

I ask God in His loving arms to hold their families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask three times, God, please, God, please, God, please continue to bless America.

MODERNIZING THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, sometimes simple concepts are the most powerful.

Since the beginning of my career, I have seen the power of historic preservation as a key component to a liveable community that is rich and varied, not just merely the historic character, but the mixed uses, architectural diversity, human scale and function, economic development, jobs, and the creation of value.

Today, the National Trust for Historic Preservation will be announcing with their president, Stephanie Meeks, some of the most endangered places that we might lose, serving as a call to action. Our heritage matters.

That's why for over 35 years Federal Tax Code has granted special recognition to help with the cost of rehabilitating historic properties, and for good reason. Over 37,000 historic properties have been rehabilitated, have leveraged \$90 billion in investment, and created 2 million jobs.

Historic preservation is good for the soul. People love the enhancement of historic properties, neighborhoods, and districts. It directly links people to who they are, helping us understand and appreciate our roots. It is very important that most people also appreciate historic preservation. That's why it serves as a magnet for tourists and other investors so that surrounding properties and neighborhoods can be strengthened.

It also strengthens the economy. The investment and its ripple effects create more tax revenue and avoid the cost of rundown property and blight. As a local official, for years I learned firsthand that it is hard and expensive to deal with deterioration of the building stock in the neighborhoods in which they are located.

Historic preservation is the best option for the environment. Recycling a building usually has more net environmental benefit than a LEED-certified new building.

□ 1010

Historic preservation strengthens the community. A varied streetscape with a mix of uses makes that community safer and more resilient the same way that a forest that is composed of a variety of different tree species is more resistant to fire and disease than a monoculture of a single species. Historic preservation avoids that monoculture of the built environment

that is numbing to the soul and depressing to the economy, which is subject to decline in the future as the entire area ages and deteriorates at the same time. We're watching this phenomenon on display in communities across the country as first- and second-tier suburbs deteriorate.

As I mentioned at the beginning, Historic Tax assistance has been in the Tax Code since 1976. That's why it's important with all the justifiable pressure and concern to reform and simplify the Tax Code that we must retain tools for historic preservation. Indeed, I think it's time to modernize the historic property tax credit to reflect the many changes since 1976. Some of the most profound adjustments were made during the administration of Ronald Reagan, but it's been over 25 years since the provisions were addressed comprehensively.

We need to recognize the difficulty with the current investment climate that makes it more difficult for people to take advantage of the tax credit as well as opportunities going forward to maximize the capacity for this important program. That's why I have introduced, with my Republican partner, Congressman AARON SCHOCK, H.R. 2479. It would provide more benefit to smaller-scale, Main Street rehabilitation. There will be a 10 percent bonus for significantly enhancing energy conservation and special incentives that can be used in tandem with the 33 historic tax credit programs in individual States across America.

It's hard to think of a better value for strategic investment in communities that provide a sense of place in history with the creation of jobs and wealth. A modernized historic preservation tax credit will be a key ingredient for years to come—a building block for a livable community where families are safe, healthy, and economically secure. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important modernization of the historic preservation tax credit.

THE TALLEST WARRIOR ON THE LONGEST DAY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, growing up, I knew that my dad, when he was a teenager, fought in the "Great World War II." Because my father never spoke much about it until recently, I was curious about what happened. My fascination with World War II began when I saw the movie "The Longest Day" as a kid. Young Americans—mainly boys, really—who had never been far from home were sent to a faraway land to free a people they had never met. They charged onto a beach through a hail of gunfire in order to stop the spreading threat of evil in Europe.

This action-packed movie depicts the graphic details of the longest day on

June 6, 1944, D-day. Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., played by Henry Fonda in the movie, was the son of President Theodore Roosevelt. You remember President Roosevelt. He led the charge up San Juan Hill in the Spanish-American War.

Teddy, Jr., fought in World War I as well with his brothers. His brother Quentin, a fighter pilot, was killed in action. General Roosevelt was crippled from the wounds of World War I and had a heart condition, but he was not finished fighting. At the age of 56, General Roosevelt was the highest ranking officer that landed on the shores of Normandy. He was determined to lead this new generation of warriors—who became the Greatest Generation—as they took on the Nazis.

His son Quentin Roosevelt II, named after Teddy Jr.'s late brother, the fighter pilot, was also on the beaches of Normandy that day. They were the only father and son duo known to fight on D-day. Roosevelt and his boys were part of Operation Overlord. The greatest invasion in history was expected to come at a high cost. And, it did. American youth gave their lives that day for the future of others.

Armed only with a walking stick and a pistol and under constant enemy fire, Roosevelt led several groups of 20-something Americans up Utah Beach and inland. General Omar Bradley described Roosevelt's actions as the "single greatest act of courage" he witnessed in the entire war.

On D-day, thousands of American boys charged out of the sea onto French soil, beginning the liberation of Western Europe. Our boys laid claim to the beachheads inch by bloody inch. The remarkable Army Rangers climbed the cliffs at Pointe du Hoc under heavy, brutal German fire. They had to.

Americans did not go to Normandy to conquer. They went and they sacrificed to ensure that Hitler would no longer be a threat. Hitler had little regard for American GIs. He was certain that the "soft" sons of America would never become soldiers. He thought the Nazi youth would be able to outfight the Boy Scouts. He was wrong. The Boy Scouts took them on D-day. The sand was stained red with the blood of American warriors and that of our allies.

Mr. Speaker, to my left is a photograph of the Cliffs of Normandy, where Americans are buried. In all, 9,387 Americans are buried at the top of the beach at Normandy. Buried on the cliffs, their white crosses and Stars of David shine and glisten in the morning sunshine over now peaceful Omaha and Utah Beaches. One of the ones buried there is the tallest warrior on the longest day, Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. This is his grave. It is at the front of Normandy. Fittingly, he is buried next to his brother Quentin. Quentin was the only person from World War I to be buried at Normandy. General Roosevelt, who died of a heart

attack shortly after the Normandy invasion, later received the Medal of Honor for his heroics at Normandy. In this photo is his cross in Normandy's cemetery.

Today, we express our gratitude to the Greatest Generation of Americans who defied danger and fearlessly fought for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, where does America get such people? They were the young breed, the rare breed, the American breed, who took to the treacherous beaches of Normandy under the leadership of a remarkable man who stood tall to lead his troops into battle on the longest day, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., the tallest warrior.

And that's just the way it is.

SMART SECURITY: BY HELPING PEOPLE, WE HELP OURSELVES

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, last week, a bipartisan group of Members convened a panel discussion on Capitol Hill. Actually, it was an informal hearing about the Afghanistan war. One of the speakers was Lieutenant Colonel Danny Davis who, after two tours in Afghanistan, has courageously come forward, speaking truth to power with his assessment of the situation on the ground and his belief that the war is wrong.

I wish more of my colleagues had been there to hear what Lieutenant Colonel Davis had to say. He talked about the arrogance and stubbornness that allows our country to continue this military occupation long after it's proven futile. He discussed the strain and stress we put on our Armed Forces. And, as he explained, the Taliban are stronger now than they were. Push them down, he said, and they pop up in another area.

After the most powerful military surge in the history of civilization, we still haven't been able to keep them down. This shouldn't be a major revelation. When will we learn? We are emboldening the very radical forces that we're trying to defeat.

It's common sense that thousands and thousands of occupying U.S. troops will breed and do breed resentment and drive the Afghan people straight into the arms of the Taliban. Every additional day that we keep boots on the ground in Afghanistan is another day that the Taliban wins over more recruits and poses a greater threat to our safety and our interests.

Here's a novel idea, Mr. Speaker. How about we win over the Afghan people instead of alienating them and giving them common cause with insurgents? How about we move to implement a SMART security agenda where war is the very last resort?

Under SMART Security, we would emphasize diplomacy and development. We would seek peaceful conflict resolu-

tion instead of military force. And instead of launching drone attacks on troubled nations half a world away, SMART Security would have us empowering and investing in the people who live there. And why? Because it's the right thing to do. Absolutely. But also because the goodwill it engenders works to our benefit because, by helping people, we help ourselves.

The foundation of SMART Security is the recognition that killing more people will not make us safer, that it will undermine our national security instead of contributing to it. But if we help send Afghan girls to school, if we help Afghan women get proper prenatal care, if we help Afghanistan rebuild its infrastructure and its economy, these are the things that will advance in our interests, and our security will be better off.

□ 1020

A more Democratic, more prosperous Afghanistan is one where the extremists can't get a toehold, where the Taliban can't exploit and feed off people's desperation. And by the way, Mr. Speaker, we can do SMART Security at a fraction of the cost of our current approach—pennies on the dollar.

Humanitarian aid is a lot more cost effective than weapons systems and military occupation. The current Afghanistan policy has been given a chance to work, and it has failed spectacularly. The time for patience, after more than a decade of war, has long since come and gone.

As a matter of moral decency, fiscal sanity, and common sense, it's time now to bring our troops home.

FLEXIBLE PERMITTING SYSTEM WORKS

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, the people I work for, the people of Texas 22, were disrespected once again yesterday by Dr. Al Armendariz, the former Region 6 EPA Administrator, a region that includes my home State of Texas.

After losing his job a few weeks ago because he advocated using Roman tactics like crucifixion to beat down America's producers of fossil fuel energy, Dr. Armendariz finally accepted an invitation to testify today before the House Energy and Power Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee. Late yesterday, Dr. Armendariz informed the committee that he had changed his mind. He can no longer come. He couldn't come—I don't know why he couldn't come. It wasn't weather. I checked. I flew up from Texas last night, yesterday morning, no problems. I checked Dallas-Fort Worth, nothing. Nine American Airlines flights out of Dallas-Fort Worth—where Dr. Armendariz lives—flew here yesterday into Reagan National. None of them were delayed. Why couldn't he come?

He chose not to come because he could not defend his actions to his employer, the people of Texas 22, the district I represent and the people of Region 6. He could not defend interfering with Texas's flexible permitting system to minimize the emissions from our farmers and power plants of nitrous oxide and sulfur oxide.

Texas's flexible permitting system works. Those emissions have been cut double the national average in Texas. That's why we're the fastest growing State in America. That's a great testament to how they work. You cannot grow more than any State in America, add industry, and have a reduction that doubles the national average. We did that, and yet Dr. Armendariz threw that out. He could not defend jamming Texas into the cross-state air pollution rule just this past summer. Immediately after he did that, without being notified, we should have gotten at least 1½ year notification, we got a 6 month notification. Because of that, the largest power producer in my home State, which was using coal for power production, said: I'm going to have to shut down two power plants.

Reason prevailed, and that rule got kicked down the road. But again, it wasn't because what Dr. Armendariz did. He wanted to punish Texas.

And most importantly, he could not defend this email, which he leaked to radical environmental groups announcing that EPA was dropping the hammer on a producer of American fossil fuels in the Barnett shale plate. What he was concerned about was contamination of water in two wells, two houses there near this oil and gas recovery fossil plate. The problem: he was worried about water contamination. He sent this out, and I will read it to you:

Hi, everybody. We're about to make a lot of news. The first story has already been printed. There'll be an official press release in a few minutes. Also, time to TiVo Channel 8. Bug David for more info.

That was coming from the regional administrator. A couple of other points:

Thank you for helping to educate me on the public's perspective of these issues, and thank you all for your continued support and friendship.

These aren't the public. The people of Texas 22 I represent are the public. But look what he sent out. Again, he sent this out to the radical environmentalists, taking their marching orders. Here is the response from one of them:

Texas sheriff, yee haw! Hats off to new sheriff and his deputies.

Texas does not need a new sheriff and new deputies. We need a regional administrator that wants to strike a commonsense balance between a growing State and clean air and clean water.

The American people were fooled in November of 2008. With the help of Dr. Armendariz, they won't be fooled again.