

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, tonight at 6 o'clock we will be seeing the faces of gun violence. We are going to have a vigil. I invite all the Members here to take part in that.

Six and a half years ago, James Gorycki and his wife, Joyce, who were friends of mine, and my husband, Dennis, were killed.

Joyce has one daughter. I have one son. Today happens to be my son's birthday, and I am very happy that he is still with me.

It has been one year since we debated on closing the gun show loophole, and we have done nothing about it. I am hoping that still before this session ends that we will meet and try to reduce gun violence in this country.

It has been one month since we have had the Million Mom March, where moms and dads and families across this Nation came and said to Congress, let us do something about gun violence.

We live in the United States of America. We can do a better job on reducing gun violence. And tonight, unfortunately, we will see the faces of so many men, women, and children that have died.

I hope that my colleagues will join us.

SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAMS

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

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, part of providing our children with quality education is making sure they are healthy and well fed. School breakfast and lunch programs which provide free or discounted meals to low-income children are an integral part of a child's school day.

The program relies on families to truthfully reveal their incomes when applying for subsidized meals and schools and administrators to implement the programs honestly and efficiently. And when parents or schools fail to do this, it is the children who suffer.

Take the case of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, which overcharged the Federal Government an estimated \$23 million for its school lunch program. The Commonwealth failed to pay \$11.5 million of its share of program expenses, which were instead billed to Washington. It also served free meals to all of the schoolchildren, including those from upper and middle class and wealthy families.

Now, that \$23 million could have fed thousands of indigent schoolchildren. What a senseless waste, Mr. Speaker.

NATION THAT DOES NOT HONOR FLAG DOES NOT HONOR FREEDOM

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, in America it is illegal to burn trash. It is a \$10,000 fine to damage a mailbox. But even though it is Flag Day in America, we can burn the flag today, we can trash the flag, we can even urinate on the flag.

Think about it. Is it any wonder that Americans are losing respect for our Government?

Soldiers literally died carrying our flag into battle, and Congress protects mailboxes.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker.

A Nation that does not respect nor honor their flag is a Nation that does not respect their people nor honor their freedom.

I yield back the pledge of allegiance to our flag and to the Republic for which our flag stands.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, no senior citizen or disabled American should be forced to choose between buying food and paying for the prescription drugs they need. It is that simple. Yet, for thousands of seniors, this is a choice they have to make.

The average Medicare recipient uses 18 and a half prescriptions a year. Some conditions are treated very successfully with medication, but it frequently comes at a high price.

For example, stroke patients take clot-busting jobs that can cost upward of \$1,700 a year. For seniors on a fixed income, this is a staggering sum.

The Republican plan helps seniors facing this choice. It offers affordable options that allow Medicare recipients to choose a plan best fitting their unique medical needs.

By providing prescription drug coverage for everyone, Republicans want to make sure that no senior citizen or disabled American falls through the cracks.

SECTION 527 GROUPS POSE THREAT TO DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

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

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply disappointed that the House leadership has continued to delay debate on real campaign finance reform.

According to a Washington Post editorial, they claim to be seeking only to

strengthen reform. In fact, their goal is to kill it. It turns out they do not like disclosure, they like the dark.

527 groups are tax-exempt, political organizations which try to influence elections. They raise and spend millions of dollars to influence our Federal campaigns, with no disclosure whatsoever.

These groups pose a grave threat to our democratic process. The American public is demanding action now.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) have good bills that deal with a real issue at hand, plugging the loophole in the Tax Code that allows undisclosed funding and unlimited spending.

This discharge petition is about bringing these bills to the floor for a vote. We need to bring a little sunshine into this system. Let us pass a meaningful disclosure bill.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in 1968, the average senior citizen spent just \$64 a year on prescription drugs. Thirty years later, the average senior spends about \$848 a year on prescription drugs.

In 1968, seniors spent about 2.4 percent of their annual income on prescription drugs. And in 1998, seniors spent a little over 4 percent. That is almost double in just 30 years.

Some seniors even have to choose between food and filling their prescriptions. This inevitably leads to higher costs for Medicare. And more importantly, some of these seniors suffer despite the fact that their illness is treatable.

We can work together for a responsible and effective plan to provide prescription drug coverage for all, and it is coverage that will be affordable and available for all seniors.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about another of the 10,000 American children who have been abducted to foreign countries.

Miranda Budiman was abducted from Georgia by her father, Mr. Clements Iwan Budiman, on Halloween of 1998 when she was 4 years.

Mr. Budiman and his wife, Tara, were separated prior to the abduction and Ms. Budiman had primary custody of Miranda.

On October 29, 1998, Mr. Budiman had taken \$10,000 cash advance from his

credit card and bought two airplane tickets on Japanese Airlines. Mr. Budiman and Miranda left on a jet to Tokyo on November 2, 1999.

There is currently a felony kidnapping out for Mr. Budiman. He was born in Indonesia and has family in Jakarta. But the whereabouts of he and Miranda remain unknown. Miranda's mother has not had any contact with her since the abduction.

Mr. Speaker, we need to do everything possible to reunite parents and children like Miranda and Tara Budiman. We must continue to focus on this issue of abducted United States citizens and bring our children home.

GREENHOUSE EFFECT IS GLOBAL CHALLENGE

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

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with the House some interesting observations from a recent book that I just read called "Laboratory Earth" by Dr. Schneider from Stanford University.

Our atmosphere has a very tiny trace amount of carbon dioxide, which is natural for the atmosphere, but that tiny trace amount has a substantial effect on the atmospheric heat balance of our planet, which we call the "greenhouse effect."

In the last 100 or so years, we have increased because of our energy needs the amount of that trace gas in the atmosphere by about 30 percent, which is fairly extraordinary when we think that minute amount that causes a balance of heat on the planet.

Think about this observation, and I think it is interesting: When we burn a lump of coal today, we are recovering the carbon dioxide and solar heat of dinosaur times in fossil organic matter. While it took millions of years to make a coal deposit, we are releasing that same amount of carbon dioxide and other embedded elements in tens of years.

The speed of this human accelerated process creates one of the biggest global challenges that face us today. An interesting observation.

PASSING OF EARL SHINHOSTER

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, our Nation has lost one of its bravest warriors. Mr. Earl Shinhoster was one of Georgia's finest, one of America's finest.

This brave warrior fought for over 30 years with the NAACP to make America a better place for all of us. He worked tirelessly to empower the powerless and to give hope to the hopeless. He labored thanklessly to make a dif-

ference. He certainly made a difference in my life. I knew him to be a loving husband, an understanding father, and a great friend to all of us.

Earl Shinhoster has now received his very last battle scar, but his memory will never fade. His mantle may not have been filled with trophies. His battles were not put to song. No chest of shiny medals. But true warriors do not wear medals. They wear scars.

Earl Shinhoster was a warrior in the truest sense of the word, and he will surely be missed by us all.

MIAMI RIVER CLEANUP

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in continuing support of securing Federal funds to dredge the Miami River located in my congressional district.

The 5½ mile River runs through the heart of Miami and is in desperate need of cleaning. Dredging of the River is necessary because sediment buildup in the River has impaired the \$5 billion cargo trade of the shipping industry. Many ships cannot load to capacity and are restricted to sailing only at high tide. The dredging is a key element of the River's revitalization.

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The project has the support of our local business and environmental communities. And we have a funding partnership with the State of Florida, Miami-Dade County as well as the city of Miami.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a full cleanup of the Miami River, as it will result in economic improvements to the private riverside development by stimulating the shipping industry and providing much needed inner-city jobs. Federal funding for this project would also restore the environmental quality of the river and improve the quality of life for local residents and neighborhoods.

We have the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and all of our local partners ready to do the work. Let us get going.

COMMEMORATING FLAG DAY

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, on this date, in 1777, 223 years ago, the Continental Congress approved the first flag of our Nation. June 14 is now known as Flag Day. It also represents today the 21st anniversary of the annual national pause for the pledge of allegiance that will take place this evening 7 p.m. at Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland. I think my colleagues are aware of the importance of Fort McHenry in our na-

tional history and the importance of our flag, particularly as an inspiration to Francis Scott Key and writing our national anthem.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Americans to join those that will be gathered at Fort McHenry this evening at 7 p.m. to pause for one moment and pledge allegiance to our flag.

WAKE UP, WHITE HOUSE, AMERICANS ARE BEING GOUGED AT THE GAS PUMPS

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I realize that Secretary Richardson has his hands full trying to find our nuclear secrets from Los Alamos that were apparently lost when they were moved to protect them from the out-of-control fire that was actually started by our own government.

Nevertheless, the Secretary and other high-ranking administration officials need to acknowledge and respond to what has become a critical problem throughout the country. Working families in Cincinnati, my district and elsewhere, are facing skyrocketing prices at the gas pump, and they need relief now.

Earlier this year, Secretary Richardson responded to rising gasoline prices by saying, we were caught napping. We got complacent. Earlier this week, White House Press Secretary Joe Lockhart said, but we are in the busy season where prices generally go up a bit. Well, they are closing in on \$2 a gallon in Cincinnati. That is not a bit; that is a lot.

President Clinton has substantial executive powers that can be used to send a strong message to the price-fixing OPEC cartel. He has chosen not to use them. It is time we got serious about this and let us do something about the gas prices in this country.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM LEGISLATION

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, our effort to mandate full disclosure from clandestine political organizations began with a bipartisan appeal. Unfortunately, it has gone largely unanswered. Unlike the Senate, where an idea that began here in the House, was approved last week as the McCain-Feingold-Lieberman amendment, the House Republican leadership has steadfastly opposed reform.

Finally, last week, they promised a vote on this vital reform issue during this month. This morning we have a way to assure that promise is fulfilled through the signing of this discharge petition. I call on my colleagues, both