REMEMBERING THE FALLEN IN IRAQ

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I just want a moment in reflection of those that we lost on the front lines of Iraq and Afghanistan in the absence of this Congress. I believe we owe them not only a debt of gratitude, but also an apology.

It is time now for there to be a defined strategy by this administration to return our soldiers home, those who have been deployed once, two times, three times, and to have an orderly redeployment as soon as possible.

I will not accept the condemnation that Democrats do not understand the war on terror, nor will I accept the condemnation that we are not patriotic or respect our soldiers, for we know a civil war when we see it. We know bloodshed when we see it. We know a wrong policy when we see it. We know a failed Secretary of Defense when we see it.

Might I just say for those of us who traveled across the country on immigration hearings, there was much more testimony than undocuments create a criminal situation in America. Undocuments are families and children who are basically seeking an opportunity.

Democrats want border security. We want comprehensive immigration reform. We are not here to condemn and suggest that those children are the basis of crime in America.

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NEED FOR EMPLOYER SANCTIONS

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in frustration with the Senate's delay in protecting Americans by taking up the House border security bill.

Employer verification and enforcement are vital to upholding our immigrant laws. Innocently hiring an illegal alien because there is no system in place is one thing. Knowingly violating our immigration laws for cheap labor is another. Not only does this hurt Americans by driving down wages, it invites an influx of illegal aliens that overwhelms our border security.

H.R. 4437 cracks down on those who compound our immigration problems by hiring illegals, fining them up to $25,000 per employee when they consistently violate the law.

To the Senate we need to say, listen up. Listen to what the American people are saying and pass H.R. 4437. This must become law this year so we can stop the massive illegal flow and secure our borders.

JUSTICE WILL PREVAIL IN THE WAR ON TERROR

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity today to join President George W. Bush at the White House, along with colleagues from the House and Senate and, most poignantly, with the families of victims of September 11 as President Bush gave a forceful and fact-based address about the war on terror.

The President declassified today a CIA program that over the last 5 years has resulted in securing vital information in the war on terror from some of the most nefarious characters that we captured, along with Khalid Shaikh Mohammed and others.

The President also announced today that those same individuals, including Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, who was the mastermind behind the attack on our country 5 years ago this Monday, will now be transferred to Guantanamo Bay, and the process will begin of facing a military tribunal. Five years hence, we have proven that justice will not sleep for the terrorists in this country.

America remembers 9/11, and today our Commander in Chief spoke truth to the world that justice will prevail.

THE PRESIDENT IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, the President gave a major policy speech today outlining the future and the fate of those individuals who are detained at our base in Guantanamo, Cuba. Two months ago, I had the opportunity to travel to Guantanamo to evaluate for myself the treatment of the individuals who are housed there.

Mr. Speaker, I might remind us how these individuals held in that facility are not signatories of the Geneva Convention, nor are they citizens of the United States and, therefore, entitled to constitutional protections.

With these individuals, it is not a question of guilt or innocence. It is a question of capability and intent. Clearly, these are individuals who are capable of doing our country great harm. Clearly, the intent is there.

I think the President is on the right track with the announcement today of military tribunals. I look forward to us getting that legislation in the House and passing it forthwith.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WESTMORELAND). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RAMSTAD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE LIFE OF STAFF SERGEANT JEFF HANSON

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to assume the 5 minutes of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) and address the House for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Nebraska is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I attended a funeral of the Staff Sergeant Jeff Hanson from my district in Nebraska who was killed in Iraq last week. His death was the 29th soldier from Nebraska and the 14th from my district. My district is largely rural. We find that people from small towns and farms tend to volunteer, enlist at a higher rate, tend to be rather patriotic. Therefore, districts like mine have assumed a disproportionate load of the war in the Middle East.

One of the things that struck me about the funeral was that I visited with his father, Robert, and also with his wife, Jennie. Robert had one request of me, and he said, please do not let them pull out prematurely. He said that his son saw progress in Iraq, and he felt that little of that progress was being translated to the American people.

Robert said this, and I think it is very true, he said, freedom is costly and always has been. Like the Civil War, we go back to World War I, World War II, there has always been a great price that has been exacted. He said that there was no doubt in his mind that we needed to stay the course and see things through.

But this is just the story of one soldier, one wife, and does it reflect the thinking of a lot of people? I guess, as I thought about Robert's comments, I reflected on the fact that I have talked to almost all of the parents and spouses of those 14 soldiers who have died in Iraq, and I cannot recall one of them saying, get us out of this.

I have seen time after time comments very similar to Robert's saying, we saw meaning, we saw purpose; we saw progress; we think we need to stay the course.

Jeff Hanson was a young person, well-educated, was an excellent leader. He served in Kosovo previously, was a Federal police officer. His wife, Jennie, indicated that Jeff was not only committed to fighting terrorism but also