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VISIT WITH NAVY LEAGUE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend I had the opportunity to meet with council president Jim Smith and vice president Ted Brice, as well as other members of the Hilton Head Island Council of the Navy League.

The Navy League was formed in 1902 with the objective and purpose of educating and motivating the American people to support our maritime capabilities, services and personnel. One of their main focuses is on maintaining a strong maritime component to our national defense.

As a member of the Subcommittee on Sea Power and Expeditionary Forces and a member of the Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus, I have seen firsthand that the decline in our Naval ships is a threat to our national security. In the past 20 years, the U.S. Naval fleet has been cut in half to its lowest numbers since World War I. We need to push to increase our Nation's shipbuilding capability from our current average of six ships a year to a minimum of 10 so that we can be able to meet America's global security needs.

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

VOTE "NO" ON THE ANDEAN TRADE AGREEMENT

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the Andean Trade Agreement, H.R. 1830, which, strangely, will be brought up under suspension, which means no debate and no amendment. I thought voters put new Democratic leadership in charge of this House to stop deals such as this being done in this way.

H.R. 1830 would extend special duty treatment to certain imports from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru until September 30 of 2009. The Andean Accord was originally intended to promote economic growth and replace production of illegal drugs in the Andean region. But in 2006, the United States had already racked up \$10 billion more in deficit with these countries, and the last time I looked, that cocaine was still coming over our borders from Colombia.

Mr. Speaker, this deal made on the NAFTA model is a failed model. Not a single other trade deal under the NAFTA model has created good or better jobs. Because it is based on the NAFTA model, the specific provisions are just tinkering at the edges.

This bill will cost more American jobs, period. How many copies of the

NAFTA deal must enter this Congress before we finally say no?

We don't need more Bill Thomas and Tom DeLay-type trade agreements being rushed through this House. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on 1830.

Let's have a full debate on trade. The American people demand it of us.

EXPANDING HEALTH CARE OPTIONS FOR FAMILIES

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, a recent article in The Washington Post highlights the importance of expanding health savings accounts for America's families. The article mentioned a woman who switched to an HSA with a high deductible health plan after her insurance premiums increased by 42 percent in 1 year. As a result, the monthly cost of her asthma medication consumed all the money in her HSA.

Patients with chronic conditions shouldn't have to pay a high deductible before their coverage begins. Giving patients with HSAs the freedom to choose plans that offer up-front coverage will avoid hospitalizations and reduce the costs that are borne by all Americans.

Recently, I introduced H.R. 2639, the Promoting Health for Future Generations Act of 2007. The bill permits HSA owners to receive prescription drugs before paying a deductible. It also permits working families to accumulate more money in these accounts, resolving the situations like the one pointed out in The Washington Post article.

I urge my colleagues to expand coverage and empower patients by cosponsoring H.R. 2639. Doing so will give Americans greater flexibility and independence when managing their families' health care needs.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE TIRED OF THIS WAR

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

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to recent reports that the United States commanders in Iraq are rejecting the recommendations from Army mental health experts.

To address the rising number of returning war heroes with mental health problems, Army psychologists have said that troops need a 1-month reprieve for every 3 months in combat, a suggestion that's been brushed aside by these commanders.

Denying troops the rest they need is another irresponsible move in a long line of policies that show a complete disregard for the well-being of our troops, such as being sent to war without adequate armor, being forced to complete multiple deployments, and when wounded, being subjected to a bureaucratic mess such as Walter Reed.

Mr. Speaker, I've only been in Congress since January, yet, this week, I made my sixth call to the spouse of a wounded or killed soldier in this war.

I'm tired of this war. My constituents are tired of this war. The American people are tired of this war. It's time to put the health and well-being of our troops first. It's time to bring them home.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE EXPECT THEIR LEADERS TO STAND BY THEM

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

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I think the Chicago Tribune said it nicely when they said last week, "Democrats promised way more than they delivered." Because of the lack of follow-through in failure to govern by the Democratic majority, the approval numbers of Congress have sunk to the lowest levels of all times according to the recently released Gallup poll.

Making promises will gain your support in the short-term, but failing to fulfill those promises will quickly be discovered, and I'm afraid that's where the majority party has found itself. After a campaign of promises, little action has occurred on the pledges that so many were elected to withhold.

The 100-hour agenda has seen only one bill receive the support of the President, and that was attached to an emergency supplemental. Republicans have fought hard to reel in spending, yet Democrats are recklessly increasing spending and moving forward with a plan to increase taxes.

Republicans heard the American people and are fighting hard to restore trust and fiscal responsibility within the Congress. We're recommitted to continuing the fight because the American people expect their leaders to stand by them.

GOP DEFECTIONS ON IRAQ SHOULD SERVE AS A WAKE-UP CALL TO THE PRESIDENT

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, over a 2-day period this week, two influential Republican Senators came forward urging that we begin to pull our troops out of Iraq.

Rather than seriously listening to these opinions, however, the White House, through its spokesman, Tony Snow, said yesterday that he hoped Members of Congress would give their Baghdad security plan "a chance to unfold."

Is Tony Snow serious? How long does he expect congressional Republicans to continue to blindly support the administration's failed policy? After all, it was the President who said earlier this year that we should see significant improvements by September. But now,