

work for our country. It betrays American values of hard work, of being rewarded for hard work. It hurts the poor in both countries. It hurts working people in both countries. It clearly does not promote the right set of moral values for our Nation.

I ask my colleagues to oppose the Central American Free Trade Agreement. It is clear these trade agreements are not working for our country.

MARK ALAN WILSON, HERO OF SMITH COUNTY, TEXAS

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, February 24, 2005, in the city of Tyler, Texas, gun fire erupted outside the Smith County courthouse. An estranged and enraged ex-husband, irate over a domestic hearing, lay in wait outside the courthouse for his ex-wife and one of his sons who was 23. The courthouse was well secured inside while also having a metal detector inside its entrance. Such security measures probably prevented the soon-to-be murderer from carrying his rifle inside the courthouse and shooting not only his ex-wife and son, but also the many witnesses, jurors, parties and personnel who would have been inside, as had occurred in another courthouse some years ago and miles away.

As the ex-wife left the courthouse, the murderer opened fire hitting her and also her own son. Mark Wilson, a nearby Good Samaritan and hero, immediately without hesitation and without thought for his own safety went into action. He pulled his concealed weapon that he was lawfully carrying and accurately shot the murderer more than once. He could tell he was hitting the murderer, but what he did not know was that that murderer was wearing extensive body armor. That fact allowed the murderer to turn and fire fatal shots at our selfless hero Mark Wilson.

In the process of Mark's firing such accurate shots, he not only hurt the murderer, he also distracted him from the many innocent bystanders in the area.

When hearing the shots being fired outside the courthouse, two deputies and a Tyler police detective responded by running to the source. Parenthetically, the Army teaches us that the only way to have a chance of surviving an ambush is to turn and run into the source of the ambush. As a trainee, sometimes we wondered if we would actually have the courage to do that when there were real bullets flying.

We do not have to wonder about what Mark and our courageous law enforcement officers at the Smith County courthouse would do when faced with a life-threatening attack. They respond and they respond with courage and clear thinking for the safety of others.

Mark Wilson's heroic actions disrupted the murderer's pattern and provided time for the protective law enforcement officers to respond. As Deputy Sherman Dollison attempted to intervene, he was also hit by the murderer and left for dead and he remains in critical condition at a local hospital.

Smith County and other friends thought mighty highly of Deputy Marlin Suel and Tyler police detective Clay Perrett. They are personal friends and they were both wounded in the ensuing exchange that sent the murderer into his car and fleeing the scene. He was chased by extremely responsive law enforcement as he continued to shoot during the chase. However, the murderer was killed before he could yet kill again.

There was an evil act of anger last Thursday, but there were heroes watching out, ready to act for the salvation of others. It is quite possible that Mark's actions prevented those in the area from becoming a trail of lifeless bodies in addition to saving the life of the murderer's own downed son.

According to the investigation, the rifle the murderer used was not automatic so he had to consciously pull the trigger over and over again to inflict the death and violence that he did.

Mark Wilson himself was able to apply for and receive his concealed handgun permit because the law allowing such was passed in Texas after a callous killer went into a cafeteria years ago and began firing randomly, hitting so many. Back at that time no civilians were there who were legally allowed to have a gun so the killer caused prolonged devastation. To receive a permit for carrying a concealed weapon in Texas, a person has to prove himself consummately law abiding. That described Mark. He was trained and he trained others in self-defensive weaponry. He was 52 years old. He had been a patriot who served all of us in the United States Navy. He was a community volunteer. He loved life to the maximum which included a deep abiding appreciation for Monty Python, all while he worked to make others' lives better in the process.

Yes, he knew how to make friends laugh. He had overcome tough times. He had been entrepreneurial, and he had worked to create good times for himself and others. He had many friends because of his community involvement and his very can-do attitude.

As a tribute to Mark and his courageous heroism, hundreds of people filled the downtown square in Smith County to commemorate his life, his times, and his goodness on Sunday, February 27.

As a member of the United States Navy, he had sworn to defend the Nation against all enemies foreign and domestic. Last Thursday he gave his life while once again defending against an enemy, this time domestic.

For many of us reflecting on Mark's death the words of Jesus of Nazareth

capture Mark's spirit: "Greater love hath no man than this; that a man lay down his life for his friend."

Those words came from someone who knew and Mark Wilson's love is what was praised. He stepped up that love a notch by going and laying down his life for people he did not even know. This country, this institution need a memorializing of such a courageous hero as Mark Wilson. His loving parents and dear friends deserve to hear his praises sung once more for the record, and may the retelling of Mark's bravery bring them comfort, bring them hope, and to the hopeless who think there is no one out there who cares. Mark cared and I would be willing to bet his caring will be perpetuated into posterity for others that he has touched.

PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am here because the President has challenged this body and the other to deal with the problem of Social Security. And while the President no longer considers it a crisis, obviously when it reaches the point that you are spending more money than you are taking in, you do have a problem and you do have a challenge and we do have a responsibility.

So I think the President has changed the crisis which would occur according to the Congressional Budget Office out to 2052 and even then it remains a challenge and not really a crisis.

But we do not have a bill so we do not know specifically what the President would want to do. We do know that these types of problems you either have to cut the benefits, extend the age or raise the taxes; but the President has taken all of these things off the table and said we should deal with the question of privatization. I guess the more people in the district that looked at privatization and the more economists that studied it have caused the President to admit that privatization and private accounts and personal accounts has little or nothing to do with the question of solvency, which is basically what we are talking about.

We Democrats know how good this program has been for America. We know that it has been an insurance policy that most working people cannot afford. We know that in addition to the benefits that you get when you retire that we have survivor benefits, we have disability benefits, and we are prepared to take a look at anything as long as these benefits are not cut.

Now, the President would have us to believe that if you are over 55 your benefits would not be cut. To me, a guy from Harlem, it means that if you are under 55 you can depend on your benefits being cut. But still since we do not have a bill we really do not know exactly what we are fighting, but we do know what we want to protect.