benefits, benefits that will benefit those who work and who have worked and who need to pay their mortgages and provide food on the table? We need to extend unemployment benefits for unemployed Americans now.

Again, we have another story. Here is a story of privatizing Social Security or extending the age before receiving Social Security. I remember the fight. I was here on the floor of the House when seniors were calling our phone lines and saying don't privatize Social Security. Thank goodness for the wisdom of our seniors. If we had privatized Social Security, it would have collapsed in the abysmal disgrace of Wall Street—no money. But Social Security has been paying on a faithful basis now for decades.

We know that 72 percent of the American public don't want us to raise the age to be eligible for Social Security, but yet the minority leader wants to raise it so he can pay for the Iraq and Afghan war. Bring the soldiers home. Recognize that 36 million families are in need of Social Security. Seniors are in need of Social Security. Keep our Social Security the way it is—strong and solvent.

POLITICAL PRISONERS IN CUBA

(Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today is Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet's 49th birthday. This physician and peaceful advocate of freedom has dedicated his life to defending human rights and advancing democracy in Cuba, and for that he was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

So while Dr. Biscet and thousands of political prisons sit in Castro's gulags, the Castro regime is using political prisoners as a bargaining chip in a calculated attempt to gain concessions from the United States and the European Union.

Even more troubling, however, is the evident collaboration between the Cuban Catholic Church and the Castro regime. The church is cooperating with the regime and reaching out to only those families of political prisoners that the regime asks them to talk to, while Dr. Biscet and others don't even get a call from the church.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to stand tall, to stand with the Cuban people, and to demand the release of every single political prisoner in the Cuban gulags. Until every single one is released, we cannot shut up, we cannot stop speaking.

The United States should not be fooled. We will continue to stand with the political prisoners.

SOCIAL SECURITY UNDER ATTACK

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, for 75 years, older Americans have relied on the guaranteed benefit that Social Security provides. This monthly check provides a safety net from poverty and is a key component to a dignified retirement after a lifetime of work. Seniors contributed to Social Security. They earned it. They deserve it. They depend on it.

As we celebrate 75 years of this outstanding program, it is once again under attack by Republicans who want to dismantle the system and spend trillions of dollars in a risky privatization scheme that gambles senior citizens' savings in the stock market while lining the pockets of Wall Street. Does that sound familiar? Well, it should. Republicans tried to do the same thing under the Bush administration. This represents yet another attempt to return to the failed policies that created the worst economic situation since the Great Depression.

Well, I stand here committed to fighting back against such programs and protecting Social Security so that 30,000 seniors in southern Nevada who depend on it won't be abandoned in their golden years.

IN MEMORY OF SENATOR PAUL COVERDELL

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Senator Paul Coverdell, one of the most kind and thoughtful and deliberate Members of Congress, passed away 10 years ago this past Sunday. Senator Coverdell was a strong leader in Georgia for decades, serving as a State senator for 19 years and as a United States Senator for 7 years before his untimely death of a cerebral hemorrhage on July 18, 2000.

His dedication extended far beyond the political arena. He was a veteran of the United States Army and served as the Director for the Peace Corps from 1989 to 1991.

In honor of Senator Coverdell, the Centers for Disease Control established the Paul Coverdell National Acute Stroke Registry that helps implement State-based registries able to track care for acute stroke and help expand the knowledge and improve the quality of care. His legacy lives on.

Senator Coverdell was an inspiration to so many of us to dream big dreams and to answer the call to preserve this great Nation. He knew that the wonder and the awe of America rests in the principles of our founding documents and our people. We will always remember his patriotism and his wisdom.

PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to Social Security, Americans have two choices: On the one hand, there is the Democratic Party that created Social Security, strengthened it, and will continue to defend it from attacks. On the other, there are the Republicans on a never-ending crusade to dismantle this sacred program.

The ranking member of the Budget Committee plans to slash benefits, hike taxes on middle class families, and turn Social Security over to Wall Street. If former President Bush and Republicans had their way, trillions would have been lost during the financial crisis. Instead, the American people said ''no'' to privatization, and when the markets crashed, the trust fund did not lose a penny.

The American people have consistently rejected these failed Republican ideas that threaten the financial security of seniors. Don't be misled. We can protect Social Security's solvency for the ages, and we can do it without slashing benefits, privatizing the program, or making people work into their golden years.

I stand to defend America's seniors, and they deserve nothing less.

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THE COLLAPSE OF THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the ongoing destruction of the American Dream.

As the dense fog of increasing debt suffocates our economy, joblessness creates the uncertainty in which small businesses cannot survive. Credit is not available. Increasing taxes are creeping in at every level. We now know that we cannot keep our doctors or our insurance. We, the people, see no leadership.

As the President treads water, as America looks for leadership, as small business is paralyzed with uncertainty, as our elderly watch their health care rationed and as they are fearful for their future, as our families lose their confidence in leadership, all of this poses the virtual collapse of the American Dream.

The denial on the part of the administration is pathologic. The refusal to acknowledge reality is causing undue human suffering, prolonging the agony of massive unemployment, creating confusion and doubt in our military, and sending international messages of U.S. indecision and weakness.

It is time for action. It is time for us, the American people, to restore the American Dream.

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support of Social