

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats' witch-hunt of the week is aimed at my friend Karl Rove. I have had the pleasure of knowing Karl for over 20 years. I believe he is a man of honesty and integrity who loves his country and serves it well. He was also a key player in the President's reelection and clearly Democrats want revenge.

Based solely upon their partisan interpretation of selected press reports, some Democrats are now calling for his resignation. Mr. Speaker, if trial by headline is the standard in the Nation's capital, I have some other headlines I would be happy to share, and we know that they suggest that some Democrats may have been involved in illegal activities. Yet I do not hear my Democrat colleagues calling for their resignations.

Let us abide by the American standard that all are innocent until proven guilty. Democrats should end their trial by headline, their character assassination, and their constant Bush bashing. Instead, I hope that they will choose to work with Republicans on a bipartisan basis to save Social Security, win the war on terror, and create more jobs for American workers.

KARL ROVE

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, over and over again President Bush has expressed his commitment to fighting terrorism. But how is it possible when a top administration official, Deputy White House Chief of Staff Karl Rove, leaked classified information and undermined U.S. security? Karl Rove identified a covert CIA agent in an orchestrated effort to discredit an opponent of the administration's use of intelligence for the Iraq war.

Karl Rove has top-level national security clearance in his position. Yet, clearly, he cannot be trusted with information. President Bush cannot allow his administration and top advisers to undermine the war on terror.

In October 2003, President Bush stated: "If someone did leak classified information, I'd like to know it. And we'll take the appropriate action." Mr. President, it is time to take action now. Karl Rove should resign. President Bush pledged to restore honor and integrity to the White House and to the Presidency. Removing Karl Rove from his duties and position would be an appropriate first step.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Members are advised to direct their comments to the Chair and not to the President.

SUCCESS IN IRAQ CONTINUES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, though the triumphs go largely unreported by the media, our men and women in uniform and the Iraqi people are making tremendous progress every day in Iraq. An example is the Army Corps of Engineers is currently building 150 new primary health care facilities that will provide Iraqis with basic medical care, maternity and emergency services, and medical training. As families throughout Iraq welcome these facilities to their communities, our troops know they are greatly improving the lives of the Iraqi citizens. As a 31-year veteran of the National Guard with a son who has served a year in Iraq and two additional sons in the military, I know firsthand of the military's competence and success.

Last month I along with the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) and over 118 other Members established the Victory in Iraq Caucus to ensure that more people are aware of the great achievements which protect American families. Today, the caucus announced a weekly e-mail service that will deliver the good news from Iraq. As our soldiers continue to fulfill their mission, we applaud them on the path to victory to win the war on terrorism.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

KARL ROVE

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, we need to ask, why did Karl Rove, the President's Deputy Chief of Staff, reveal the identity of a CIA agent? The Republican National Committee has issued furiously spun talking points that suggest that Karl Rove was merely trying to keep an inaccurate story out of the paper. That is absolutely preposterous. Should the government start giving out secret information to reporters as background information? Of course not. No, the real reason Karl Rove outed a CIA agent was because the administration did not like the story. They did not like that they were being caught perpetuating a false story about nuclear materials from Niger in order to justify their run-up to war, so they tried to change the subject.

Karl Rove only knows one way to change the subject, attack the messenger. Normally these are just despicable political dirty tricks, but in this case it was a threat to national security by deliberately outing a CIA agent. Karl Rove has demonstrated that he is not beyond using classified information to further his political agenda, and it is time for him to be stripped of his security clearance and shown the door.

DEPUTY CONSTABLE NEHEMIAH PICKENS

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, on the hot humid night of July 6, 2005, in Houston, Texas, a police chase occurred. After midnight, a car driven by a criminal was fleeing from the police. His vehicle crashed into the gate of an apartment complex. The suspect, a Justin Doyle, jumped from his car and took off on foot fleeing from the law during the darkness. Deputy Constable Nehemiah Pickens had with others joined the police chase to capture this individual. Eventually, a shootout occurred and Deputy Pickens was killed while assisting in the pursuit of Doyle.

Nehemiah Pickens was a member of the Harris County Constable's Unit, Precinct 6. He was 33 years of age. He is remembered as a hardworking family man who worked multiple security jobs in addition to his work as a police officer to support his wife and his three daughters. He was working a part-time security job when he was killed to obtain money for a new home. Tomorrow, he will be buried in Houston, Texas. In the wake of this tragedy, we are reminded that we must never take for granted the police officers of America that work every day to enforce the law.

Deputy Pickens died doing what was his duty to protect, serve, and defend the people. As hundreds of police officers and law enforcement personnel, friends and family gather tomorrow for his funeral, our prayers go out to his family for allowing his life to be sacrificed for the rest of us.

REMEMBERING TWA FLIGHT 800

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

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, this coming Saturday marks the ninth anniversary of an American tragedy, the loss of 230 souls aboard TWA Flight 800. Bound for Paris, France, flight 800 fell from the sky just south of Moriches, Long Island, only minutes after its departure from JFK International Airport. Many of us recall exactly where we were on that evening of July 17, 1996, an indelible memory of when we felt the tremendous shock, fright, and sadness upon learning all aboard Flight 800 had perished.

But from great sorrow and hope new beginnings can rise. The overwhelming outpouring of support and good will after Flight 800 spoke volumes of America's compassion, resolve, and greatness.

On this solemn occasion, we extend our thoughts and prayers to the families of the passengers aboard Flight 800. We will always remember the profound loss that each of them continues to live with in the long years since that terrible night 9 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless every one of them.

IN HONOR OF THE MEMORIAL RIFLE SQUAD AT FORT SNELLING NATIONAL CEMETERY

(Mr. KLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable accomplishments of the members of the Memorial Rifle Squad at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. These men set an example of selfless service for all Americans.

Since June 19, 1979, the Fort Snelling Memorial Rifle Squad has performed a critical service by providing a military cemetery burial service for honorably discharged veterans. Over the past 25 years, the rifle squad has conducted 42,000 funerals, free of charge, at the request of families and veterans organizations. The first squad boasted six members, the youngest of whom was 50 years old. Today, the ages of the more than 100 members of the rifle squad range from 26 to 87, averaging a spry 71.6 years.

Mr. Speaker, these men never miss a funeral, braving the brutal cold, snow and wind of our Minnesota winters. Mr. Speaker, the members of the Memorial Rifle Squad have unselfishly given to our country through their own military service and continue that tradition today by honoring their fellow veterans. I commend their remarkable accomplishments and thank them for their service.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN PATRICK MARTIN, FIREFIGHTER MARVIN DONALDSON, FIREFIGHTER STEPHEN JOHNSON, FIREFIGHTER DAVID BRADLEY, AND MR. SEAN MCKARNIN

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor five firefighters from my district, Missouri's Fifth, who selflessly risked their lives in the line of duty. On February 23, 2004, Captain Patrick Martin, Firefighter Marvin Donaldson, Firefighter David Bradley, Firefighter Stephen Johnson, and Mr. Sean McKarnin responded to a fire at a residence in South Kansas City not far from where I live. Upon their arrival at the scene, they came under heavy and rapid gunfire from a nearby residence and were pinned down for nearly 30 minutes while the fire raged. In the midst of this chaos, a paramedic who also responded to the scene was shot. The team members successfully pulled her to safety and eventually extinguished the fire.

Today, these five heroes will be awarded the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor by President Bush. He will recognize their extraordinary

valor above and beyond the call of duty. The medal is the highest national award for valor by a public safety officer and only 10 public safety officers will receive this award this year.

I commend those firefighters for their exceptional courage and decisiveness in an extraordinary situation and know my colleagues will join me in honoring them today.

REDUCING HEALTH RISKS FROM OBESITY

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

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, obesity and obesity-associated annual hospital costs for children and adolescents have more than tripled over 2 decades, rising from \$35 million in 1979 to \$127 million in 2000.

This alarming rise in childhood obesity has resulted in a generation of children with many of the medical complications historically associated with adults, such as hypertension, diabetes, cholesterol, and heart disease. Adult obesity increases risks for over 20 medical conditions costing about \$75 billion in medical expenses.

Obesity prevention starts at home. Parents need to begin to teach personal responsibility early on, to eat healthy meals, and establish an exercise routine for their families. There is no Federal program that can improve the habits of our Nation's children better than a team of responsible parents.

For our part, Congress should work with local communities to promote access to nutritious foods and physical activity programs that make healthy life-styles a priority, both in schools and the workplace. I ask that Members learn more about the costs and medical problems associated with obesity and other health care issues and urge them to visit my Web site at murphy.house.gov.

KARL ROVE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, one of my Republican colleagues from Texas just said that Karl Rove is his friend and is innocent until proven guilty and that Democrats should not criticize the Bush administration on this issue.

Republicans need to realize how serious Rove's actions were. Karl Rove's actions jeopardize the life of every CIA agent, every CIA agent that Valerie Plame ever came into contact with. President Bush's father, a former CIA director, believes it so serious that he said that people who expose CIA agents are the most insidious of traitors.

Rather than demand answers from Rove, congressional Republicans are either silent or are attacking Democrats. They should be asking how Rove had

the very information about Valerie Plame from the beginning, and they should deny him any further security clearance.

For 2 years, the Republicans and the Bush White House have defended Rove, and now we know that everything that they were telling us was simply false. It is time for Bush to remove Rove from the White House. It is time for Republicans to take this seriously and not come up here and talk about their friends and criticize Democrats.

□ 1030

IN FAVOR OF CONTINUED TAX CUTS AND IMPLEMENTING CAFTA FOR FURTHER ECONOMIC GROWTH

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, since Ronald Reagan was President, I have been listening to my very distinguished friends on the other side of the aisle time and time again say that, if we cut taxes, the economy will go into the tank and will dramatically exacerbate the Federal deficit.

Yesterday morning we picked up the New York Times, and there it was: It showed that the tax cuts that we put into place over the past few years under the leadership of President Bush, in fact, have increased the flow of revenues to the Federal treasury. And guess who is paying those increased taxes, Mr. Speaker? It is the wealthy.

We have also seen this morning evidence of zero inflation. That was what was reported this morning, zero inflation. We have seen the gross domestic product growth at 3.8 percent, and we are continuing to see more and more jobs created in this country.

Mr. Speaker, there are many other things that we can do to expand this very positive economic growth that we are enjoying today, and it is first to further cut taxes so that we can expand that growth and also to realize that a tariff is a tax, and if we can eliminate taxes by implementing the Central American Free Trade Agreement, we will open up new markets for U.S. goods and services. Let us recognize the growth that we have had and expand this by opening up new markets with passage of CAFTA.

QUESTIONING KARL ROVE'S CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT IN THE WHITE HOUSE

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, Americans must have thought that the world was turned upside down the other day when they turned on their TV in the morning and they saw former Speaker Newt Gingrich, who was convicted of lying to the