

political stalemate, new explosions of violence coming as I stand here speaking on the floor of the House of Representatives.

And while we continue to be bogged down in a civil war in Iraq, a conflict that began centuries before 9/11, the real enemy, al Qaeda, grows stronger in its cozy, safe haven in Pakistan.

The administration is often criticized for not having an exit strategy in Iraq. But in my view, the reason the President never had an exit strategy is because he never intended to exit Iraq. Permanent occupation has always been his game plan.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's up to the Congress to implement the will of the American people and end the occupation with a responsible redeployment of our troops. The best way to honor those who have died or have been injured in this occupation is to ensure that more won't die and more won't be injured.

That is why I will continue to speak up for our brave troops and for the innocent Iraqis who are, despite what the Vice President may think, the ones who are carrying the biggest burden.

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.)

SUNSET MEMORIAL

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

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I stand, once again, before this body with yet another Sunset Memorial. It is March 31, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave. And before the sun sets today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless, unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Mr. Speaker. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that were lost on September 11 times 15,000, the total number that were lost on September 11.

It has now been exactly 12,852 days since the travesty called Roe v. Wade was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of our own children. Some of them, Mr. Speaker, died and cried and screamed as they died. But because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords rather than air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common. They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. Each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be the same. And all of the

gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are lost forever.

Yet, even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date: those yet unborn.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps it's important for those in this chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government."

The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

Mr. Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is that clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and they are endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Every conflict our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are. And yet, Mr. Speaker, another day has passed. And we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We failed our sworn oath, and we failed our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with the nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection that we should have given them. And it seems so sad, Mr. Speaker, to me that this Sunset Memorial may be the only remembrance that these children who died today will ever have in this Chamber.

And so just as small a gesture as it might be, I would ask those who are inclined for just a moment of silence at this time for these little, lost Americans.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude in the hope that perhaps someone new who hears this Sunset Memorial tonight will finally realize that abortion really does kill little babies, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express and that 12,852 days spent killing nearly 15 million children in America is enough and that the America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust is still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their babies than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Mr. Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon, each of us will walk through these chambers for the very last time. And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to con-

vene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of the innocent unborn. May that be the day when we finally find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

Mr. Speaker, it is March 31, 2008, 12,852 days since Roe v. Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children. This, in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

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

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

ECONOMIC PLIGHT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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 American people are desperately struggling to understand why our Federal Government is ignoring their economic plight. The average price of gasoline now sits at \$3.28 and it is rising. Only a month ago, Americans paid \$3.16. A year ago, they paid \$2.67. Months away from the peak of the summer driving season, the American people can expect to see this trend get only worse.

In 1996, the United States began its plunge into nearly total dependence on imported petroleum. With 10 years of oil deficits continuing to plague our economy, we have spent too much time talking and not enough time acting. Our lack of energy independence translates into a true loss of liberty.

Since the Bush administration assumed office, our Nation is importing a billion more barrels of petroleum a year. A billion barrels more. By 2007, the trade deficit of oil imports had risen to \$293 billion, accounting for a third, over a third, of the total \$815 billion U.S. trade deficit.

This last statistic is truly sobering. But for this year of 2008, 51 percent of the total U.S. trade deficit, over half, is now the result of imported oil. Over half of our structural trade deficit flows directly from the increasing cost of oil.

Again, this equals dependence for America, not independence. It is an abrogation of our birthright as a Nation to allow us to continue in this position.

Based on 2007 numbers, the United States is adding \$808 million a day to the trade deficit just from our imbalance in oil. The rising cost of oil added an estimated \$50 billion to the Nation's trade deficit in 2006 and, on top of that, another \$28 billion in 2007.

Our country imported 4.8 billion barrels of oil in total energy-related products in 2007 valued at \$319 billion. Imagine if we would have been able to spend those dollars here at home what an injection that would be into this economy with the value of the dollar falling, so much related to imports, the economy tanking, the housing market in freefall and Americans feeling the true pinch of all of this. Our government here in Washington has not provided the leadership needed to end this plunge into national subservience.

The solution is clear: energy independence now. First, we have to look to our natural resources and pass a good farm bill to unleash the power of the earth and nature as a key part of the solution. And while there has been plenty of talk from our President about energy independence, the insistence on vetoing a bill, that does not live within artificial budget limits that he has declared, is an absurdity that threatens to destroy our progress. A good farm bill invests in rural America, providing an investment in infrastructure and research, including the energy technologies of tomorrow.

Second, we must continue to rely on the advanced research technology organized by the National Renewable Energy Lab and give this lab the resources to define and help redefine our new energy future. We need no less a commitment than we envisioned when we created NASA and space exploration. With that came security, and now we need energy security. It is that high a priority. This Congress, this President should be working to that end.

And third, we must pass legislation to fund the energy bill that passed the House last year, and then again this year, and call on our brethren in the other body to take action.

Unless we commit to providing leadership to transform our economy, this discussion remains the rhetoric of the last century really leaving us with a confused and unfulfilled daydream that has repeated itself for the last three decades.

As the American people face \$4 gasoline and see our wealth drained from us, we must take a new course. We are past the point of words. Real deeds are required. And we must stop our economic hemorrhaging and begin investing in our own Midwest, in our own country, not the Middle East, and pass on a free republic to our posterity worthy of the sacrifices of our founders and all those who gave their all in freedom's cause.

Liberty's call in this new century demands energy independence now.

□ 1945

SALUTING JORDAN LEEN,
NATIONAL CHAMPION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WELCH of Vermont). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from

Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight because every now and then a person's story will so inspire us that the example is set for all young people to look up to, to follow in their footsteps. And that happened 9 days ago to a young man from East Tennessee whom so many people are so very proud of today.

His name is Jordan Leen. And 9 days ago, in the 157 pound weight class at Cornell University, Jordan Leen achieved his life's ambition of becoming a national champion. Among all universities from sea to shining sea, against some very difficult odds, this young man became a national champion.

He has moved up weight classes in his last couple of years at Cornell until he got comfortable and didn't have to lose weight to wrestle. So this is probably about his natural weight. He's what my son would call a "beast." I've seen him in all ways of his life.

He beat the number one seed, even though he was seeded eighth going into the tournament in the quarter finals, and he beat the number two seed in the finals just 3-2 in the most hard-fought match you've ever seen. And it was glorious. It was electric. He was distinguished through his high school career. And I want to focus on three things that made Jordan Leen a champion so others can look up to him and know that these are some of the ingredients for success.

One is family. His father, Mark; his mother, Tammy; his sisters, Andrea and Tara, they're a unit. The scriptural principle is that a cord of three strands is not easily broken; and with the Leens, a cord of five strands is not broken. They're a unit. They're a team. I know this because this young champion grew up across the street from me. He and my son, Weston, are best friends. This was a glorious moment not just in my family's life but in all of these Tennesseans' because this family was represented on the mat in front of the national ESPN audience a week ago Saturday, and we all took joy in this accomplishment from this fighter. He had been sick the week of the national championship, but he battled through that to become a national champion.

Ingredient number two, a foundation. He got it at the Baylor School with an outstanding wrestling program, an incredible tradition, and the foundation was there for him to become a collegiate athlete and a scholar athlete. He was the greatest wrestler in the history of the State of Tennessee by anyone's standard: a 4-year State champion; 215 victories; 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th State champion all the way through high school at the Baylor School. He had the foundation for the program, and Baylor School is proud.

And, third, faithfulness. He was faithful through the years. He had a goal and he stuck with it. His work

ethic was greater than anyone's. He worked out harder. He fought harder. He suffered more through injuries. He was faithful all the way through. His father in the account said that that whole week of the championship he knew something was different because Jordan had turned the week over to the Lord. He was faithful. He gave it to God and said, I'm here to do my best. I'm sick, but I am here to do my best. And he was honored. And he was faithful.

He's an incredible young man. He's an inspiration to all. He's an excellent student, making a 3.3 at Cornell in premed, and a national collegiate champion in the 157 pound weight class.

Jordan Leen, East Tennessee salutes you. You're one of the greatest athletes in the history of our region. You have reached the climax, but you're still the same guy. And we love you for the example you have set for young people.

Young people, if you want to be a student athlete, follow Jordan Leen. Follow Jordan Leen.

Thank you, Jordan. Your family loves you, and we salute you on the floor of the House tonight.

STAFF SERGEANT MATTHEW
MAUPIN

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

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to offer my sincere condolences to the family of Staff Sergeant Keith Matthew Maupin. Yesterday, Keith and Carolyn Maupin learned that the United States Army had positively identified the remains found last week in Iraq as that of their son, Matt Maupin. After nearly 4 years of suffering the torment of not knowing the status of their missing son, I pray that this news may bring some closure to the Maupins and allow them to begin to mourn their loss and celebrate the life that Matt lived.

Keith Matthew Maupin was born in Batavia, Ohio, on July 13, 1983, and was a student at Glen Este High School in Union Township, Clermont County, Ohio, where he played football and was a rower on the county's high school crew team. Matt graduated in 2001 and enrolled in the University of Cincinnati's Aerospace Engineering Program. He joined the United States Army Reserve in 2002, attending basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and completed his advanced individual training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, in the spring of 2003.

After completing his training, Matt continued his studies at the University of Cincinnati while fulfilling his obligations as an Army reservist. In November 2003, Matt received orders to transfer to the recently mobilized 724th Transportation Company based out of Bartonville, Illinois. Matt and the 724th arrived in Kuwait on February 20,