

and customers have raised and contributed nearly \$16 million in support of relief agencies and victims' families, including a \$1 million donation to UNICEF to help Afghani children.

Please join me in congratulating and recognizing the wonderful contributions of Wal-Mart and Sam's Club associates and customers.

RESPONDING TO SUPREME COURT RULING ON PORNOGRAPHY

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, child pornography was a worldwide industry that was all but eradicated in the 1980s. Unfortunately, it has resurfaced with a vengeance, thanks to computer technology. The explosive growth of computer technology via e-mail, chat rooms and news groups have created a bigger demand for pornographic pictures of our children on the Information Superhighway.

Congress must step up to the plate and take some action to stem the growing tide of child exploitation on the Internet and in other forms. On Tuesday, the Supreme Court struck down the Child Pornography Protection Act. Today the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus will hold a briefing for members of the caucus on legislation that is being developed in response to the Supreme Court's decision.

We must continue to protect our children from exploitation and pornography. The Supreme Court sent the wrong message to pornographers all over the world. Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to send the right message, and we will, just as we will in returning Ludwig Koons to the United States. It is not right that Ludwig's pornographer mother illegally removed him to Italy against the order of the United States courts. She is a criminal. We need to bring Ludwig home and all of our children home.

FOSTERING FAMILY INDEPENDENCE THROUGH WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, in 1996 this House passed historic welfare reform legislation that fostered family independence by moving people into the workforce. Welfare reform is an issue of monumental proportion. Six years ago we had a positive effect on the lives of millions of needy Americans. Today we have another chance to improve the lives of many more.

Since 1996, statistics have shown that welfare families have begun to achieve independence. While we celebrate the progress of 1996, we must charter a plan that guarantees future success. This

Congress must move forward to reauthorize welfare reform and assist those Americans that have not yet achieved their goals.

Welfare reform works. But we must continually improve the system today for tomorrow. By reaching out to Americans in need, we will change not only lives, but put a smile on the face of our society.

We are making progress, Mr. Speaker, but it is time we turn the corner. Let us strengthen the path towards independence by empowering people to support themselves. I encourage my colleagues to support reauthorized welfare reform.

PROTECTING SACRED NATIVE AMERICAN SITES

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, just yesterday we had a hearing in the Committee on Resources dealing with a parcel of land belonging to the Pechanga Band of Mission Indians in Riverside County, California. The Tribe is trying to protect the land because it contains several sites sacred to the tribe, including the largest living oak tree in the United States.

This magnificent tree is over 1,500 years old and has been the site of tribal ceremonies for generations. Believe it or not, this tree is in danger of being felled by an order to construct transmission lines.

We are often faced with the perception that Native American sacred sites are not worthy of protection somehow because they generally are a part of nature and not brick and mortar buildings with a large bell tower. One look at this tree, however, and the majesty of it comes across to even the most cynical.

While I believe we will be able to preserve this particular Native American site through the hard work of the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), Senator BOXER and Senator FEINSTEIN, dozens of other similar areas are threatened with desecration. The Glamis Mine in California and the Valley of the Chiefs in Montana are in danger of being lost forever by the presence of gold mining and the sights and sounds of oil drilling.

The time has come for us to stop running around trying to cherry-pick certain Native American sacred sites to save. We need to act and have one strong policy and procedure, backed up by the laws of this country.

SUPPORTING ISRAEL IN ITS WAR WITH TERRORISM

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

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the terrorist attacks

upon the people of Israel. On the basis of our shared principles and democratic values, we have an obligation to stand squarely with our democratic ally. We will support those who stand for freedom.

On Monday, tens of thousands of Americans assembled in Washington, D.C., to stand in solidarity with the people of Israel and to support her right to defend herself. We must not and we will not allow the lone light of democracy in the entire Middle East to be extinguished by the Palestinian wave of hatred.

Yasser Arafat has impeded peace and perpetuated his charade for far too long. The Palestinian Authority must not be allowed to breed its violence and hatred, and the international community, led by the United States, must make it absolutely clear that terrorism will not be tolerated.

I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to continue their unyielding support for the people of Israel as they wage their own war on terrorism.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY

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

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, President Bush and the Republicans in Congress proclaim that today's vote to make permanent last year's \$2 trillion tax cut is merely to correct a quirk in the law that sunset the entire tax cut December 31, 2010.

That was no quirk. The Republicans controlled the House, the Senate and the White House. They wrote it into the law because they wanted to hide the implications of these massive tax cuts; the fact that they were going to put us back in deficit, that they were going to take money from the Social Security lock box, which they just voted for seven times, and they just wanted to pretend.

Well, now the pretension is over. They are revealing their true side. Make these cuts permanent. If they are successful in doing that, another \$400 billion of deficit in the next 10 years, every penny of it coming out of the Social Security trust fund, money raised with a regressive flat tax which is going to fund estate tax relief for people with estates over \$5 million and people who earn over \$373,000 a year.

That is what this vote is all about, plain and simple. No quirk; it is highway robbery.

FIGHTING FOR THE RELEASE OF HOUA LY

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

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark a tragic anniversary. Three years ago tomorrow,

Houa Ly, a Hmong-American constituent of mine, disappeared on the border between Laos and Thailand. Eyewitnesses last saw him with Lao government authorities, a brutal regime infamous for human rights abuses.

For 3 years his family has suffered without any real answers. It has been three frustrating years.

His family is inspired, however, by the memories they still have of their life together as an American family and of Mr. Ly's incredible service to this country, saving downed U.S. pilots during the Vietnam War.

Our Nation will also remember him. The Lao government and its apologists should know for that me and many others, this case is an insurmountable obstacle that should block any effort towards normalizing relations between our two countries.

It has been three frustrating years, and for all of our work together with the Ly family, it often feels like we have gotten nowhere. But we will not give up. A U.S. citizen is mission. His family deserves answers, and we will keep fighting until we get them.

SUPPORTING THE RIGHT OF LEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO BENEFITS UNDER THE FARM BILL

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to applaud the gentleman from California (Mr. BACA) for his motion to instruct today that I ask my colleagues to support enthusiastically. It is important to explain the purpose and the force and the importance of the motion to instruct, and that is to reinforce the language that was offered in the other body regarding legal immigrants and the rights of legal immigrants to receive benefits under the farm bill, in this instance, food stamps. Legal immigrants are represented by us all—we owe them good and fair representation.

It is important to note that nothing is being taken from those who claim to believe that only benefits should ensure to citizens. Legal immigrants work, pay taxes, are our neighbors, and, most of all, they offer their lives for our freedom in the United States military.

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This is a commonsense amendment, and it states that the United States House of Representatives truly believes in the equality of all. We cannot owe shame to this body by declaring that legal immigrants who work here and are part of this Nation and sacrifice their lives deserve not to have the benefits. We realize that the U.S. military, many of them, are on food stamps. Would we deny to them the rights of those of us who live and breathe the free air of this Nation? Vote for the Baca amendment.

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION LOSES CREDIBILITY

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, killing innocent civilians to achieve a political goal is unacceptable under any circumstance. But now we have received word that the United Nations Human Rights Commission has voted to condemn the State of Israel for a long list of supposed human rights violations without even once mentioning Palestinian violence. Worse than that, the resolution supports, and I quote, "all available means, including armed struggle," to establish a Palestinian State.

Now, the United States is on record of supporting an eventual Palestinian state. But we also know what "armed struggle" means in the current environment in the Middle East. It means a 17-year-old girl being promised all the glories of heaven if she will just strap a bomb to herself and go kill a bunch of innocent Israelis.

It is shocking that the U.N. Human Rights Commission would endorse violence against civilians. I think we should thank those countries who voted against this resolution, but we should express anger at the 40 countries who voted for it, including six from Europe. It is an outrage. As far as I am concerned, the U.N. Human Rights Commission has lost all of its credibility.

U.S. NEEDS COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY POLICY NOW

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

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to begin a series of remarks on energy. Energy, or the lack of energy, has caused many of the wars of the world. Once again, the uncertainties of the Middle East have caused prices in oil markets to rise; and from what we read in the news, the current uncertainty is, unfortunately, likely to last for quite some time.

My goal with this series is simple: to impress upon my colleagues the need to develop a national energy policy, and that policy should include all of our resources: fossil fuels, coal, nuclear renewables, and yes, conservation. We need them all.

In this country we are blessed with an abundance of energy choices. We have abundant coal reserves, in fact, some of the largest in the world. We have a tremendous potential for the development of solar and wind resources; and even though for many years we produced huge volumes of crude oil and natural gas and even supplied some of the world with it at times, we still have significant oil and gas resources in the ground.

Much of the rest of the world is envious of our energy resources and the choices we have. In the coming days and weeks, I will address some of these options and see what we can do to bring them into reality.

CONTINUING THE SUCCESS OF WELFARE REFORM

(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, I support President Bush's welfare reform. I am often asked what I consider some of the best accomplishments I have made as a Congressman. Well, I am very proud to have been a Member of the historic 105th Congress that passed the 1996 Welfare Reform Act.

Perhaps more than anything else that we have accomplished during my time in Washington, reforming welfare has given the most hope to American families. Welfare caseloads fell by 9 million since 1994. That means 9 million more Americans, 9 million more people are on the road to making their dreams a reality.

The number of mothers who are more likely to go on welfare, but instead have a job, rose by 40 percent between 1995 and 2000. Since 1996, nearly 3 million children have been lifted from poverty. In the African American community, the child poverty rate is at an all-time record low.

The success of the 1996 welfare reform law is beyond dispute. Our challenge and our great opportunity is to build on that success by letting more Americans work their way to freedom of dependence and follow the path to making their dreams a reality.

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES AND GRATITUDE TO CANADA

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

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to express condolences to the families of the four Canadian soldiers who were killed and the eight soldiers who were injured during training exercises in Afghanistan. News reports say that these are the first Canadians to be killed in a combat zone in half a century.

Canada is a valued member of our coalition in the fight against terrorism and has been a valued friend of the United States for decades. I fear we do not express our gratitude enough to the Canadian people for their support and their friendship. In the face of this tragedy, it is important to thank Canada for its commitment to the fight against terrorism.

Our men and women in uniform, U.S. forces, as well as members of our coalition forces, take risks every day in support of our freedoms. Unfortunately, some of our best and brightest young people lose their lives in this cause. Canadian forces are fighting