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The Caribbean National Forest, known in Puerto Rico as El Yunque, contains many significant ecological and biological assets. The Puerto Rican parrot, one of the 10 most endangered birds in the world, calls El Yunque its home. In addition, the forest has 240 species of trees and 120 terrestrial animals, four of which are listed as endangered species. El Yunque sees nearly one million visitors per year and is an important provider of environmental education for tourists and Puerto Ricans alike.

Mr. Speaker, this same bill passed the House last year, and I appreciate the support of my colleagues. I would like to thank the ranking member of the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from West Virginia, and the other Members who have joined me as cosponsors of this legislation.

Wilderness is a fitting designation for these 10,000 acres of El Yunque, and I look forward to working with the Committee on Resources and my other colleagues to move this bill forward.

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#### SADDAM'S REGIME DESTROYED

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, 3 weeks to the day after operation Iraqi Freedom began, the larger-than-life statue of Saddam Hussein in Baghdad's Paradise Square was torn down amid celebration by Iraqi citizens, an event very similar to the crumbling of the Berlin Wall. Promoted by President Ronald Reagan, this symbolic gesture signals the downfall of this totalitarian regime. The Iraqi people are certainly entitled to celebrate. Thirty years of brutal oppression are finally coming to an end thanks to the leadership and determination of our President, George W. Bush.

I applaud the coalition forces for their courage and a dedication beyond compare. The loss of American lives, though tragic, has been reduced, and our mission efficient and effective, as I saw in February when I was encouraged by visiting the troops in Kuwait.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who have suffered losses and our soldiers who continue to fight for the freedom of Iraq and an end to terrorism, which seeks to spread weapons of mass destruction against American citizens. It is our hope that the Iraqi people will be able to use the unique riches of their country to build a new life for themselves based upon the principles of freedom and liberty.

May God bless our troops, and may God bless the newly freed people of Iraq.

#### UNITED NATIONS MUST CONDEMN MISTREATMENT OF U.S. POWS IN IRAQ

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

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I was a guest on a Houston radio show earlier this week; and during the course of the interview, the host of the program, Chris Baker, pointed out that Congress, along with the United Nations, has been rather silent on the issue of the treatment of American POWs in Iraq.

While that is not all together correct, I know most of our attention here has been focused on supporting the troops and hoping for a successful and speedy conclusion to the conflict.

Now that it appears the end is near, and there is cause for great optimism and excitement, we cannot lose site of the atrocities we have seen during the past 3 weeks. I know all my colleagues agree that the treatment of captured allied forces has been outrageous, and we must continue to speak up and insist that those responsible be brought to justice following the war.

We must send a clear message that America and the world will not tolerate the mistreatment of our prisoners of war. We expect the same treatment for our sons and daughters that we afford enemy soldiers when they are captured. Please join me in calling for the United Nations to take immediate action to condemn these heinous acts of miss treatments against our POWs.

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#### TRIBUTE TO RUTH GRIFFIN

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

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute executive councilor Ruth Griffin, who is a native of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and has been a long-time member of the executive council in New Hampshire as well as a dedicated public servant.

Ruth is receiving a lifetime achievement award tonight from the City Awards of the United States. Her long-time recognition in New Hampshire is unqualified by her success. She has served as a State senator, a State representative on local boards and commissions. She is a friend of many and has always been a dedicated servant of those less fortunate.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the pleasure of working with her for a number of years as a member of the New Hampshire legislature. I call her a friend and a mentor.

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#### IN MEMORY OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DIEGO F. RINCON

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

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as we watch television today, we see the wondrous and joyous faces of Iraqi citizens who have been liberated. But we must pause now and never forget the precious price that was paid through our brave and courageous soldiers who gave their lives so that Iraq could be free.

Today, I rise to give some remarks about one of those noble heroes who gave his life, Private First Class Diego Fernando Rincon, who was from the 13th Congressional District in Georgia and whose funeral will be held today, in just a few hours from now at 2 p.m., at the Seventh Day Adventist Church located in my district in Conyers, Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, this is the second funeral in my district in the last 4 days, and not only from my district but from the same town in my district, Conyers, Georgia. Specialist Jamal Addison, on Monday, we funeralized; and I was privileged to be there. And today, again, Diego Rincon. Unfortunately, I am not able to be there, but it is very important that we pause for a moment and give our respect to this fallen, but great, hero.

Private First Class Diego Fernando Rincon was the second Metro Atlanta soldier killed in the war in Iraq. Mr. Speaker, he was 19 years old. Private Rincon served as a member of the 3rd Infantry Division of the 3rd Army Mechanized. Private Rincon was killed in a suicide bombing attack at a U.S. Army checkpoint in Iraq on March 29, with three other soldiers from Georgia's Fort Stewart.

Private Rincon was born near Bogota, Colombia, and moved with his family to the United States when he was 5 years old. Private Rincon graduated from Salem High School in Rockdale County, Georgia, in 2001. He was a gifted actor, musician and cheerleader. A very creative and talented person.

Private Rincon has been awarded posthumously United States citizenship because, Mr. Speaker, this 19-year-old gave his life for this country, and yet he was not a citizen of this country. That is why we are here at this time putting legislation pending that will grant automatic citizenship for all foreign soldiers. What a great story.

I conclude, Mr. Speaker, with this: this great soldier fought the good fight, he finished his course, and he kept the faith. There is surely put up for private Diego Rincon an extraordinary crown of righteousness. God bless this great soldier, Private Rincon of the United States Army, a United States citizen, and God bless America.

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#### ARMED FORCES CITIZENSHIP ACT

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to announce that I have just introduced legislation making it possible for every legal immigrant serving on active duty in America's Armed Forces to become a U.S. citizen immediately. Not in 3 years or 5 years, but immediately.

Once this bill is enacted, providing that all other requirements are met, on the same day that a young person is mustered into duty in our Armed Forces, he or she will be able to take the oath of office making them a citizen of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, these patriotic men and women have willingly volunteered to carry out one of the most solemn duties that any nation can ask of its citizens, the defense of freedom. Thus, more than most, I believe that they have truly earned their opportunity to become citizens of the country whose uniform they wear so proudly.

By enacting the Armed Services Citizens Act, America can do the right thing for some very brave men and women who are doing the right thing for America. So, Mr. Speaker, let us recognize their love of this country by enabling legal immigrants serving America's Armed Forces to become citizens before, not after, they begin risking their lives to defend ours.

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#### GETTING THE ECONOMY GROWING AGAIN

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

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, to get our economy growing again, we need policies that encourage investment and job creation, especially in high-technology industries like telecommunications.

Just this past month, FCC Chairman Powell tried to encourage more facilities-based competition in the local exchange markets. That balanced approach, however, was abandoned in favor of keeping most of the old rules and regulations, despite predictions that it would discourage plant upgrades, new network installation, and new jobs. Surprisingly, the White House was silent when the plans of its own FCC chairman were sidelined.

Mr. Speaker, the Clinton administration took a strong pro-growth, pro-jobs approach in the technology and telecom sector. The Bush administration, in contrast, seems wedded to an almost unchanging policy of benign neglect. I have over 50 facilities and 900 workers in my district that cannot tolerate this benign neglect. Under the present administration, America has lost \$2 trillion in the telecommunications industry, computer investment has been erased, and 300,000 American technology workers have lost their jobs.

#### TRIBUTE TO DENTON HIGH SCHOOL'S LADY BRONCOS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it turns out the third time was a charm for the women's soccer team of Denton High School in Denton, Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want today to recognize the Lady Broncos, Denton High School's women's soccer team, for winning their first State title this past Saturday.

Freshman Ashley Hornisher scored the game-winning goal after receiving a corner kick from sophomore Lisa Stephens in order to win the Class A State championship.

Coach Iseed Khoury, who led the Lady Broncos in a 28-2 season, said "This is the result of all the hard work our kids have put in over the years. We're a powerhouse now."

Denton senior Julie Naugher, a midfielder, was named the State tournament's Most Valuable Player. Ashley Wilson, a sophomore midfielder, sent a free kick from 40 yards out to Naugher in the box, who then headed the ball into the goal to tie the game in the first half.

Mr. Speaker, I especially want to recognize the Denton Lady Bronco seniors: Erin Cadenhead, Jennifer Dower, Julie Naugher, Annie Lowe, Callie Lawing, JennMia Nilsson, Katherine Clark, Christine Hornisher, and Bente Bekkhus.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring these fine young ladies and congratulating them on a season of hard work and commitment that paid off.

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#### CREATING NEW JOBS

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to echo what other speakers on both sides of the aisle have talked about, talking about jobs, creating new jobs, saving jobs now in jeopardy as our economy continues to deteriorate.

I am privileged to represent one of the most ethnically diverse districts in the Nation. Jobs in my district prove that the American dream is alive and well and that anything is possible through hard work.

On February 20, the FCC had an opportunity to create and save jobs while boosting the economy. Since 2000, we have lost 2½ million jobs in this country. Instead, this decision means job losses in the long term, for the Nation's telecom sector and for my home State of Illinois.

The FCC's decision also means companies will not be able to make critical investments in the area of broadband deployment. It means an entire segment of the U.S. economy faces a future of uncertainty for its employers

and customers. The job-loss message was heard loud and clear. One analyst of the industry wrote, and I quote, "Usually a decision of this magnitude would bring with it greater certainty and clarity. Yet, in this instance, we believe the issue is as confused and as uncertain as ever."

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the administration to remember that uncertainty leads to job loss, both on Main Street and on Wall Street.

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#### CITIZEN PATRIOTISM

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

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, perhaps more than ever in our Nation's history, at least since the Revolutionary War, our citizens are rising up to their responsibilities to be on guard and report suspicious behavior and activities. Often these patriotic deeds go unnoticed and unheralded. This is true of one such person in my district.

Harvey Rothman, a resident of Omaha, Nebraska, in 1987 was working as a trade specialist for the U.S. Department of Commerce. During that time, he received a phone call from a businessman who believed that some of his product was being delivered illegally to the country of Libya.

Based on that information, Mr. ROTHMAN brought the businessmen together with the Commerce's Department of Export Administration. That led to an investigation revealing that \$275,000 in steel pipe was being diverted from Hanover, Germany, to the terrorist country Libya. As a result, an additional quarter million dollars' worth of product destined to this same terrorist country was canceled.

Mr. Speaker, I bring this story to the attention of the House now not to give Harvey Rothman a pat on the back, which he has deserved over these past many years, but because it is a wonderful example to all our citizens that their watchfulness and vigilance could save lives and stop our enemies from terrorist acts.

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□ 1030

#### GO HUSKIES

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the UConn Huskies for winning their fourth NCAA women's basketball championship and their third in four seasons. The victory is inspirational because the Huskies overcame incredible odds, having only one starting player return from last year's championship team.

With this title victory, there can be no doubt that our Huskies are certain to be remembered as one of the greatest basketball teams in sports history.