

I implore my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, bring H.R. 1070 to the House floor before Mother's Day, in time to give our mothers, our sisters, our daughters the most important gift of all, which is life.

COMMENDING UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA'S BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, although it was Michigan State who celebrated last night, I am very proud of the team from the University of Florida for making it to the NCAA title game. This season, Florida put together an impressive record of 29 and 8, matching the 1994 team for the most victories in the school's history.

I commend coach Billy Donovan for his outstanding work and the players for their perseverance in bringing "Billy ball" to the court. The Gators gave little breathing room and pressed the other team after nearly every basket. This unique style of play demands endurance from the opponent, which the Spartans showed last night.

The University of Florida can take great pride in the talent they fielded with Mike Miller, Brett Nelson, Donnell Harvey, Teddy Dupay, and the other players. I know that the University's President, Dr. Charles Young; the athletic director, Mr. Jeremy Foley; the students; the faculty and the fans of the Gators are proud of the team's accomplishments. I know that I am.

RATIO OF ACCIDENTAL MEDICAL DEATHS TO ACCIDENTAL GUN DEATHS

(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, something does not add up, the number of accidental deaths involving guns average 1,500 per year; and the number of accidental deaths caused by doctors, surgeons, and hospitals average 120,000 a year, 120,000 per year. That means the ratio of accidental medical-related deaths to accidental gun deaths is 80 to 1, 80 times more possible of being killed accidentally by a doctor than a gun.

Tell me, Mr. Speaker, should we mandate a 5-day waiting period on vasectomies?

Beam me up. Congress does not need more gun laws; America must enforce the laws that we have.

I yield back all the American lives saved by an honest law-abiding American who just happened to have a gun.

ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART FOR MILITARY MERIT TO ROBERT EUGENE ELLEDGE

(Mr. GARY MILLER of California asked and was given permission to ad-

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

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an American hero. Last week, I had the opportunity to present Robert Eugene Elledge of Pomona, California with the Order of the Purple Heart for Military Merit service.

On May 10, 1951, as Mr. Elledge and his division began to crawl the hill they were ordered to take, his helmet was cracked into many pieces by enemy fire. After he was placed in an ambulance, he learned that his company had been annihilated, only four survived the Second Chinese Communist Forces Spring Offensive, also known as Battle of Soyang or, as Mr. Elledge recalls it, the May Massacre.

Mr. Speaker, 49 years ago, Mr. Elledge felt that his experience warranted a purple heart, and he began to inquire about when he might receive this honorable award. It seems that the paperwork requesting the medal was lost. Last Friday, 49 years after surviving the May Massacre, tears came to Mr. Elledge's eyes when he received the medal that he waited for so patiently.

The Korean War is often referred to as our "forgotten war." While his paperwork may have been forgotten, the sacrifices that Mr. Elledge made for this country in Korea will always be remembered.

COMMENDING MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the NCAA, its universities, presidents, and teams for the outstanding season that we witnessed first of the 21st century.

Last night, our Michigan State Spartans won an overwhelming victory; and we applaud them. President McPherson, Coach Izzo, the Flintstones, as well as the entire Michigan State teams, its coaches and university and students, we are proud of you. Go Green. Keep the fight. Let us move on for a positive 21st century.

We are with you, God bless you.

FATHER RICHARD DOERR

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

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to introduce Father Richard Doerr as our guest chaplain today.

After speaking with some of the members of his congregation in Carmel, Indiana, I can tell my colleagues that Father Doerr enjoys the kind of universal adoration that folks like us in Washington can really only dream about.

He is cherished by his congregation because of his memorable sermons, his

positive nature, and his devotion to young adults in Indianapolis. Father Doerr is a priest of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. He is an associate pastor of our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church and St. Maria Goretti Mission in Carmel, Indiana, a beautiful suburb north of Indianapolis.

He was educated in Indiana. He got his bachelor's degree from Purdue, where, I am told, he was a star in the Glee Club. And he went on to earn his masters degrees in theology and arts at St. Meinrad Seminary in Southern Indiana. He has ministered in St. Louis, in Fishers and was a chaplain at the St. Francis Newman Center on the campus of Ball State in my hometown of Muncie.

Father Doerr has done wonderful work with young adults throughout his career. Together with his brother, Brian, Father Doerr founded the Frassatti Society in Indianapolis, a group of more than 200 young Catholic adults.

The Society's members help each other keep faith in their lives during the transitions from college life, joining the work force and starting a family.

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At those critical junctures, Father Doerr is there to make sure they remember to keep their faith in everything they do, say, and think.

One of my staffers, a young woman from Carmel, attends Father Doerr's mass and described him as captivating in the pulpit. She said that he tells real-life stories and makes it easy for her to apply the lessons of the scripture in her life. Most of all, she said he is funny.

So it is with great pride that we Hoosiers present Father Richard Doerr as today's chaplain. Thank you, Father Doerr, for blessing us in this House today.

REINVENTING COMMON SENSE

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, under the Gore administration, there has been an all-out effort to reinvent common sense. Under that, the Vice President decided to take on purchasing over at the Pentagon and make the Pentagon act like the private sector.

Well, here is what we got after Mr. Gore was finished with it. They paid \$30 for a 15-cent O-ring gasket; \$714 for an electric bell that was worth only \$47; \$350 for a ball bearing that normally costs \$48; and \$1,236 for fan assemblies worth \$675.

But then again, here is a guy who takes \$300,000 from Buddhist monks, sworn on a vow of poverty, and does not recognize that as a fund-raiser. Perhaps that is why he could not recognize a good deal over at the Pentagon.