

constitution was signed—with parades, traditional food, and other festivities.

The United States and Norway have a very special bond. Our traditions of human rights and freedom and also of democracy are woven into the very fabric of our shared history, and over the last two centuries, the people of Norway have contributed greatly to the success and prosperity of our global community.

As cochair of the House Friends of Norway Caucus, I would like to send our best wishes to the people of Norway as they celebrate this year's Syttende Mai today, and I would like to reaffirm the friendship between our two nations as we work together on important issues ahead.

MANDATE FUNDING TO BRING OUR TROOPS HOME FROM AFGHANISTAN

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Last October, on the 10th anniversary of the war in Afghanistan, I visited Arlington West—a moving memorial to Americans who have died in that war.

Every Sunday, on the sands of Santa Monica Beach, volunteers have put up a cross for every soldier who has lost his life in that war. As the number of dead has grown, they have only been able to put up one cross for every 10 soldiers. 1,843 U.S. soldiers have lost their lives in Afghanistan. We've had 17,000 casualties.

The defense bill today, in its current form, slows down the effort to withdraw our troops when we should be speeding it up. That's why I have cosponsored legislation with BARBARA LEE that would mandate that any Afghanistan funding be used only to bring our troops home. Without such a change, I cannot vote for this bill. I don't want to go back to Arlington West only to see them adding more crosses.

INTERESTS IN FINANCIAL ASSETS OF IRAN

(Mr. TURNER of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TURNER of New York. Madam Speaker, there are no greater reminders of how dangerous Iran is to America than the Iranian-backed 1983 Beirut and 1996 Khobar Towers bombings in which 260 Americans lost their lives.

There was no military or economic retaliation towards Iran for their involvement in those bombings. The only type of recourse the families had of those who died was a financial reward given to them by the Federal courts—an award they still have not seen.

This is why I have introduced H.R. 4070, a legal necessity which revokes sovereign immunity from the Iranian central bank and allows a Federal court to attach frozen funds. Thus, the

families who have been impacted by those bombings can receive the financial compensation they deserve and were previously awarded.

Today, 15 family members who lost their loved ones are on Capitol Hill, asking for two things: that we do everything we can to prevent Iran from killing more Americans, and that we hold them accountable for their actions.

I would like to say that I stand with them. I will continue to remind Americans about what Iran has done and what they continue to do.

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THE NDAA AUTHORIZES WAR AGAINST IRAN

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

Mr. KUCINICH. The NDAA authorizes war against Iran. It calls for a new policy—military action—which puts U.S. aircraft and munitions into position for air-and sea-based missions and the bolstering of U.S. capabilities to launch a sustained sea and air campaign against a range of Iranian nuclear and military targets. It authorizes war under the pretext that Iran is threatening to launch a nuclear attack, even though Iran does not have nuclear weapons, does not have nuclear-weapons capability, and is not building a bomb.

Beyond the obvious political and military questions here, there is a profound spiritual question: What is happening to the spirit of America that we can embrace war or waging war so casually? What happens to our souls when we authorize an attack on a nuclear facility in another country? What happens to the souls of those who perish when radiation is released from such an attack?

The Golden Rule states: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. It does not say: Do unto others before they do unto you.

HONORING MEMORY OF FORMER SOUTH DAKOTA CONGRESSMAN AND SENATOR JIM ABDNOR

(Mrs. NOEM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. NOEM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of former South Dakota Congressman and U.S. Senator Jim Abdnor, who passed away yesterday at the age of 89.

Jim Abdnor dedicated his life to serving the State of South Dakota and our country in whatever capacity he was serving. As Lieutenant Governor, as Congressman, U.S. Senator, even administrator of the United States Small Business Administration, Jim was a man who constantly put others first.

South Dakotans who knew him remember Jim as an incredibly decent man who worked tirelessly for the

State that he loved. In my personal interactions with Jim, I was always impressed by what a man of humility and integrity he was.

A born and raised South Dakotan, he left a legacy of hard work, commitment, and selfless sacrifice that every resident of the Rushmore State can be proud of.

I ask the South Dakotans and all those who knew him personally or of his legacy to keep his family and loved ones in their thoughts and prayers.

PROTECTING OUR VETERANS

(Ms. FUDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, today I rise on behalf of the millions of veterans who have returned home from Iraq and Afghanistan.

From joblessness to hopelessness, the readjustment to civilian life has been extremely difficult for many of our brave men and women. It is our responsibility to do all we can to lighten their already heavy load.

Today, my colleagues and I sent a letter to the Education and the Workforce Committee urging Chairman KLINE to address the aggressive and deceptive targeting of servicemembers, veterans, and their families by educational institutions, particularly for-profit career colleges.

I've read reports of schools steering our vets and family members into expensive loans, rather than directing them to less expensive Federal student loans. This is egregious and appalling, and it must be stopped. Join me in calling for hearings and for the movement of legislation.

BIRTHDAY OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

Mr. BARTLETT. Madam Speaker, I would like to invite America to join me in celebrating a belated birthday party in Frederick County, Maryland.

Just 100 years ago on the 22nd of last month, William Howard Taft convened 700 business leaders in the United States, and they established the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Just 1 day later, through the miracle of communication by wire, delegates from Frederick County asked to be chartered as the first county chamber of commerce in the United States.

Please join me in celebrating this very important belated 100th birthday celebration in Frederick County, Maryland.

INVESTING IN EDUCATION

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, investing in education is an investment in our Nation's future. In these tough times, we should make every effort to increase access to higher education for all Americans.

Unfortunately, if Congress does not act soon, interest rates on student loans will double for over 7 million students. If these rate hikes go into effect, it will be cheaper to buy a home than to buy a college education.

Sadly, the GOP seems to want higher education reserved only for the wealthiest Americans. Instead of working to help more Americans achieve a college education, Republicans are playing games with the health of women and children. Once again, Republicans are showing their priorities are out of touch with hardworking Americans.

We need to act now to keep student loan interest rates low so all Americans have an opportunity to obtain an education.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ARNETT

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

Mr. GARDNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Lieutenant Colonel David Arnett from Greeley, Colorado, for his 29 years of service in the United States Air Force.

Colonel Arnett retired from service as the flight commander of the 137th Space Warning Squadron in Greeley this past month. His extensive accomplishments in the United States Air Force are rivaled only by his service and involvement in the Greeley community.

Colonel Arnett was recognized for his outstanding performance as a combat field commander, and the 137th Space Warning Squadron was recognized as the Nation's top nonflying Air National Guard combat squadron six times, which is unprecedented.

After 16 years of service in Greeley and a dozen major and minor combat inspections by the United States Air Force, Colonel Arnett was additionally recognized as one of the Nation's top space and missile operators and flight commanders. In the Greeley community, Colonel Arnett was the Boy Scouts of America Scout Master of the Year and is a loving husband to his wife, Cindy, and father of their four children.

Today, I would like to formally honor and congratulate Colonel Arnett on his retirement and thank him for his service and commitment to our Nation.

NATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH MONTH

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of May as National Cancer Research Month.

We have made many promising advances in cancer research, including at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in my Buffalo community. Beyond traditional chemotherapy, cancer research has produced new discoveries, including smart drugs and vaccines for both prevention and therapy.

Madam Speaker, the only failure in cancer research is when you quit or you're forced to quit because of lack of funding. Our budget should reflect our Nation's priorities. We all say cancer research is a priority, but Congress then cuts funding to the National Cancer Institute.

I urge my colleagues—in the strongest possible terms—to make a strong investment in cancer-research funding. Let's give our scientists and researchers the support that they need.

GLEN CAMPBELL AND ALZHEIMER'S

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, Glen Campbell is one of the great singers and guitarists in our United States history. He suffers from Alzheimer's disease. Despite that fact, he continues to tour; and he is giving his farewell tour now.

Last night, some of us were privileged to hear him at the Library of Congress. He is still performing well. He is performing to bring more attention to Alzheimer's, a disease that strikes 5 million Americans and will strike another 10 million as baby boomers get older. It is a serious disease which has no cure, and there is no real knowledge of the origins of it. We must find a cure.

President Obama announced the launch of the National Alzheimer's Plan, which is hopefully going to find a cure and prevent and treat Alzheimer's by 2025. We need to support the appropriations for such in this body, support Francis Collins at the National Institutes of Health, and we need to support the caregivers who treat Alzheimer's victims. It is an urgent problem that we must deal with today.

I thank Glen Campbell for his courage in performing and bringing more attention of the American people and the world to this terrible illness.

REDUCE STUDENT LOAN RATES

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. On July 1, student loan interest rates are set to double on their loans from 3.4 to 6.8 percent.

After initially resisting making any adjustment in proposing actual further cuts in student financial aid, the Republicans said, No, wait a minute. We'll bring up a bill. We'll take care of that for 1 year. You just have to eliminate funding for public health and preventive health care.

Student loans or preventive health care and public health. They say that is the choice we have to make. We don't have to make that choice. There's a much better choice. If we raised taxes 1 percent on income over \$380,000 a year, your taxes would still be lower than in the Clinton era, and we could fund a permanent reduction in financial aid for students.

I know at the country club they're not hearing much about people who can't afford to go to college. But I tell you what, for the people in my district and the people I represent, their kids are loading up with debt. It is going to hobble them after they graduate from college.

We've got to reduce these rates. We've got to reduce them permanently. Why not ask those who have made it fabulously and earn over \$380,000 a year to contribute 1 percent to that cause?

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Older Americans Month. And I want to address an issue that is incredibly important to seniors, that is, caring for seniors with chronic illness and preventing unnecessary hospitalizations.

Madam Speaker, skilled home care providers in my district deliver high-quality and clinically effective care. Such care enables seniors to stay in their homes, rather than costing us by putting them out of their homes and into nursing homes. Unfortunately, a narrow sliver of operators within the Medicare home health program are tarnishing the good work of these dedicated, compassionate, and skilled professionals.

MedPAC has found that a small number of criminals in just 25 counties are ripping off Medicare beneficiaries and taxpayers. Since we know the source of this abuse, it makes the most sense to isolate it and go after it, rather than indiscriminately cutting payments to thousands of home care providers that do the right thing by seniors and taxpayers.

So let's reform the way we do this. Let's not cut off the people who do good work.

CROSSLAND VOCATIONAL CENTER

(Ms. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the 45th anniversary of the dedication of the Crossland Vocational Center located in Prince George's County, Maryland.

On April 27, 1967, President Lyndon Johnson dedicated the Crossland Vocational Center at Crossland High School