the NATO headquarters to a more friendly country.

Belgium should not turn its legal system into a platform for divisive politicized lawsuits against her own NATO allies. No civilian or military leader could go to Brussels without fear of harassment from Belgium's courts enforcing spurious charges against them. The bureaucrats in Brussels and around the world who think they can wield unlimited global judicial power without being elected by anyone should be stopped.

IN SUPPORT OF DEBT RELIEF

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support legislation I have introduced with the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), H.R. 2482, the Iraqi Freedom from Debt Act. This bill will require the United States to negotiate in the International Monetary Fund and World Bank for these institutions to relieve the debt owed them by Iraq. This legislation also includes a sense of Congress that France and Russia and all other creditors should relieve the debts owed by Iraq.

While estimates of Iraq's debt range from one hundred billion to several hundred billion, the combined debt owed the IMF and World Bank is just $150 million. These institutions have the resources to relieve this debt, setting an important precedent for the rest of the world.

The case for debt relief in Iraq is especially compelling, given the fact that much of the debt can be characterized as odious. Odious debt is recognized as debt that is taken on by a country for the personal benefit of corrupt leaders or for the oppression of a people.

By taking the lead on debt relief, the U.S. has an opportunity to boost the Iraqi economy and to prove to the world that a major reason for U.S. action in Iraq was to benefit the Iraqi people.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

U.S.-EU SUMMIT IMPORTANT

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, today this city is the site of the annual U.S.-EU summit. Leaders of the European Union are here meeting with President Bush and members of his administration in order to strengthen transatlantic relations and to work on a common agenda which seeks solutions to issues within this relationship.

A balanced and well-defined U.S.-EU relationship is critical to global peace and stability. Although the difficult debate over Iraq presented yet another challenge to the relationship between the United States and Europe, it remains clear to this Member that a strong, mature transatlantic relationship is critical to the long-term economic, political and security interests of both the United States and Europe. And one of the central ingredients to a successful partnership with Europe is a stable and integrated European Union. It is important that the EU has evolved to become, along with NATO, one of the two critical international organizations to achieve these objectives.

Summits such as the one today along with legislative exchanges can serve to reinvigorate transatlantic relations in order that we, the United States and the Europeans, can together meet the global challenges we face.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to bring to this House an affordable and guaranteed Medicare prescription drug benefit to seniors. So far, my Republican colleagues have proposed a bill that does nothing to lower the cost of prescription drugs and actually raises seniors' Medicare part B deductible at a rate of eight times higher than their Social Security cost of living increase, which was just 1.5 percent.

Perhaps they are not hearing the same message that I hear when I go home and talk to my constituents. In the cities that I represent in East Los Angeles and in the San Gabriel Valley, seniors are telling me that they want an affordable and guaranteed drug benefit, just like the Democratic plan. They do not want a voucher program that dismantles Medicare as they know it. They simply want their medicine, and they want a choice to be able to keep their doctor.

Thirty-eight years ago this program was created. So many people in our district, the district that I represent, feel that this is their safety net and here we are attempting to try to privatize it. That is the wrong thing to do while people right now are struggling to make ends meet. Vote down this proposition that is being put forward by the Republican Party.

REMEMBERING ARMY SPECIALIST ORENTHIAL J. SMITH

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sadness to report the third death that has touched the Second District of South Carolina during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Twenty-one-year-old Specialist Orenthial J. Smith paid the ultimate sacrifice in the war against terrorism when he was killed during an ambush on his convoy south of Baghdad on Sunday. He was born in Barnwell, South Carolina, and lived in nearby Martin in Allendale County.

O.J. joined the United States Army shortly after graduating from high school with the intent on making the military his lifelong career. Stationed in Dexheim, Germany, with the 123rd Maintenance Support Battalion, Specialist Smith was a leader with a great potential. While in Germany, he graduated ninth out of 127 from a leadership development course.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in extending to O.J.'s family our most sincere thanks for their son's sacrifice and commitment to bringing liberty and freedom to the oppressed people of Iraq while protecting the American public in the war against terrorism.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops.

WAS AMERICA MISLED ON IRAQ'S WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION?

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today the House will consider an amendment to H.R. 2417 which will direct the Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency to conduct an audit of all telephone records and electronic communications between the CIA and the Office of the Vice President that relate to so-called weapons of mass destruction obtained or developed by Iraq preceding Operation Iraqi Freedom. I have introduced this amendment to obtain the Vice President's records in response to a June 5 article in the Washington Post which reported that the Vice President made multiple visits to the CIA by which some analysts felt pressured to make their assessments on Iraq fit with Bush administration policy objectives.

This administration has repeatedly claimed they had evidence which proved that Iraq had vast stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction that posed an imminent threat to the United States. Americans remember that this administration cited their evidence of Iraq's weapons as reason to go to war.

It has been over 3 months since the start of the war. No such weapons have been found. Has there been a massive intelligence failure on the part of all our intelligence agencies? Or has this administration deliberately misled this Nation to war? Either way, there needs to be an investigation.

My amendment would uncover the role the Vice President may have played to achieve a political translation of CIA intelligence about alleged stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction in order to suit the Bush administration's campaign to push this country to war.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1