

our hands. And if this trend is allowed to continue at a constant rate, we could have as many as 4 million autistic children in America in the next 10 years.

Despite a growing body of science linking autism to mercury and thimerosal, and the protests of hundreds of thousands of concerned parents across the country, the pharmaceutical industry continues to put mercury into vaccines for both children and adults even though they know mercury is toxic to the human brain. Pharmaceutical companies are concerned that they may be held liable in potential class action lawsuits for brain damage caused by the mercury-based preservative, which is still found in childhood vaccines diphtheria, hepatitis B and the flu shots. Because of these liability concerns, language was inserted at the last minute under the cover of darkness in the homeland security bill to protect the pharmaceutical industry from class action lawsuits. However, because we caught it, we were able to get it out of there because a lot of Members of the House and Senate thought it was terrible what they did.

Numerous scientists have testified there is a simple way to prevent this, and that is to go to single-shot vials. Those little glass containers. They would not have to put thimerosal or any preservative in if they did that. Moving to single-shot vials could have an enormously positive impact in helping to minimize, perhaps even eliminate, some of the cases of Alzheimer's and autism and other neurological disorders linked to mercury.

This is something that the pharmaceutical companies must address. Our Food and Drug Administration and our health agencies are asleep at the switch. They are letting children and adults be damaged day after day after day by allowing mercury to continue to be put into vaccines for adults and children.

We have a growing number of people who are becoming Alzheimer's patients, a dramatically growing number. We have one in 10,000 children 10 years ago that were autistic, now it is one in 150. And scientists before my committee say it is in large part because of the mercury in the vaccines. We have to get the FDA on the stick. They have to demand that pharmaceutical products having mercury be taken out of them very, very quickly. If not, we are going to continue to have an epidemic on our hands that America does not need and should not tolerate.

#### COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF ALTHEA GIBSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Madam Speaker, tonight I am introducing a resolution to commemorate

the life of the very talented Althea Gibson. Miss Althea Gibson represents an honorable and indelible mark on the history of America and the history of African Americans.

On this day, we seek to commemorate the life and achievements of Althea Gibson, a pioneer who left an unforgettable mark on sports as she broke the color barrier in tennis in America in the 1950s and helped pave the way for future generations of black athletes.

On Sunday, September 28, Miss Gibson died at the age of 76. Though the general public had largely forgotten her name in sports, Althea Gibson will always be a giant in sports history. The eldest of five children, Miss Gibson was raised in the Harlem section of New York City. She began studying tennis privately through the support of friends while furthering her education by attending Florida A&M University where she graduated in 1953.

Althea Gibson was the first black player on the Ladies Professional Golfers Association tour. She was a self-described born athlete who broke racial barriers not only in tennis but also in the Ladies Professional Golf Association. In a capstone to her career, she toured with the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team after retiring from tennis.

Miss Gibson won the American Tennis Association's Women's Singles Tournament 10 years in a row. However, tennis tournaments outside the ATA remained closed to her until 1950. In that year, white tennis player Alice Marble wrote an article in American Lawn Tennis magazine, noting that this excellent player was not able to participate in the better-known championships for no other reason than bigotry.

So later that year, Althea Gibson entered the Forest Hills, New York, national grass court championship, the first African American player of either sex to be allowed to enter. In 1950, Gibson became the first black player to compete in the U.S. tennis championships, and she played at Wimbledon in 1951. She captured the Wimbledon and U.S. championships in 1957 and 1958, and also won the French Open, and three Wimbledon doubles titles from 1956 through 1958. Her presence helped pave the way for later stars, such as Arthur Ashe, Venus and Serena Williams, and, of course, Tiger Woods.

On this day, let us all commemorate Miss Althea Gibson's fighting spirit and championship efforts. Miss Gibson came from the depths of racism and overcame much adversity. She proved as much as anyone that desire can beat the burdens of racism.

In closing, I would like to end with a quote from Miss Gibson: "In sports, you simply aren't considered a real champion until you have defended your title successfully. Winning it once can be a fluke; winning it twice proves you are the best." Today, we would like to commemorate Althea Gibson, truly one of the best.

#### H.R. 693, REPEALING TAX ON DEATH GRATUITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am on the floor again. I come to the floor about once a week to talk about a bill, H.R. 693, to repeal the tax on the death gratuity.

The history of this is that in 1991 the United States Congress enacted legislation that created going from \$3,000 to \$6,000 the death gratuity. The death gratuity is a payment to the families who have lost a loved one in uniform, whether they be training or they be in war.

A couple of years ago I heard about this tax; and I thought about how unfair, how unacceptable that any family who has given a loved one in uniform for this country should have to pay a tax on a very small amount of money known as the death gratuity of \$6,000. A year ago I introduced a bill that would take care of this tax and remove it. It was put in a larger package by the House leadership, which I appreciated, and sent over to the other body; but they did not act on the legislation. So we went another year that families who lost loved ones paid a tax on their gift of that loved one to this Nation and for freedom.

Again this year, Madam Speaker, we sent a bigger bill over with this language in it that would repeal the tax, but the other body will not take it up. And I want to give some examples of this, Madam Speaker.

From September 2001 through December 2001, 292 families in America had to pay a tax on their gift, that gift being a family member in uniform. In the year 2002, 1,007 families had to pay Uncle Sam for their gift of their loved one in uniform who died fighting for freedom. Already this year it is over 300. I do not know what the total will be when we reach December 31.

Madam Speaker, let me show a photograph of a young man who is 6 years old. His name is Tyler Jordan. Tyler is holding the American flag under his arm as he is looking at his daddy's casket. Tyler's father was a gunnery sergeant named Phillip Jordan, who was killed in Iraq fighting for freedom.

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I look at this little boy, I saw it in the newspaper and it struck me so personally, I decided to try to get a copy of this young boy's face. Tyler's mother is going to get a bill from Uncle Sam, is not giving your daddy enough without receiving a tax from Uncle Sam on a small amount of money, \$6,000, the death gratuity.

I want to read an e-mail from a father who e-mailed me last week. "Dear Representative JONES, Thank you for your support of H.R. 693. Our son, Sergeant Jacob Frazier, was killed in action on March 29, 2003, in Afghanistan. Upon being told we would be taxed on

a portion of the \$6,000 benefit, I was shocked and insulted. My son was not married, but I am sure there are numerous young widows who do not need another complication in their life.

"Our country should not add to their burden with additional taxation. Let me know if there is anything I can do to help you in Illinois to get this bill passed. Speaker HASTERT is my Congressman, and I would be happy to get in touch with him."

Madam Speaker, I am asking the House leadership to please bring to the floor H.R. 693 as a stand-alone bill and let us send it to the other body. The photographs behind me are a few of the faces of young men and one woman who have died fighting for Afghanistan in Iraq. I have written to the President of the United States and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and I am calling on Republicans and Democrats. This is an issue of morality. It is the right thing to do to say to the families who have given their loved ones, you do not owe us a tax.

Madam Speaker, I thank God for the gift of our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless them. Those who have lost loved ones I ask God to please hold in his arms and comfort those who have given their loved ones for freedom.

Let us pass this legislation before we leave in November. Let us not ask Tyler Jordan and his mother to pay a tax on the gift of his father and her husband.

God bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. DAVIS of California addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURGESS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### WASHINGTON WASTE WATCHER SPEAKS OUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I was not going to

speak today but I felt compelled after I heard some remarks by one of our distinguished colleagues from the other party about the spending that the United States is proposing to do in Iraq and his concerns for the deficit situation in the United States of America. And I share his concern for the deficit, but I need to clarify some facts if we are concerned about the deficit, and then we must be consistent.

Madam Speaker, that same party in this Congress, and this is my first term here, has proposed amendments to major pieces of legislation that would have increased the deficit by \$890 billion. Members heard me right, almost a trillion dollars of an increase on top of the deficit that exists right now. And yet in the Committee on the Budget when the chairman proposed a 1 percent cut, just a 1 percent cut in waste, fraud and abuse, Madam Speaker, the distinguished members of the other party all, 100 percent of them, voted no. The chairman did not get one single vote to cut just 1 percent in waste, fraud and abuse in that committee.

Is it because there is no waste, fraud and abuse in the Federal Government? Is the Federal Government so efficiently run that we cannot find 1 percent in waste, fraud and abuse?

Madam Speaker, I have been mentioning lots of examples as part of the Washington Waste Watchers Group that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) and I created with a number of our colleagues, but let me mention a couple of small examples to illustrate how much waste exists.

For example, Medicaid alone paid \$1.6 million to a Wisconsin transportation company for multiple round-trip billings for people that were dead or that were hospital-bound that were not moving anywhere.

There is a lot more. The Veterans Affairs inspector general has identified over 5,500 possible cases of individuals who may be defrauding the government by receiving benefits intended for veterans who have died, who are dead, who are not there, who do not exist. Totally fraudulent. Again, that is money that does not go to the real veterans that deserve it.

Over the past 5 years, 6,733 fugitives have been arrested for illegally receiving food stamps. By the way, 1,500 of those were drug offenders, 31 were murders, 45 were sex offenders and child molesters, and hundreds were wanted for assault and robbery, and yet they received benefits they are not qualified for.

And yet some will say it is not enough to cut 1 percent in waste, fraud and abuse, and we see what they request as opposed to that, and we hear time and time again, the Democrats keep saying we have to raise taxes. We have to raise taxes because there is not enough money, because the Federal Government is run so efficiently that we cannot cut 1 percent of waste, fraud and abuse.

Madam Speaker, the facts do not bear that out. The Federal Government does waste people's money. The Federal Government loses almost \$20 billion a year that just evaporates, they do not know where it is. The Federal Government cannot even misspend it because it is lost. And then they still say, the Democratic side, that we have to raise the hard-working American taxpayer's taxes because there is no waste, fraud and abuse.

Madam Speaker, the American people know better. We can and we must cut waste, fraud and abuse; and clearly, the days of raising taxes on the American people have to be over, and they are.

#### THROWING MORE MONEY AT IRAQ IS NOT THE ANSWER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, earlier this week U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell spoke to a business forum in Detroit. His topic, the Middle East. His message, the nations of the Middle East need to transform themselves.

The Bush administration, having failed to find weapons of mass destruction, failed to find Saddam Hussein, failed to capture Osama bin Laden, failed to eradicate the Taliban, failed to implement the road map to peace between the Israelis and Palestinians, and of course failed to secure the peace in Iraq, is trying to salvage something out of its disastrous policy so they are talking about this policy of transformation.

The Bush administration is trying to get the American people to believe that throwing \$87 billion more at Iraq will begin the process of transformation by building the garden spot of the Middle East and that other nations will magically follow the lead.

It will not work. Their policy is doomed to fail, throwing more money is not the answer in Iraq.

As the Detroit Free Press reported, although Secretary Powell had plenty of advice for Middle Eastern nations about how to conduct their affairs, he offered no plan for the road to peace. That is not surprising because the Bush administration has no plan for peace in the Middle East, no plan for postwar Iraq, no plan for getting the United States out of Iraq, and fundamentally, no long-term plan for energy independence for America which would give us the leverage we need to play the role of honest broker instead of dependent addict.

Secretary Powell said in Detroit that the Arab nations are plagued by poverty, alienation and despair. He said the Arab world needs to embrace free trade and democratize in order to break out of the cycle. But free trade cannot bring democracy. If that were