life after the Watergate scandal, he came out of that with his life being changed. His great book, "Born Again," was a bestseller back in the 1970s when I was in college. And I still remember when my own father, who passed into glory last year, read that book. Along with other experiences that happened to my own father, that book, "Born Again," told a story that my dad could identify with and that helped to change his life.

Having heard Chuck Colson speak at Montreat, where my own dad made his own Christian commitment, and hearing Chuck Colson speak at other events with the late Dr. D. James Kennedy down at Coral Ridge Ministries down in Florida, and being with Chuck so many times here on Capitol Hill, being part

of the lecture series that my good friend mentioned just a moment ago—that I still remember he organized here on Capitol Hill and would invite Members of Congress to come and to think more deeply and challenge us to go beyond the politics of the issue.

Then in his monthly newsletter called "Jubilee," he would have an editorial at the back that I regularly read and made sure that often I ripped that out and put it in a file because his thoughts were so provocative and challenging in terms of our own world view.

I also had the opportunity to get to know Chuck Colson and count him as a brother in Christ and as a friend, participating not only in the lecture classes here on Capitol Hill, but when he rewrote the book that he had written in 1982, "Kingdoms in Conflict," which greatly touched my life as I thought about the possibility of one day maybe coming to this place. He rewrote that book on "God and Politics," and challenged us to think about where we are in our faith as we deal with the tough times in the political world, so much so that my wife, Dee, asked me if for our 25th wedding anniversary that instead of a gift or going on a trip, could we be in the Centurion Program that Chuck Colson had where he had 100 citizens from around this Nation participate and spend an entire year studying the Christian world view on issues ranging from health care to business, from medicine to education, from law and government to issues within religion itself, and challenging us to study the biblical perspective and the Christian world view, and to think how we deal with those issues as Christians in the everyday world.

□ 2040

So with those 100 citizens from across the country, my wife and I spent a year studying under Chuck Colson's guidance and went to three different seminars that he hosted not too far from here in Washington. What an inspiration this man was because he didn't just teach and he didn't just talk, but he walked the walk and he changed lives by God's power in the process.

I know some of you here with us today—so often, we shared the night before the National Prayer Breakfast. Before we came and led the spiritual heritage tours here at the Capitol that so many hundreds of people have now done over the years, that we made it a regular habit to go to Chuck Colson's annual Prison Fellowship dinner that he had on the Wednesday night before the Thursday National Prayer Breakfast in February. And we looked forward as much to that as being central to the celebration of what the National Prayer Breakfast was all about because we knew the night before, Chuck Colson was having his annual dinner, usually honoring some great religious leader or reformer in society before we had our spiritual heritage tour back here at the Capitol.

He often also talked about his experience as a United States Marine at

Camp LeJeune, just on the edge of my congressional district. And he also talked about the practical ways that faith can change your life. That's the great legacy I know Chuck Colson would be pleased with today. We're talking about a man not only who was a great author and speaker but a man whose life changed lives and made a difference.

Thank you very much.

Mr. HULTGREN. I want to thank my good friend and fellow Centurion. Thank you so much, MIKE. I appreciate you being here.

I yield to my other good friend, ROBERT ADERHOLT from Alabama.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening, along with my colleagues, to honor the life and legacy of Charles Colson, better known as Chuck Colson.

Many people remember Chuck Colson as the hatchet man for President Richard M. Nixon and also the first member of the administration under Richard Nixon to go to prison.

But Chuck Colson is probably known better as a central figure in the Christian community since his conversion to be a follower of Jesus Christ. Some at the time of his conversion may have said it was a jailhouse conversion. However, if you knew and you looked at the life of Chuck Colson and saw the life that he led following his release from Maxwell Federal Prison Camp in Alabama, you would come to a far different conclusion.

Chuck Colson emerged from prison with a new mission, and that mission was to mobilize the Christian Church to minister to prisoners. This would perhaps be his greatest contribution to the church and to the world.

Chuck Colson was someone who rose to high places in the eyes of the world during his time here in Washington and in his political career. But it actually wasn't until Chuck Colson hit rock bottom that really his life was turned around. It wasn't until he realized that he was living in darkness, that he was in need of a savior, and that he was powerless to earn God's favor that his life actually turned around.

If he were here with us tonight, I think Chuck would unashamedly say that placing his trust in Christ, recognizing that Christ had paid the penalty for his sins was the best decision that he ever made in his life. And I can say these things about Chuck Colson because I had the opportunity to get to know Chuck Colson personally over the last several years, and I am honored to call him a friend.

Chuck Colson made many friends over his life and, of course, he will be missed greatly by so many around the world. And of course to Patty and his children, he will be sorely missed.

But, Mr. Speaker, I feel sure that Chuck has heard the words, Well done, my good and faithful servant.

So I thank you again, Mr. HULTGREN, for the time you have yielded to me to honor Chuck Colson.

Mr. HULTGREN. Thank you, Mr. ADERHOLT.

Now it's my privilege to recognize a good friend from Iowa, Congressman STEVE KING.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to also offer my most appreciative words for the life and the gift to all of us that was the life of Chuck Colson.

A lot of us got to know Chuck Colson as he came before our conference on occasion, the Republican Study Committee on occasion and professed his conversion. And when one listened to Chuck Colson talk about how his conversion took place, how he hit rock bottom, as the gentleman from Alabama just said, how he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior, and accepted a new direction in life that had lasted for 40 years, a man that was at the pinnacle of power in the world found himself in prison for about 8 months in Alabama.

And out of that prison, he came back and hit bottom and was launched not at the pinnacle of this world power, but he was at the center of the voice of the real power in the universe. And his inner voice, the spirit within Chuck Colson, spoke to all of us.

Upon learning of his death, I sent out a tweet in those days, and it read like this:

Chuck Colson, from Watergate to evangelical Christian to Prison Fellowship to heaven in 80 years. Rest in peace, Chuck. How now shall we live?

How now shall we live, Chuck Colson, who lived by the model that he had. It was a blessing to all of us that he went through the difficulty that he did. If he hadn't been formed and shaped in that way, I don't know that we would have seen the Chuck Colson that we knew that we're saying good-bye to here tonight whose life we honor so much.

His activities in Prison Fellowship set a standard that had not been seen in this country or in the world. And the recidivism rate of prisoners that didn't take part in the Prison Fellowship was extremely high. I haven't committed that number to my memory; but it seems to me that those who went through the Prison Fellowship, those who accepted Jesus as their savior—and I have met with them in the prisons in Iowa that were part of the Prison Fellowship effort—the recidivism rate—by memory, not by research—was only 8 percent.

It was a tremendous thing to mentor so many prisoners in and out of prison and the families of prisoners. He went to the place where he had known despair and gave hope in the very heart of the place where Chuck Colson had known despair. And I think that the testing of Chuck Colson turned him into a man that was a gift to this country and a gift to the entire world.

I remember a prayer that I offered for years and years throughout the farm crisis, the years of the eighties, the difficulties in the nineties. And it was:

Lord, please be finished testing me and start to use me.

I don't know if Chuck Colson ever offered that prayer, but I think he would agree with me that there was a time that he was tested; there was a time that he went through that test in the pinnacle of power and through that test in prison, and there's no question that the Lord used Chuck Colson, tested him for 40 years, used him for 40 years. Chuck Colson was a gift to America and a gift to the world.

I saw a little quote in an article written about him that I thought was useful and informative: The light just emanated from Chuck Colson. You knew that he understood. He wrote eloquently about the depth of his faith and the meaning in our lives in this life and in the next and the power of redemption. And this quote was written about him. I will note the author because it's useful.

The author is Michael Gerson, who wrote an article about him on April 22. He said, Chuck spent the last 40 years of his life dazzled by his own implausible redemption. He knew it was a gift. It was implausible that a person as humble as Chuck Colson could be the recipient of this gift of grace, yet that gift shined from him like a lamp on a lamp stand, not under a bushel basket. It was a light that shined across this whole country, and it shone into this United States Congress over and over again. He was a core for the values of our faith. He was a core for the values of our morality. He brought our thoughts together on the meaning of our service, our service here in this Congress and our service to the world.

And I think he gave hope to many in despair, many of those that served their time in prison or had been given hope and inspiration, grace and salvation because of their exposure to Chuck Colson, the inspiration that he was. His life dazzles by his own redemption. We are dazzled by the life of Chuck Colson.

□ 2050

Mr. HULTGREN. I want to thank my colleague from Iowa.

It's now my privilege to yield to my good friend from Texas, LOUIE GOHMERT.

Mr. GOHMERT. I appreciate my friend yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it's such an honor to pay tribute to such a great man as Chuck Colson. I first read about Chuck Colson, of course, after the Watergate event occurred and all of the events surrounding it. And then I was in law school when I read his book, "Born Again." It sounded like this was a brilliant man who really and truly had had a conversion experience. Life had been materially changed. Then, again, there are those who as a judge I saw that would get in trouble and grab a Bible and say, I'm changed, so go easy on me. Things like that. But this really appeared quite genuine with Chuck Colson. And I knew, as the Bible teaches, we'll be known by our fruits. What incredible fruits this man produced. Amazing.

So over the years I stayed in touch. He didn't know me personally during those years, but I listened to cassettes of his sermons, his lectures. That tells you how far back it goes—they were cassettes. Then I listened to CDs of him speaking and his lectures and sermons, and I would read his books. Thank God he was so prolific that he was moved to write such extraordinary books.

In fact, I came to realize with this kind of brilliance—and others have pointed this out, but it struck me back in the eighties—this is a modern-day Apostle Paul. He has that kind of intellect, that kind of ability. And yet he's able to discuss anything with anybody on any level. But his life is a living, breathing, walking testimonial.

I love the quote that Steven Curtis Chapman used in Chuck Colson's own voice in "Heaven and the Real World," where you hear Chuck's voice say these things. Chuck said:

I meet millions who tell me that they feel demoralized by the decay around us. Where is the hope? The hope that each of us has is not in who governs us or what laws are passed or what great things we do as a Nation. Our hope is in the power of God working through the hearts of people. And that's where our hope is in this country. That's where our hope is in life.

As he pointed out on more than one occasion, our hope—the Kingdom of God—will not arrive on Air Force One. And any hope of that happening is just misplaced.

Well, I have a brother about 8 years younger, now a Baptist pastor near Richmond, and Bill had acquired Chuck Colson's new novel called "Gideon's Torch." And as a man who had worked in the White House, to have him write a novel which, as you read it breathlessly, you realize these things could easily happen, every one of them, just as he spells out. It was an incredible book.

When I met Chuck Colson, I asked him, Are you going to write any other novels? That was just a fantastic novel. And he said, My publisher tells me people are not buying my fiction. They want my nonfiction. And I want God to use me however he can use me. If it's more productive, more helpful to people to write nonfiction, I'll write nonfiction.

He also said writing "Gideon's Torch," a novel, was far more difficult than writing the nonfiction, which he does. I'm not sure that it's still in print, but I would hope that after his passing there would be a resurgence of requests and people would get that book and greatly grow and benefit from it.

I just wanted to share a couple of things from his book "God and Government." He came to the Hill to provide this to many of us. As my friends here know, one of the benefits of being in Congress—and there are plenty of things that aren't benefits—but one of the benefits is getting to become friends with people you have as heroes. And Chuck Colson was one of my heroes. He was someone I truly looked up

to and I benefited from. And even before he knew me, he was a mentor.

At page 69 he says:

Whether or not God's existence can be proved, the evidence can be rationally probed and weighed. (Author C.S.) Lewis does so compellingly, and he cites moral law as a key piece of evidence. Clearly it is not man who has perpetuated the precepts and values that have survived through centuries and across cultures. Indeed, he has done his best to destroy them. The nature of the law restrains man, and thus its very survival presupposes a stronger force behind it—God.

Or consider the most readily observable physical evidence, the nature of the universe. One cannot look at the stars, planets, and galaxies, millions of light years away, all fixed in perfect harmony, without asking who orders them.

For centuries it was accepted that God was behind the universe because otherwise "the origin and purpose of life would be inexplicable." This traditional supposition was unchallenged until the 18th century's Age of Reason, when Enlightenment thinkers announced with relief that the origins of the universe were now scientifically explainable.

But in the past few decades, science has completely reversed itself on the question of the origin of the universe. After maintaining for centuries the physical universe is eternal and therefore needs no creator, science today has uncovered dramatic new evidence that the universe did have an ultimate origin, that it began at a finite time in the past—just as the Bible teaches.

Chuck Colson will be missed. But thank God and thank Chuck Colson that he has left us so much in the way of wisdom that we can draw from in the days ahead. We will be remembering his family and all of those who loved and miss Chuck in our prayers.

With that, I appreciate being yielded to on behalf of Chuck Colson.

Mr. HULTGREN. Thank you, Congressman GOHMERT. I appreciate it.

I do thank my friends that have been here. There's many others that wanted to be here tonight and weren't able to. One of those was our colleague Congressman MIKE PENCE from Indiana, who was unable to be here but wrote a letter. Many others also over the last couple of weeks have paid tribute to the life of Chuck Colson. I would like to recognize just a couple of them.

One was Reverend Billy Graham, evangelist. He said:

For more than 35 years, Chuck Colson, a former prisoner himself, has had a tremendous ministry, reaching into prisons and jails with the saving gospel of Jesus Christ. When I get to heaven and see Chuck again, I believe I will also see many, many people there whose lives have been transformed because of the message he shared with them. He will be greatly missed by many, including me. I count it a privilege to have called him friend.

Again, that was Reverend Billy Graham.

I do think it is amazing to look at some of the history of the impact and really the decisions that Chuck Colson made that we talked about. Before he went to prison, his conversion, many were skeptical about that, thinking it was a ploy to get a lighter sentence. Clearly, it wasn't, when you look at the fruits of what happened afterwards.

And I just want to go through a quick history of Prison Fellowship, something that, again, has had an impact on millions of people around the world.

In 1976, a Watergate crook found Prison Fellowship. In 1974, the Watergate scandal sent White House Special Counsel Chuck Colson to Federal prison. A new Christian, he faced challenges and adversities that tested his faith and self-respect. Paroled in 1975, Chuck could easily have opted to close that book on that dark time and move on with his life as inconspicuously as possible. But Chuck knew that God wanted him to hold on to his ties to prison and continue to identify with his fellow prisoners, despite the skepticism and scorn of Chuck's critics.

□ 2100

So in 1976, with little more than a vision and the support of a few friends, Chuck began Prison Fellowship to proclaim to inmates the love and power of Jesus Christ.

In 1977, the next year after the founding, Prison Fellowship goes behind bars. At first, through the support of the director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Prison Fellowship began transporting dozens of Christian prisoners out of prison for intensive training through Washington Discipleship Seminars held in the nation's capital. Those prisoners then were returned to prison to evangelize and teach their colleagues. But in 1977, Prison Fellowship ran into a hurdle when a warden from Wisconsin refused to furlough one of his prisoners to attend the Washington Discipleship Seminars. Instead, he challenged: If your program is so good, why don't you bring it inside the prison?

Chuck and his team were up for the task, and 3 weeks later, 93 inmates attended Prison Fellowship's first ever in-prison seminar in Oxford, Wisconsin. That seminar paved the way for hundreds of thousands of prisoners across the country to receive biblically based teaching through in-prison seminars and Bible studies over the past 33 years. That first in-prison event also reinforced the importance of training local volunteers to go inside prisons and build relationships with inmates. Today, Prison Fellowship ministry relies on a volunteer network of well over 20,000 volunteers.

In 1979, Britain catches the vision. Prison Fellowship International takes off.

In 1982, ex-bank robber reaches out to prisoners' kids and starts Angel Tree. The same year that Chuck started Prison Fellowship, a former bank robber named Mary Kay Beard was released from prison in Alabama. And, as in Chuck's life, God graciously transformed the shame of prison into a golden opportunity for ministry. In anticipation of Christmas 1982, Mary Kay organized Angel Tree, a ministry to provide gifts to prisoners' children on behalf of the incarcerated parents. Begin-

ning with 556 children that first year, Angel Tree has since exploded into a geyser of ministry opportunities reaching more than 400,000 American children of prisoners every single year, and their families, with the transforming message of Jesus Christ. Over 6 million children have received gifts from Angel Tree from their parents donated by someone else in the name of their parent. Again, the lost victim oftentimes of crime.

In 1983, Justice Fellowship hits the stage. As Prison Fellowship was expanding its ministry inside prisons, its leadership saw firsthand all of the signs of a justice system in chaos: overcrowded and violent prisons, neglected crime victims, communities shattered by crime. In 1983, Justice Fellowship was formed to promote biblical standards of justice in our Nation's justice system.

Justice Fellowship volunteers successfully implemented reforms across the country: victim-offender reconciliation programs; alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent offenders; victims' rights legislation, and more. In 1995, former California legislator and ex-prisoner Pat Nolan took the helm of Justice Fellowship and has since spearheaded efforts to pass the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000, the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003, and the Second Chance Act of 2007.

In 1992, Operation Starting Line sweeps North Carolina. In 1991, North Carolina's Secretary of Correction Aaron Johnson was pondering the condition of his prisons and saw only one solution—spiritual transformation. In an unprecedented move, he invited Prison Fellowship into every prison in North Carolina to lead a contemporary version of an old-time revival meeting. So in the fall of 1992, using teams of professional athletes, musicians, comedians, and powerhouse speakers, Prison Fellowship's inaugural Starting Line evangelistic campaign swept through all of North Carolina's 90-plus prisons, sharing the life-changing message of Jesus Christ. Since North Carolina, similar evangelistic events have spread to prisons all across the country. And in 1999, Prison Fellowship joined other Christian organizations to launch Operation Starting Line, now an affiliation of 37 ministries committed to prison evangelism.

In 1997, a new kind of prison ministry is born, Interchange Freedom Initiative, a values-based reentry program founded upon the teachings of Christ. With the full endorsement of then-Governor George W. Bush, Prison Fellowship and the State of Texas partnered to launch the very first IFI program in a prison unit near Houston. Interchange Freedom Initiative immerses its inmates—all volunteer participants in spiritual, educational, vocational, and life skills training from an unmistakably Christian perspective. Today, IFI is active in both men's and women's prisons in five states: Arkansas,

Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, and Texas, and many other States are seeing the value of this, of really turning around recidivism. That we've got to provide all of this for our inmates for them to really have true life change.

After God parted the Jordan River, allowing the Israelites to cross on dry land into their new home, He commanded them to erect a memorial of stones. These would stand as a reminder of the miracles God had done for them, Joshua explained. Today we seldom use stones as reminders of God's provision. Instead, we preserve God's works in written accounts and photographs. But the reason remains the same: to remember "the hand of the Lord is powerful"—that was from Joshua 4:24—"and by His hand, He leads us."

Since this time, Prison Fellowship has continued to minister around the world, but Chuck Colson also had other activities I've already talked about, and Congressman MCINTYRE talked about the Centurion program, the impact it had on our lives, a hundred citizens each year going through the Centurion program.

He also started the Colson Center for Christian Worldview, which again had a huge impact and has been directly involved in BreakPoint, which is a weekly radio program that is on.

He also was awarded 15 honorary doctorate degrees. And in 1993, Chuck Colson was awarded the Templeton Prize for progress in religion. This is a very prestigious award. It's given to a person who has made an exceptional contribution to affirming life's spiritual dimension. With the Templeton Prize is a \$1 million cash award. Chuck Colson could have taken that and spent it on his family. Instead, he donated it to prison ministry to impact prisoners' lives. He also continued to donate throughout his entire life all of the royalties that he received from his books along with royalties from speaking.

In 2008, President George W. Bush honored Chuck Colson with the President's Citizen's Medal.

So again, tonight we have taken just a few minutes to honor a man who had a huge impact on our lives. Many of us in Congress have been impacted by him through his writings and teachings and through our friendship with him. He has also had a huge impact on prisoners around the world and the plight of prisoners, and recognizing that all human life is valuable and needs to be respected and honored and treated with that respect that it deserves.

From the service today, there were a couple of different things. There were a couple of different readings that were done at the service, and I would like to close with this.

First, one of the readings was from Philippians, chapter 3. This was a very important passage for Chuck Colson:

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss

because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him. Not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached this goal, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

My friend STEVE KING had talked about this radical transformation in his life, and this first pointed to that radical transformation where he could have had everything in this world, was right there next to the seat of power in the Presidency and saw how fleeting that was. He could have had money and resources when he got out of prison and a career in law or so many other things, but instead decided to give back to prisoners and to others as well.

Many would ask: Why would he do that? Well, there was another passage that was read today. This was read by one of his grandchildren. This is from Matthew 25:

Jesus said, Then the king will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer to them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it for one of the least of those who are members of my family, you did it for me."

Then he will say to those on his left hand: "You are the accursed. Depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devils and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food. I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink. I was a stranger, and you did not welcome me; naked, and you did not give me clothing; sick and in prison, and you did not visit me."

Then they will also answer:

"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn't take care of you?"

Then he will answer them:

"Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me."

□ 2110

Chuck Colson saw what his God had done for him, the incredible power of his redemption and transformation that happened in his life, and wanted to share that with those of greatest need. He saw that as the weakest, the poorest, those in prison.

He was also dramatically impacted by his grandson Max. Max is diagnosed with autism. Again, Chuck saw the incredible value of every single life. Chuck was a hard driver, a type A per-

sonality to the maximum, but he learned from his grandson Max patience and understanding and love.

So I am so grateful again for the relationship that I've been able to build with Chuck Colson and with his family. We will miss him so dearly.

I want to end this time again by reading from one of Chuck Colson's books. I think this is so powerful. This, again, was part of the ceremony today, the memorial service over at the National Cathedral. This was from Chuck Colson's book, it's him talking in his book, "Loving God":

Easter, 1980. As I sat on the platform waiting my turn at the pulpit, my mind began to drift back in time to scholarships, to honors earned, cases argued and won, great decisions made from lofty government offices. My life had been the great American Dream fulfilled. But all at once I realized that it was not my success God had used to enable me to help those in this prison or in hundreds of others like it. My life of success was not what made this morning so glorious. All my achievements meant nothing in God's economy. No, the real legacy of my life was my biggest failure, that I was an ex-convict. My greatest humiliation, being sent to prison, was the beginning of God's greatest use of my life. He chose the one thing in which I could not glory for his glory.

Confronted with this staggering truth, I discovered in those few months in the prison chapel that my world was turned upside down. I understood with a jolt that I had been looking at my life backwards. But now I could see, only when I lost everything I thought made Chuck Colson a great guy, had I found the true self God intended me to be and the true purpose in my life.

It is not what we do that matters, but what a sovereign God chooses to do through us. God doesn't want our success; he wants us. He doesn't demand our achievements; he demands our obedience. The kingdom of God is a kingdom of paradox, where, through the ugly defeat of the cross, the Holy God is utterly glorified. Victory comes through defeat, healing through brokenness, finding self through losing self.

Chuck Colson truly was one of my heroes, someone I will miss dearly, someone who impacted my family. I will think of him all the time when I look at my own son, Koleson, named after Chuck Colson. But I just want to thank my friends for joining me tonight to honor this great man, honor this great life, and be challenged together to follow the example that he left for us.

Thank you, Chuck. We'll never forget you.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to a man we remembered just a few short hours ago at the National Cathedral here in Washington, DC.

The Good Book says, "Render therefore to all their due . . . honor to whom honor." Charles W. Colson is certainly worthy of honor and esteem.

The earthly life of this consequential American has come to an end and I mark this occasion with a sense of profound personal loss.

Chuck Colson rose to the heights of political power and fell to the depths of disgrace. But in his fall, he found redemption in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Given a second chance, Chuck Colson devoted his life to carrying the

Christian message of second chances to those in prison, and he saw countless lives changed by his compassion and example.

His voice of moral clarity was an inspiration to millions of Americans and made him an invaluable counselor to leaders in government and business. I will always count it a privilege to have been able to call him my dear friend and mentor. His dedication to moral integrity, serving his fellow man and his steadfast faith have always and will always be an inspiration to me and my family.

Karen and I offer our deepest condolences to Patty, the whole Colson family and to all who mourn the loss of Chuck Colson.

CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, first let me suggest that I join with my colleagues in honoring the memory of Chuck Colson, a man who also meant a lot to me as an individual. Those of us who come from California and remember Richard Nixon coming out there over the years and remember the great work that Chuck Colson did for our prison community in California, we're very grateful for that. He taught us really the true meaning of Christian compassion. I personally was a beneficiary of that knowledge and that spirit that he helped us understand and develop within our own hearts. So I would like to join my colleagues in that.

But today I rise to call attention to the hundreds of millions of public dollars we have spent and continue to spend in the form of foreign aid to the People's Republic of China—better known as Communist China to those of us who have spent years trying to fight that oppressive regime.

Our national debt is over \$15.7 trillion and is growing. We are spending \$1.5 trillion more every year than we are taking in. Forty-three cents out of every dollar we spend is borrowed money, and Communist China is the single largest foreign holder of United States debt.

The interest we pay on this ever-growing debt is increasingly squeezing out spending on other worthwhile programs. Why, then, are we borrowing money from the Chinese Communist Government—to be repaid, of course, with interest—and then using that borrowed money to finance programs in which we are giving money to these various programs that go to China, the country from whom we are borrowing?

Remember, the government of this aid recipient considers the United States its enemy. They are happy to loan us the money and they are happy that we are stupid enough to give it back to them in terms of aid and, yes, other types of programs, including giving it back to them in investments.

We are strengthening the government that considers us an enemy. As

we look into this situation, we know that they see the U.S. as their enemy, just as Japan saw us as their enemy before World War II—the Japanese militarists—just as Nazi Germany saw the American people as their enemy, and just as the communist governments that threatened the world for over four decades after World War II, just as they saw the United States as their enemy.

Yes, we are the enemy of tyrants and vicious regimes that are expansionary and threaten the peace and the freedom of the world. We can be proud of that. The Chinese know that. The Communist Chinese know that. That's why they don't like us. That's why they consider us their enemy.

China is the world's largest human rights abuser. China's Government smashes those who advocate freedom of the press, freedom of religion. Those who, of course, suggest that the Chinese Government should be accountable to its people are arrested and thrown into jail, or murdered.

It arrests Chinese practitioners of Falun Gong, for example. Falun Gong is a Chinese religious movement which stresses yoga and meditation. Beijing has these devout and passive people, practitioners in a simple religion that is meditation and yoga. These people are arrested and they're thrown into prison where they are murdered. And then the Chinese Government, after murdering these people for their religious convictions, sells their organs and body parts. It doesn't get much more ghoulish than this.

On the international scene, China is responsible for promoting and facilitating the proliferation of nuclear technology between North Korea, Pakistan, Iran, and others. China is responsible for empowering the Burmese junta that imprisoned Aung San Suu Kyi for years. It has allied itself with rogue regimes all over the world, like Sudan and Venezuela and other regimes that are tyrants in their own country and threaten the security of their neighbors and of the United States.

China's aggressive foreign policy and hostile naval actions are threatening the sovereignty of American allies like Japan and the Philippines. It is Communist China that has stolen and is currently stealing most of our prized military and commercial secrets. China has stolen the designs for every one of our nuclear warheads.

Chinese cyberspies have stolen all of our trade secrets. All of the money we put in to invest in research and development they steal and utilize. No wonder they're as far ahead in their rocket program as they are when they took the technology from us; they stole it from us. They have infected our critical electronic technology infrastructure with malicious viruses and then they, of course, break into our classified systems.

It is China which has embarked on the most significant arms buildup since the Cold War. And I ask: Who do they

think is their enemy? Who do they think is their enemy? The United States of America. While we not only become susceptible to them, not only do we put ourselves in an inferior position by borrowing money from them, but we also end up giving that money back to them in aid programs.

□ 2120

And that is what I would like to talk about tonight, the fact that how can we possibly borrow money from the world's worst human rights abuser, a country that looks at us as their enemy. Then we become vulnerable to that country. But at the same time while we are becoming vulnerable, we then increase our investment in the private sector of that country. But also we have spent hundreds of millions of dollars in aid programs to the communist Chinese regime.

Well, with that in mind, I asked the Congressional Research Service to assemble a list of programs that the Congress funds that go directly to supporting development and the economy of China. It is a partial list because there are so many programs that, after weeks of work, they could not even find them all. This list that I am about to read is of projects that are funded and have been funded over the last 3 years, at the same time, while the Obama administration was spending \$1.5 trillion more annually than we're taking in.

So while we're spending more than we're taking in by \$1.5 trillion, we are spending on programs that are going to China, and it's China who's lending us the money in order to spend that extra \$1.5 trillion. This is an insane policy.

And this spending on China is ongoing. I'm just giving you the facts from the last 3 years, and it is ongoing.

To make sure we all understand exactly where we are spending or sending our taxpayer money, I am going to read a list of programs that we have funded in China, and ask, as we are going through this list, after every time I go through the money, couldn't we have spent this money better in the United States? Or wouldn't it have been better not to borrow it in the first place and add this to \$1.5 trillion every year for the last 3 years that we've been putting our people into debt?

So every one of these things that I read, ask yourself that question: Is this in the best interest of the United States? Is it in the best interest of our children who we're putting more in debt by borrowing and giving it to China and having to pay the interest? They're going to have to pay off the loan and the interest to China in the future.

So here's a partial list, and I'm going to round off the figures to an understandable number. And many of these deal with "environment."

Why are we trying to make the environment in China better so that the people of China can basically out-compete us in our business dealings? That