

married his sweetheart, Rose, and they had three children, Stuart, Garry and Lisa. Also with us today are his grandchildren, Katherine, Ryan and Kyle, Doug, Becky, Charlotte, Kelly, Jack, Nina, Kelly and Ken are also in the Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in acknowledging a great American, George Olson, today and wish him and his family well as they continue their visit to Washington, DC.

The sacrifices of his generation ensured we could live in a free society as we do today, and they certainly deserve every bit of gratitude we can offer.

FEMA HOUSING

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration failed the people of the Gulf Coast before Hurricane Katrina and continues to fail them today.

Now, people who were abandoned and left to fend for themselves are about to get kicked to the curb again.

First, we had to fight and force FEMA to allow survivors to temporarily stay in hotels and motels. Now, survivors may be on the streets again.

On May 31, 55,000 displaced families could lose emergency shelter assistance, even though it was promised to them for at least a year.

FEMA says that these families are supposed to apply for a different kind of assistance, yet four out of five applicants reportedly are being turned down. Those who do receive assistance have to reapply every 3 months. Why are we messing with these people who deserve to be treated better by their own government?

FEMA has failed to submit its plan for permanent transitional housing for Congress, which was due in January. Instead of assistance, they have offered incompetence. In the place of aid, they have offered nothing but bureaucracy.

Why in the world are we adding insult to injury? Katrina survivors deserve better.

THE PARTY OF NO

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the rhetoric from the other side of the aisle, which is usually full of hyperbole, has suddenly dissolved down into one simple word. No.

It is no to energy solutions. It is no to immigration reform. It is no to tax relief.

Last year Republicans passed not one but two energy bills, the Gasoline for America's Security Act, and the Energy Policy Act. More recently, we passed the Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act. And the Democrats response: No.

Last year Republicans passed not one but two immigration reform bills, the Border Protection, Antiterrorism and Illegal Immigration Control Act, and the REAL ID Act. And the Democrats response: No.

Finally, just last week, Republicans approved a tax conference agreement that will help keep the Bush economic boom going and prevent a massive tax increase. The Democrats response: No.

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats favorite new slogan is "America Can Do Better." The American people have a clear choice in November: The party that is accomplishing things, or the party that stands on the sidelines and says "no." Yes, America can do better, better than the party of no.

KATRINA SURVIVORS

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, after evicting all Katrina survivors in temporary housing on March 15, FEMA has now announced that 55,000 families will lose their emergency housing assistance as of May 31.

Tens of thousands of these families are being told they are ineligible for further assistance because of FEMA's onerous and discriminatory rules.

Is this how we treat people who have lost everything?

Where do we expect families who have lost their homes, their jobs, even their city, to turn without housing assistance?

Nearly 9 months have passed since Hurricane Katrina hit. If FEMA can't help these families reclaim their lives, then Congress has to act.

Literally dozens of Katrina bills are still languishing in committees, including H.R. 4197, the most comprehensive relief package offered to date.

I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 4197 in support of Katrina's survivors.

MEXICO SUES AMERICA—LONE STAR VOICE: CURTIS KRUEGER

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, my office has been inundated by calls from citizens since the announcement that the Mexican government plans to sue the United States over our military troops along our border, hauled into court by the Fox south of the border.

Curtis Krueger of Kingwood, Texas, writes to me:

"Now I read that Mexico is considering suing the United States over border patrols. To not respond to this would be egregious. We as Americans have a sovereign right to have our borders protected by however and whom ever we see fit. Our government should vocalize this in every way possible, not sit back and let someone else formulate public opinion. To say we cannot handle the immigrant insurgency in

our country flies directly in the face of what we are doing in Iraq. If we are in Iraq to handle insurgents, why aren't we able to do so within our own borders. I, along with a vast majority of Americans, say to you and the government, 'We want our country back.'"

America is now going to be sued in our courts by foreign nations for protecting our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, this ought not to be. We the people have become we the defendants. Mr. Krueger has got it right. Hopefully our government does.

And that's just the way it is.

CHENEY'S SECRET ENERGY TASK FORCE HAS PAID DIVIDENDS FOR BIG OIL

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, 5 years ago this week Vice President CHENEY convened his secret energy task force, bringing Big Oil and energy lobbyists together to craft the Bush administration energy agenda. Last year House Republicans rubber-stamped that agenda, and the administration happily signed the legislation into law.

Today, the results are in. Big Oil is laughing all the way to the bank. During the first quarter of this year, the big five oil companies reported profits of \$32.8 billion. These profits are a direct result of those secret Cheney meetings. Big Oil has experienced record profits because Washington Republicans chose to shower Big Oil with more than \$20 billion in gifts.

While Big Oil is prospering, the decisions made in those secret Cheney meetings are not paying off for the American consumer. Over the past 5 years the average American family is paying \$2,000 more a year in gas, home heating and electrical bills.

Washington Republicans continue to hurt everyday Americans by cozying up to Big Oil. Is it any wonder that Americans are demanding change? Democrats will end Big Oil price gouging and rapidly move our country to energy independence and a renewable, clean energy future.

CONGRATULATING RICHMOND NATIVE AND AMERICAN IDOL CONTESTANT ELLIOTT YAMIN

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

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Richmond, Virginia, native and American Idol contestant Elliott Yamin for pursuing his dream while sharing his powerful voice with all of us. Elliott is returning home a star; a man with an extraordinary gift who dared to put his talent on display and achieved great success. Elliott's personality and amazing ability won over the judges and the viewers to earn him national recognition as a

final contestant on the most popular show on television. Elliott will be returning home to Richmond, having inspired and entertained millions with his extraordinary singing voice and charisma. I join Elliott's community, family and friends in proud recognition of his fantastic achievement and undoubtedly bright future.

□ 1015

URGING VIDEO GAME MAKERS TO ACT RESPONSIBLY IN WAKE OF RECENT POLICE SHOOTINGS

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, the suburbs of Washington were shaken last week by the senseless murder of two police officers in Fairfax, Virginia. This shooting occurred just days after the 25th annual Police Officers Memorial Service honoring the 155 police officers who, like Shawn Silvera from Lino Lakes, Minnesota, died in the line of duty last year.

These deaths come at a time when violence against police officers is being glorified by video games like 25 to Life which gives players points for shooting police officers.

This is unacceptable, it is outrageous, it must be stopped.

I urge the makers of this game to think carefully about the message they are sending to the families of fallen officers and the impact it has on impressionable children. If companies like those that produce 25 to Life continue to market this filth to our children, I say to my colleagues, we have a duty to act.

ONGOING HOUSING CRISIS ON THE GULF COAST

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

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, after almost 9 months, I suppose it doesn't surprise anyone to hear that FEMA is failing the citizens of the gulf coast. In the wake of the storms, FEMA expressly advised the survivors of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita that they could expect 1 year of assistance. Moreover, section 408 of the Stafford Act provides for 18 months of assistance to victims of natural disasters.

Yet just 9 months after these devastating storms, FEMA is working feverishly, not to house the victims of the hurricanes but to terminate their housing assistance, to kick them out into the street without any assurance that the survivors will be able to find housing for themselves or their families.

Why? Because FEMA says it's time to move on. May 31 is the deadline. After that, you're on your own.

There is a reason the Stafford Act provides for more than \$20,000 in aid per household and for up to 18 months

of assistance. The Stafford Act, unlike FEMA, recognizes that every disaster is different and that each disaster cannot be treated the same.

Over the next few months, our State's housing plan, The Road Home, will be up and running; SBA loan funds will begin to flow into homeowners' hands; insurance claims will be resolved and paid; and then the people of New Orleans will begin rebuilding in earnest.

The President has the authority to issue waivers, to make adjustments to accommodate the survivors. FEMA also can behave more reasonably, more humanely. Until FEMA has a workable plan for transitional housing for these American survivors, it must not evict them. To do so is unconscionable.

YOUTH COUNCIL

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to talk about a group of exceptional students in my district. After coming to Congress last year, I put together several advisory councils made up of constituents. These panels perform research, investigations and advise me on the needs and concerns of my district, our State and our Nation across a variety of different areas.

Most recently, my Youth Advisory Council presented their report. Made up of 46 students representing 25 local high schools, the council met monthly to discuss and debate three very pertinent topics of their own choosing: Social Security, tax reform, and illegal immigration. During that time they also compiled and reviewed data from surveys administered to fellow students.

Much to my delight, the most consistent conclusion in all three working groups was that many of our young Americans are thirsty for more information on these issues. They want to be a part of the national dialogue.

I am excited to have had the opportunity to hear their voices. The information and conclusions they presented to me were extremely thorough and valuable. I thank them for their time and effort. I will work with colleagues here to implement many of their recommendations.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS CHOOSE TO PENALIZE CASH-STRAPPED SENIORS

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, say it isn't so. House Republicans are ready to penalize millions of American seniors who did not sign up for a prescription drug plan by that arbitrary May 15 deadline. Congress should have extended that deadline to give seniors more time to pick the right plan for

both their health and their pocket-book.

House Republicans expected seniors to choose a plan by May 15 even though they knew seniors were receiving incomplete and incorrect information from the Bush administration. An investigation by GAO concluded that the CMS was giving out wrong information to seniors 60 percent of the time.

You would think that Washington Republicans would not start penalizing seniors with the Bush prescription drug tax until the administration began giving out accurate information. But no, they chose instead to force seniors into a plan by midnight on May 15 or face the Bush prescription drug tax that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

House Republicans and the President who the Congressional Black Caucus called on had a chance to help seniors and they didn't. Congress should have extended the deadline to give seniors more time. They still can. I call on them to do so.

Bring the Congressional Black Caucus bill to the floor and pass it.

CRITICAL CONDITION: THE STATE OF THE UNION'S HEALTH CARE, 2006

(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, a couple weeks ago, I provided for Members of Congress this document: "Critical Condition: The State of the Union's Health Care, 2006," put out by my office. In that we outlined many programs that would help reduce costs of health care in America.

Let me expand on one of them about Community Health Centers, which are nonprofit centers to provide primary and preventative care for folks who are low income or who are uninsured and underinsured. However, a recent report by the Journal of the American Medical Association said that although these clinics are of tremendous value, there is a shortage of medical personnel at them. A study published by Dr. Roger Rosenblatt of the University of Washington says that there is a 13 percent shortage of family physicians, a 20 percent shortage of obstetricians, and a 22.5 percent shortage of psychiatrists for these positions.

Oddly enough, if a physician is employed by a Community Health Center, they are covered by the Federal liability, but if someone wants to volunteer at a clinic, they are not.

It is important that we provide mechanisms to allow physicians and other medical personnel to volunteer at these clinics. America needs that. The uninsured and underinsured need that, and, quite frankly, it would save a tremendous amount of money.

People can receive further information on my Web site, murphy.house.gov.