

People from around the world are attracted to the central coast of California to visit the rich fields of the Salinas Valley and the bountiful Monterey Bay described in Steinbeck's books.

I believe the life and work of John Steinbeck deserves congressional recognition. I encourage my colleagues to support the bill I am introducing today to offer our appreciation and deep respect for the writings of a great American, John Steinbeck.

OFFER OF PRAYERS FOR MARTIN AND GRACIA BURNHAM AND OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO ARE CASUALTIES IN GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 277th day that Martin and Gracia Burnham have been held captive by Muslim terrorists in the Philippines.

Last Thursday, 10 American servicemen lost their lives in a helicopter crash while conducting a bilateral training exercise with the Philippine Defense Forces.

From the Army's E company, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, Airborne, we mourn Major Curtis D. Feistner, Captain Bartt D. Owens, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jody L. Egnor, Staff Sergeant James P. Dorrity, Staff Sergeant Kerry W. Frith, Staff Sergeant Bruce A. Rushforth, Jr., Sergeant Jeremy D. Foshee, Specialist Thomas F. Allison.

From the 320th Special Tactics Squadron, we mourn Master Sergeant William L. McDaniel, II and Staff Sergeant Juan M. Ridout.

I am extremely grateful for their service to our Nation. I send heartfelt prayers to their families, friends, and fellow soldiers for their loss. Their honor, courage, selflessness, and patriotism cannot be overstated.

These fine men were casualties in our global war on terrorism. The U.S. military's presence in the Philippines is assisting the Philippine government in their own national war on terrorism with the Abu Sayyaf. It is hoped that the Army's presence there may additionally help in the freedom of Martin and Gracia Burnham from their nightmare.

I ask my colleagues to join me in praying for these men and their families. Let us continue to make our Nation a shining beacon of freedom so their deaths were not in vain. Also, let us pray for Martin and Gracia, that they are safely released, so the Burnham family does not suffer the same heartache as these servicemen's families.

TRIBUTE TO DEREK PARRA

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of America's Olympic heroes, skater Derek Parra.

Derek is from my district. He went to school with my son, Joe Baca, Jr., and I attended church with Derek's father, Gilbert Parra, at Saint Catherine's in Rialto. His dad and I play golf together, and we used to play softball on the same team.

Derek unexpectedly broke the world record in the 5,000 meter speed skating race and won the silver medal. Derek later broke another world record in the 1,500 meter speed skating race. This record held, and Derek won the gold medal.

Derek's road to the Olympics has not been easy. He and his wife Tiffany have struggled to make ends meet raising their baby girl, Mia Elizabeth, while Derek trained for the Olympics.

As the first Mexican-American ever to win a medal in the winter Olympics, Derek expanded the dreams of millions of children. In a world that often tells our children, "no, you can't," Derek Parra has shown that "si, se puede," yes, you can compete. Through faith, determination, and hard work, Derek broke down barriers to become a beacon of hope for our children and children everywhere. Derek is truly a role model for others to follow.

Derek made history and opened the world of possibility for Hispanic Americans. His dream said, "dream big and don't be afraid." We are proud of you, Derek. You are our hero. God bless you.

IMPORTANCE OF MARRIAGE INITIATIVES IN WELFARE REFORM

(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, between 1970 and the year 2000, the number of children living in a single-parent home has jumped from 8.2 million to 19.2 million. That is almost a 150 percent increase.

The effect of that change had a devastating consequence. Children living with a single mother are six times more likely to live in poverty than children living in a complete family. The median income of a single mother with kids is about \$21,000. For a married couple with kids, it is about \$63,000. Almost a third of single-parent families with kids live in poverty. Only 6 percent of families headed by married couples live in poverty.

Mr. Speaker, it does not take a nuclear scientist to figure out that marriage is good for kids. But that is saying the cup is half full when it is really half empty. It is clear not being married is devastating to our children.

Our welfare laws still penalize poor couples from getting married. Congress needs to change this and change it for good.

FULFILL COMMITMENT MADE TO FUND UNPFA

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, last year Congress and the President agreed to fund UNPFA, the United Nations Population Fund, at \$34 million. Now the administration has said they will not spend the funds appropriated by Congress in accordance with the bipartisan deal that was made. They say that UNPFA performs abortions and points to their work in China.

What opponents do not say is that UNPFA does not perform abortions, not in China, not in Africa, and not in Latin America. They never have, and they never will.

My colleagues know U.S. law prevents them from doing so. Secretary Colin Powell and U.N. Ambassador John Negroponte know this as well.

President Bush knows this. That is why in his first budget in Congress he asked for \$25 million and most recently, last fall, approved US money for UNPFA for Afghan refugee women's health care.

Our country disagrees with the family planning policies of the Chinese Government. We all want change, and change will come through groups like UNPFA and USAID, who work to encourage voluntary family planning to control a surging population.

But let us not tie up \$34 million in funding that will save women's lives and children's lives around the world, to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS and to improve child health survival.

President Bush said that we fight the Taliban to give hope to women in Afghanistan. Let us fulfill the commitment of Congress to give hope to all women around the world.

IM MEMORY OF DANIEL PEARL

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

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in great sorrow and with much horror about the vicious killing of Wall Street Journal reporter, Daniel Pearl, in Pakistan.

A gentleman and a premier journalist, he enriched the lives of many, including people in my own hometown of Indianapolis during the summer of 1985, where he worked as an intern for the Indianapolis Star.

It was in Indianapolis that Mr. Pearl launched his career in journalism and discovered his passion for reporting. As a reporter, he always knew his job could sometimes put his life in jeopardy, but as the Indianapolis Star wrote so eloquently, David's death in the line of duty brings home the lesson taught by the Ernie Pyles of our history, that journalism, when taken to the heart of human conflict, can be the