

citizens about the impact of narcotics use in our state. I won't be able to describe in detail to you the total devastation to the lives of people, young and old, from the streets of South Central Los Angeles where I grew up and subsequently worked as a Homicide detective Supervisor, to the luxurious homes of the Pacific Palisades in west Los Angeles or from the very poor section of North Palm Springs to the homes of some of the most wealthy people in this country. I also won't have time to elaborate on the helplessness that I feel as I watch the hard working members of my office attempt to deal with the effects of the flood of drugs coming into this country, knowing they will do the same work over again when the defendants are released on bail and eventually given probation, on the condition that they participate in a treatment program that admits to a 97% recidivism rate.

I do, however, have time to make a few candid statement to you and hope that you receive them in the spirit intended. First let me tell you that the term "war on drugs" when applied to the government's response to the narcotics problem in this country, were it not so serious a problem would almost be humorous. This is not simply the view of law enforcement, it is the opinion of criminals we deal with routinely. Most are themselves baffled by the legal gymnastics and lenient sentences they are given for the very serious crimes they commit. I have personally known criminals who are themselves shocked and confused by a sentence so lenient they thought it may have been received by mistake.

What can Congress do about it? I would suggest that Congress decide that the destruction caused by drugs can no longer be tolerated. Congress could withhold federal funds from states that do not deal directly and seriously with the drug problem. Congress could stop funding failed programs. Congress should stop funding social programs, just because they are packaged as drug prevention programs. If a program is funded for a year, require proof of success, before it is funded for a second year.

I don't believe this country can continue to act as if there is a never ending supply of money available to fund every whimsical program suggested, in hopes that there may be some slight reduction in drug use. The fact is that long term incarceration is cheaper than any alternative and it allows a defendant time to benefit from treatment, without constant exposure to the drug culture on the streets.

Congress should secure our nation's borders, not with more border patrols using the present catch and release policy as if fishing for an endangered species, but with a catch and keep policy to stop the repetitious violations of our borders. I believe a person who violates our border should be incarcerated for a minimum of six months. We must stop the cycle of people from all over the world walking back and forth across our borders at will.

The military should be used in an all out effort against drugs. It is clear that the problem is now so great that such a response is clearly justified. There should be no limitation of military support to federal and local law enforcement, in the "war on drugs".

Finally, bring the considerable influence of Congress to bear against those promoting the use of illegal drugs in any form. Members of Congress should take a stand against the legalization of marijuana in California, the promotion of drug use on television, and the casual statements regarding drugs made by political leaders which imply that narcotic use is not a real problem in our country and everybody does it. The fact of the matter is everybody does not do it, everybody has not

done it and when everybody does it the experiment known as a democratic society will lay in ruins.

I am sure you are very much aware of the magnitude of the drug problem in this country and many experts will provide you with statistics on the subject. I would ask to introduce two short publications into your record, if that is possible. The first was published this month by Dan Lundgren, the Attorney General of California. The booklet deals with the methamphetamine problem in our state. The second was published this year by the California Narcotics Officers Association and is titled Marijuana Is Not A Medicine. This pamphlet combats the argument that marijuana is somehow good for people suffering life threatening disease.

I want to thank members of the subcommittee for the opportunity to address you this morning and I would be pleased to respond to any questions you may have.

SALUTING MICHAEL MATZ AND AMERICA'S HUMBLE HEROES

THE REPUBLICANS' PLAN TO SAVE MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House tonight to bring up a few topics, not the least of which would be Medicare. We have heard from the other side tonight the Medicare, the fiction.

The facts are, Mr. Speaker, that this House is working hopefully in a bipartisan fashion to make sure we take care of health care for our seniors. It is the same Republican majority that this year, in this session, we raised the income eligibility for seniors from \$11,200 to \$30,000 that seniors can earn without deductions from Social Security. It is the same Republican majority in the House that reduced the 1993 tax on Social Security that was placed by a prior Congress from that side of the aisle.

So it would be the same majority Republican Congress that would propose that we save Medicare, protect Medicare, and to make sure it is here for the next year's seniors and for the next generation of seniors.

We have a problem we ought to face. The President talked about it a few years ago, but we are doing something about it. There is \$30 billion a year in fraud, waste and abuse. Under the proposed legislation, Mr. Speaker, we would hope to reduce that fraud, waste and abuse, and thus be able to make sure that Medicare is preserved and protected. That is what we are talking about here; not cuts in Medicare, preserving Medicare. We will do that.

In addition to the legislation to make penalties for those who commit fraud, waste and abuse, we are also talking about reducing paperwork costs to Medicare so those dollars go back to health care and to also make sure that medical education, which now part of that cost comes out of Medicare, that should be a separate line item in the budget, so we make sure our interns and residents are at

the cutting edge of technology at our medical schools.

But let us make sure that we have that lockbox; that any savings we have from fraud, waste and abuse does not go to the general fund, Mr. Speaker, but goes back to Medicare for our seniors. We will continue to fight for seniors in this Congress.

As well, we are going to continue to fight for our citizens, be they seniors or be they young people, to make sure we increase penalties for those who would commit crimes against seniors and crimes against our youth.

We also passed legislation, not only for more police officers on the street, but we have passed legislation which gives the flexibility to communities and counties to have a drug court if they want it, to have crime prevention programs, to increase the equipment for police, and also make sure they have the vehicles they need, as well as other programs that each community will design. So we have gone beyond the President's program for just more police. We have gone further.

But I want to take a moment of my colleagues' time tonight to also salute a local hero in my district. Michael Matz was saluted on Saturday in Montgomery County, PA. He is a humble hero, a gentleman who won a silver medal as part of the American equestrian team, but he is a third-time Olympian. For the last 20 years he has been involved with this sporting activity, which has brought him for the third time to the Olympics, but this time to the winner's circle.

What is most poignant about this day we saluted Michael Matz and his family was the fact that the individuals who came to that event were local officials, to be sure, and his family; but a very special family also came, the Roth family.

Just a few years ago when there was a horrible plane accident and tragedy in Sioux City, IA, Michael Matz and his wife were there to help save some of those individuals. The Roth family was there because three of their children were saved when Mr. Matz and his wife went back into the plane, after they got out, to save three children.

Those with great character and those humble heroes are in our own backyard. We should salute those people every day because America's heroes are all across the country. I am very lucky to have them in my district in Pennsylvania.

But I bring it to your attention tonight, my fellow colleagues, because we have great people in this country who are role models for our youth and role models for adults. I am very proud that Michael Matz is my constituent. I hope that he will continue to be followed by the public, because great projects in the future will be those that Michael Matz will be part of, and I hope America is watching.