

next to the plant that closes down, loses business, may go out of business. The real estate agent is faced with selling a whole bunch of homes that nobody wants to buy. Workers, all kinds of people are affected from this kind of job loss.

Now the White House, they have enlisted cheerleaders, Members of Congress, who come to this House floor and talk about this growing economy, talk about corporate profits going up and talk about how it is the best economy in memory of the Secretary of Commerce. In their play book, the White House apparently does not see this or does not care to see what happens to these families and what happens to these communities. The White House play book says between now and the election you have got to be optimistic, you have got to cheer lead, you have got to say the economy is better, you have got to make Americans think everything's great in this country; that we are going to continue to grow.

I do not question my Republican friends. I think they actually believe that. They believe that because 5 percent of the people in this country have gotten big, big tax cuts, a person making \$1 million got \$123,000 tax cut from the President Bush, somebody makes a lot less makes almost nothing. The people that Members of Congress hang around with are doing well. They have good jobs. They get tax cuts. They are doing well. Their companies are doing well because they are the CEOs.

But when they are cheerleading about how great the economy is and accusing people like Senator KERRY of being doom and gloom, the fact is we have got to change the policy. We have got to change the direction of this economy. We have got to stop doing it the way we are doing it. We need to give tax relief to those companies that are hiring domestically and not exporting jobs overseas.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL JASON MURRAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. MUSGRAVE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero, 20-year-old Lance Corporal Jason Murray. Lance Corporal Murray is a United States Marine from the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. Jason's home is in Sterling, Colorado, in the northeast part of our beautiful State.

Jason has wanted to serve in the military since he was a boy. He graduated from Sterling High School in 2002 and enlisted in the Marines in the fall of that year. He became engaged to his high school sweetheart, Kelsi, in the fall of 2003 following boot camp.

Jason is currently recovering from injuries he received in Iraq on March 29. Jason was patrolling near Ar Rahmadi searching for improvised ex-

plosive devices. One of the devices detonated 3 feet in front of Jason, killing the Marine in front of him and seriously injuring Jason. Jason received the full force of the explosion, with shrapnel striking him in the face, chest, and arms. He lost his right eye and currently has no vision in his left eye. He lost most of the teeth on the left side of his face and received brain trauma as well.

He spent 10 days in a drug-induced coma at the 31st Combat Support Hospital outside of Baghdad. Numerous surgeries were performed before he was stable enough to be airlifted to Landstuhl, Germany, and then on to Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland where his family and fiance joined him. Jason is making a remarkable recovery and has recently been transferred to Craig Medical Center in Denver for rehabilitation.

Because he received wounds while in combat, Lance Corporal Jason Murray was awarded the Purple Heart. Jason also received a flag that had been flown over the Capitol in his honor on March 23, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, we are so fortunate to live in this great country where freedom is something that we rarely have to think about and often take for granted. It is simply a way of life for us, and we are truly blessed to live in a country that honors citizens for their spirit, their ideas, their individuality, and their courage. We can maintain the blessings of our freedoms only because we have citizens like Jason who are willing to fight to defend them for us.

I am proud to honor Jason for his courage and sacrifice on behalf of all Americans. I applaud Jason for his courage and selfless dedication to duty. He has helped protect our democracy and kept our homeland safe by placing his life on the line.

Jason is truly the embodiment of all the values that have molded America into this great Nation that it is today. May God bless Jason.

SMART SECURITY AND INDIA- PAKISTAN NUCLEAR ISSUES

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the border between India and Pakistan has commonly been called the world's most dangerous nuclear flashpoint. India is thought to have at least 50, maybe as many as 120, nuclear warheads; and Pakistan is thought to have 30 to 70 warheads, but the two countries took a step towards nonproliferation on Sunday when they signed their first confidence-building agreement on nuclear weapons since 1999.

As part of the agreement, both countries will keep open a permanent telephone hotline to warn the other in advance of tests of nuclear-capable missiles. The confidence-building measures also included an agreement to continue

the moratorium on testing nuclear warheads and a promise to continue nuclear talks.

While largely symbolic, this agreement is significant because it represents the desire of both India and Pakistan, two countries consistently at odds with each other, to avoid a devastating nuclear exchange that could kill hundreds of thousands of people.

The United States could take some valuable lessons, Mr. Speaker, from this India-Pakistan agreement. At the same time these two countries are seeking to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons, the United States is funding millions of dollars in research on new nuclear weapons.

Specifically, in this year's budget request, President Bush asked for over \$100 million for research and testing of new nuclear weapons, including the robust nuclear Earth penetrator and so-called yield nuclear weapon. Fortunately, these funds were initially rejected by the Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

When it comes to nuclear weapons, President Bush just does not seem to get it. While countries like India and Pakistan have taken the first step to making the world safer, our President seems to think the only good defense is a good offense.

But how strong does our offense need to be? We already possess 9,000 strategic nuclear warheads. How many of these weapons of last resort do we need before we feel secure? How much money do we need to spend on new nuclear weapons while neglecting important domestic programs before we decide that we have finally spent enough?

Mr. Speaker, there has to be a better way, a more sensible way, a way more rooted in the best American values, and there is.

I have introduced H. Con. Res. 392 to create a SMART security platform for the 21st century. SMART stands for Sensible Multilateral American Response to Terrorism. We need to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and keeping the American people safe must be our highest priority. On that point, the President and I agree; but we must avoid equating our security with aggression and military force.

The United States possesses the world's largest nuclear stockpile, but nuclear weapons are not the answer to our problems because conflicts between nations require a more delicate touch.

Instead, SMART security calls for aggressive diplomacy, a commitment to nuclear nonproliferation, strong regional security arrangements, and vigorous inspection regimes.

The United States must set an example, Mr. Speaker, an example for the rest of the world by renouncing the first use of nuclear weapons and the development of new nuclear weapons.

We must maintain our commitment to existing international treaties like the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty,

the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention, and the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We must support and adequately fund programs like the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, which works with the Russian Federation and the states of the former Soviet Union to dismantle nuclear warheads, reduce nuclear stockpiles and secure nuclear weapons in Russia; and we must replicate this successful program in other troubled countries like North Korea and Iran, because not every country will proactively choose to give up its nuclear program. In the long run, negotiating with other countries will keep us much safer than scaring them into submission.

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The Bush doctrine of arrogant nuclear proliferation has been tried and it has failed. It is time for a new national security strategy.

SMART security defends America by relying on the very best of America, not relying on her nuclear capabilities, but our commitment to peace and freedom and our capacity for multilateral leadership. SMART security is tough, SMART security is pragmatic and patriotic. SMART security is smart and it will keep America safe.

CONGRATULATIONS ON RETIREMENT OF REVEREND PATRICK SHANNON

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor tonight congratulating Reverend Patrick Smith Shannon on his retirement from the Ministry after 41 years of service. Reverend Shannon presided over three different churches in the congressional district I represent in western Georgia, including the LaGrange First United Methodist Church in Troup County from 1968 to 1971, the Villa Rica United Methodist Church in Douglas County from 1971 to 1977, and the Smyrna United Methodist Church in Cobb County from 2001 to 2004.

Although Reverend Shannon is retiring from an active Ministry, he will never retire in his unwavering service to God. Blessed with a loving wife, Patricia, two children, Tim and Heidi, and four grandsons, Reverend Shannon's journey through life has yielded countless stories and life experiences which he has used to share the wisdom of Christ and the value of faith.

He went to Young Harris College, to Georgia State University, and obtained a Masters of Divinity from Emory in 1965. Born in Thomasville, Georgia, and raised in East Point, Reverend Shannon is a true Georgian to the very core.

Reverend Shannon is a servant of God, blessed with the gifts of teaching, compassion, and Ministry. He values

the unity and fellowship of the traditional community church, where he reaches out to Christians and non-Christians of every age group. I am fortunate to have had the privilege of attending a few of Reverend Shannon's services at the First United Methodist Church in Smyrna, and have always found them to be inspirational. He is a true gift to the city and to the State of Georgia. We will cherish and appreciate him for years to come.

On behalf of the constituents of Georgia's Eleventh Congressional District, I appreciate Pat Shannon's service to our spiritual community, and I wish him many new journeys in his retirement.

MIDDLE CLASS SQUEEZE

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to bring attention to how priorities of our hard-working American families are being crushed under this administration's policies.

When President Bush first took office, he had a \$236 billion budget surplus, there had been 22 million jobs created in the previous 8 years under President Clinton, and this country was experiencing the biggest drop in child poverty in our history. But what has changed in the past 4 years since Bush took office? Well, today there are 8.2 million Americans who are looking for work, and unemployment rates in many parts of our country are at a higher rate, almost 30 percent higher, than they were 4 years ago. And in my district alone, embarrassingly, some rates are as high as 9 percent. Plus, today's job market has lost economic value and too many positions that are being created are only part-time.

What this administration has not said when it talks about jobs it has created is that 90 percent of these new jobs since August 2003 are in industries that pay an hourly wage that is less than the national average. About 1.3 million of these jobs make an average wage of \$15 an hour. That is 40 cents less than the national average. And it is an embarrassment that our own Federal minimum wage has not been increased. Imagine a family trying to survive on making \$5.15 an hour, and that wage has not gone up for many years.

Clearly, it is not the struggling middle class families benefiting from the Bush administration's economic policies. Take a look at California. There have been 214,000 people who have lost their jobs in my State, and 346,000 were in manufacturing jobs alone, good paying jobs that left. Plus, the jobs that are being created in California are paying less than the jobs that are being lost and are less likely to even offer health benefits.

At a time when American families are struggling to pay for health care,

when they are struggling to send their kids to college and get food on the table, we are sending billions of dollars to the very wealthy, 2 percent of our population.

Let us not also forget that the cost of gasoline has increased by 62 percent under the Bush administration. Californians will spend \$2.35 billion more for gas this summer. That means per family \$210 just for driving around in the summer. Gas in my district is now being sold at \$2.39 a gallon. But instead of doing things to help working families, the Republican-led Congress spent last week debating energy bills that will do nothing to help working families cope with these outrageous energy costs, including trying to negotiate lower gas prices.

This administration even said that because of the bill's passage last week on so-called energy relief, our gasoline prices will actually go up by 3 cents. The administration would rather try to hide its relations with the oil industry than seek real productive ways to help our consumers. In California, gas prices went up faster than the Federal Trade Commission anticipated they could and companies rolled in the dough. Exxon Mobile reported a 125 percent increase in profits for the first 3 months of this year.

When the Bush administration claims they are concerned about the financial pressures of middle-income families, I would ask them, what are they doing to address the fact that the price of gasoline has increased 62 percent under this administration? Across the board, Americans are spending more on food, on health care, on education and gas. President Bush has done nothing to change his economic policies to consider the real needs of the American public.

Let us start fighting for a real plan that is just, that is Democratic.

IRAQ WATCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, it was approximately a year ago, in fact I think it was better than a year ago now, that myself, a number of my colleagues, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL), the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND), and, of course, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) took to the floor to express our concerns about what was transpiring in the Middle East, with a special focus on Iraq. We have done that on a rather regular basis over the course of the past year, and we have come to call this hour the "Iraq Watch," where we have a discussion among ourselves for the benefit of those that are viewing our conversation through C-SPAN.