

the future of this country, because even a cursory survey of America's history should impart hope to all of us.

By the time the 1860s had come to America, the world had marked 7,000 years of powerful societies enslaving their fellow human beings. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, this was also true of America. However, this country was never truly at peace in her heart with the hellish institution of slavery.

So it was that slaves began to earnestly pray in America for God to intervene. Mr. Speaker, it seems that God sent them Abraham Lincoln, a man who understood the true meaning of those magnificent words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, and among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Mr. Speaker, our Founding Fathers wrote those words down for us because they did not want us to forget their true meaning or to otherwise fall prey to those who would deliberately destroy it. This has always been the preeminent reason why we write down documents or agreements or declarations or, Mr. Speaker, constitutions in the first place, to preserve their original meaning and intent.

When the smoke of a horrible Civil War finally drifted from the air, 7,000 years of the world accepting the unrequited toil and misery of human slavery was over. The prayer of slaves had been answered, and the United States of America began to emerge as the true flagship of human freedom in the world.

But only 100 years later, we began to stray from that path. We began to think only of ourselves; and in 1973, *Roe v. Wade* was handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court and brought wholesale abortion-on-demand to the land of the free, and a veil of darkness fell upon America.

In that darkness we heard, but disregarded, the mortal cry of one little baby in the womb, and then another, and even another was heard, until that sound had become the soul-wrenching cry of tens of millions. And we found ourselves and our national conscience disoriented and awash in the blood of our own children. Millions of prayers called out for yet another leader to remind us of those forever words that speak the divine message of human dignity: all men, all men are created equal.

Mr. Speaker, from the time we are conceived, all human beings are created equal. We do not become equal when we reach a certain age or status. This is America's creed. This is our foundation. And how grateful we should all be that our Founding Fathers wrote those words down, and how desperate our commitment should be to remember what they mean.

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And now that test has come upon us, for there is soon an opportunity for the

President of the United States to nominate individuals to the Supreme Court who understand that all men are created equal. And Mr. Speaker, I believe in my soul that this President truly understands those words. Indeed, it is his commitment to their meaning that has given him the courage to stand resolutely against terrorists to protect innocent human life. But this president and each one of us must never forget that *Roe vs. Wade* has taken more than 15,000 times the number of lives lost on that tragic day on September 11. And we now live in a time when there is a glimmer of light breaking on the road before us. But the curve just ahead, Mr. Speaker, is sharp, and to miss it may be to forever plunge into that darkness. And the voice of destiny calls to this president, to our president and to all of us in these decisive days to steel our hearts and to ask anew, is it still true in America that all men are created equal?

Mr. Speaker, our legacy to future generations and the survival of human freedom in the world will depend upon our answer.

May God bless America and may God bless President George W. Bush.

CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last week, finally, and mercifully, the national basketball season drew to a close. But the debate on the Central American Free Trade Agreement goes on and on and on. Last year, during 2004, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the most powerful Republican Member of the House, promised that we would vote by the end of the year, by December 31, 2004; promised we would vote on the Central American Free Trade Agreement. They clearly did not have enough votes to pass it, so he did not bring it up.

The gentleman from Texas then promised a vote on the Central American Free Trade Agreement by Memorial Day. Again, the votes were not there. He did not bring it up. Now the gentleman from Texas promised there would be a vote on CAFTA by July 4. We leave town tomorrow or Friday. Clearly, it will not come up for a vote. Again, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) did not have the votes in order to pass it. The reason that the Central American Free Trade Agreement has not been voted on by this House is the majority of Members, dozens of Republicans and dozens of Democrats, workers in small businesses, farmers and ranchers, environmentalists and food safety advocates, the religious leaders in Latin America, person after person after person has said to this Congress: Renegotiate CAFTA. We do not want

this agreement. And the reason that people say renegotiate CAFTA and do not vote on this CAFTA or defeat this CAFTA is because our trade policy simply is not working.

If you look at this chart, 1992, the year I ran for Congress, we had a trade deficit in this country of \$38 billion. That means we exported \$38 billion less than we imported. A dozen years later in 2004, last year, our trade deficit was \$618 billion. From \$38 billion to \$618 billion. Clearly, our trade policy in this country is not working. Now maybe these are just numbers. These are just trade deficit numbers.

But Mr. Speaker, if you really look at what that means, that kind of trade deficit, it means we are outsourcing, we are losing all kinds of manufacturing jobs in our country. This chart of the 50 States shows the States, the States in red are States that have lost 20 percent of their manufacturing. Those in blue have lost 15 to 20 percent of their manufacturing. Ohio, my home State has lost 216,000 manufacturing jobs in only 5 years. Pennsylvania, 200,000; New York 222,000; Michigan, 210,000; Illinois, 214,000. Then you look at Mississippi and Alabama, have lost 130,000. The Carolinas, over 300,000. California, 353,000; Texas, 2001,000. These are manufacturing jobs that have simply disappeared, in large part jobs that have been shipped overseas because of failed U.S. trade policies, yet President Bush wants to continue this same sort of trade policy that our country has followed.

And when you look at 216,600 jobs in Ohio, that is just a number, too. But think what that means to a community. York Manufacturing in Elyria, Ohio, about 5 miles from where I live in Lorain, Ohio, York manufacturing shut down, moved a lot of their production to Mexico; 700 people lost their jobs. That is 700 bread winners did not have jobs. If they had jobs at all, they had jobs that paid much less than they were making. It hurt the school system in Elyria. It hurt the city, police and fire protection in Elyria because the city lost money, lost revenue, lost tax dollars. That is what it does to families, what it does to communities, what it does to our schools, what it does to our States. It clearly is not in the national interest to continue this kind of trade policy where we have huge trade deficits getting worse every year, and then we have this kind of manufacturing job loss.

Mr. Speaker, every year, every time there is a trade agreement, the President says and he promises that we will have more jobs, more manufacturing that will export products overseas and bring up the standard of living in those countries. Every time the President promises that, every time we pass a trade agreement, the opposite happens.

Mr. Speaker, Ben Franklin said the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and over and expecting a different result. Yet the President wants to continue this kind

of trade policy, as does the gentleman from Texas, Majority Leader DELAY, the most powerful Republican in this House, and we have the same kind of impact.

The opposition to CAFTA is broad. We have seen small manufacturers and farmers and ranchers. We have seen workers. We have seen religious leaders and environmentalists, people in Latin America, people in the United States that simply say no to this CAFTA, renegotiate a CAFTA. Renegotiate a Central American Free Trade Agreement that works for everyone.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1449

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1449.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

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 addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to give my special order in the place of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO NOAH HARRIS

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

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday, I attended a birthday party in Ellijay, Georgia. It was not an ordinary birthday party. The honoree, Lieutenant Noah Harris, was not physically present. He had been killed in Iraq the week before. But his spirit engulfed all of us as we celebrated the life of this extraordinary young man.

I first met Noah Harris several years ago when he served as an intern in my Washington office. I had been told that he was something special, and after meeting him, I certainly knew that was true. To become a State wrestling champion, an outstanding football player, the leading actor in his school drama and a Presidential Scholar requires someone special. To be a friend to people from all walks of life, to excel in everything that he undertook, to dare to dream big dreams takes someone special.

After September 11, 2001, Noah Harris, who was a senior, in his senior year in college at the University of Georgia, wanted to join the Army ROTC program. He was told that that was normally too late to qualify, but because of his outstanding credentials, he was accepted and was later commissioned as a second lieutenant.

As we attended the ceremony and listened to his commanding officer who told a story of the fact that he had understood that this young man was the captain of the cheerleader squad at the University of Georgia, he decided to pick on him for hand-to-hand combat, not knowing until the day of his funeral that he had been the State wrestling champion. Needless to say, this champion wrestler soon taught his commanding officer with a wink and a smile that you just do not pick on cheerleaders.

In Iraq, Lieutenant Noah Harris was proud of what he and his buddies were doing. He loved the children of Iraq. And he soon started distributing Beanie Babies to them. His niece, in her school back in the States, started a program to raise money to buy Beanie Babies to send to Noah, and he would distribute them to the children in Iraq.

□ 2310

That program continues today.

To lose your only son a few days before his 24th birthday is a heavy burden for any parent. But last Saturday, Lucy and Rick Harris celebrated the life of their son with friends who had known Noah as he was growing up. We were given replicas of his dog tag and a special sticker that I hold now. I am told that it translates, "We all love Iraq."

His mother says that Noah would say the words and the Iraqis would laugh probably because of his Southern accent. As I approached Ellijay, Georgia last Saturday, there were yellow ribbons on both sides of the road as far away as 20 miles out. It was a time for a small rural community in the mountains of north Georgia to celebrate the life of a unique young man.

They had watched him grow up. They had celebrated his achievements, and they were part of the mold that had shaped his life, and they were proud.

We all were proud to have been touched by Noah Harris. His spirit will live on in the lives of all of us.

To his parents, Lucy and Rick Harris, I extend my appreciation for the example that they have set and for the service their son gave to our country. Noah Harris is a true patriot. His courage, his self-discipline, and his compassion should be the standard for all of us. His was a life well lived. May his soul rest in peace.

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

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

DANGERS OF CAFTA

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the people of the Buckeye State of Ohio send their sympathies to the Noah Harris family as well and pray for him and pray for his relatives and pray for all of those who have lost loved ones on the American side, on the Iraqi side, and those who are in theater this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to dedicate my remarks this evening to CAFTA because the Bush administration cannot get the votes in this Congress, apparently, to expand NAFTA to Central America; and so they are now resorting to a number of myths in order to try to sell hard in these closing days. And one of the myths that they are talking about is jobs, and there was an ad in one of the newspapers up here on Capitol Hill today about blue jeans. And it is paid for by the very companies that are outsourcing our jobs and shipping them out to other places like Central America. And the ad gives us a really interesting choice on blue jeans. It basically says, do you want your blue jeans manufactured in the Dominican Republic, or do you want them manufactured somewhere in Asia?

My answer is I would like them manufactured in the United States of America where they used to be, in New York City, in Lower Manhattan, in North Carolina, in South Carolina, in Mississippi where people would like to be making the very products that we buy.

Interesting they do not even give the choice of manufacturing in the United States of America. That pretty much tells the whole story because workers in Central America make pennies, literally pennies. Largely women are sewing those jeans, and I have met some of them. They have to work 2 weeks, because their wages are so low, to afford one pair of jeans. And they make 400 to 600 pairs of jeans a day. Think about that. Think about who makes the profits off their sweat when you go to buy a pair of jeans.

In El Salvador and Nicaragua, two of the countries where they want to outsource more of our jobs, women workers can be fired for trying to stand up and get a contract to earn a decent wage, to be able to work for something more than starvation wages, which is what they termed what they work for. They are intimidated in the workplace.