

District Director, the Honorable SUSAN A. DAVIS, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 16, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with two criminal trial subpoenas for testimony issued by the Superior Court for San Diego County, California.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoenas is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

JESSICA POOLE,
Deputy District Director.

COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF ASSISTANT, THE HONORABLE SUSAN A. DAVIS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Nicholas Norvell, Staff Assistant, the Honorable SUSAN A. DAVIS, Member of Congress:

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Sincerely,

NICHOLAUS NORVELL,
Staff Assistant.

COMMUNICATION FROM DISTRICT DIRECTOR, THE HONORABLE SUSAN A. DAVIS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Todd Gloria, District Director, the Honorable SUSAN A. DAVIS, Member of Congress:

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TODD GLORIA,
District Director.

□ 1530

HIGHLIGHTING APRIL AS NATIONAL STD AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize April as National STD Awareness Month. As you may know, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently released a disturbing statistic. One in four young women between the ages of 14 to 19 has a sexually transmitted disease, and it is likely that she does not even know it. This amounts to an estimated 3.2 million teen girls in America with at least one of four common STDs, including chlamydia and HPV.

The good news is that these diseases and infections are preventable. We have a responsibility to make sure that parents and teenagers have the resources they need to make smart choices for their health and well-being. This includes access to education and access to affordable preventive health care and screening.

As a Co-Chair of the Young Women's Task Force for the Women's Caucus, I call on my colleagues to take note of the CDC's startling statistic, and I congratulate Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES for introducing a resolution supporting National STD Awareness Month.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER IN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the bipartisan Congressional Prayer Caucus, as we do each week, to formally acknowledge the importance of prayer in American life and history. Today I remind my colleagues, constituents and country of our need for prayer by reading a portion of a proclamation by John Hancock 220 years ago in 1783 while he was Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

He said, "It has been the laudable Practice of this Country, to open the Business of the Year, by setting apart a Day for Religious Exercise, thereby to implore the Blessing of God upon all the Undertakings of his People.

"He hath been graciously pleased to hear our Prayers. At such a Time then, it is peculiarly fit and becoming for us as a People, while we express our Gratitude to Almighty God for his numerous and unmerited Favors, to humble ourselves before Him for our manifold Sins, and to profess our entire Dependence upon his paternal Care, beseeching Him to give us his Grace that we may be able to improve his Mercies to his Honor and Glory."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind visitors in the gallery not to show approval or disapproval of the proceedings.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TRIBUTE TO TECHNICAL SERGEANT ANTHONY CAPRA

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I quote: "Somehow or other their faces seemed different from those of ordinary men."

Winston Churchill wrote those words about volunteers who risked their lives defusing bombs in wartime. I imagine that he saw in their faces the constant strain of knowing that their smallest movements over the bomb could mean the difference between life and death. I imagine that he saw in the lines and creases the evidence of the burden they carried for their comrades; and, deeper still, some indefinable quality that made them willing to take that burden on again and again.

Mr. Speaker, I never met Technical Sergeant Tony Capra. But underneath all the marks of strain and stress, I am sure I could have seen there his love for his family: His wife, Angie; his five children, Mark, Victoria, Jared, Shawn, and Adrianna; his 11 brothers and sisters; his mother and his father.

Last week I had the opportunity to talk to his father about the loss of his son in Iraq as he disabled an IED and it exploded. Obviously, he saved scores of others, and paid the ultimate price. His dad, as one would imagine, was extraordinarily sad, but also exceptionally proud of the duty his son had performed.

I am sure I could have seen in his devotion to our Armed Forces an absolute commitment to their mission, to his duty, to his country.

Sergeant Tony Capra, 31 years of age, died on April 9th in Iraq. He was an Air Force Ordnance Technician based in Indian Head City, Maryland, in my district, an expert diffuser of improvised explosive devices. Quoting from the report about him, his "keen eye for details, astounding memory, and courage without measure," in the words of his commanding officer, as I have said, saved countless lives.

But in the middle of an Iraqi road, not far from Balad Air Force Base, an explosion took his life. Sergeant Capra was on his fourth tour in Iraq. When he could have rested at home, he volunteered to return to work, to work

against explosive devices designed to maim and kill his fellow soldiers, as well as innocent Iraqi men and women, and, yes, too many children. He placed his body in harm's way. He laid his life down for others. He died in our country's service and was posthumously awarded a second Bronze Star.

But this great Nation owes him a debt far beyond its power to repay. It is because of the bravery and sacrifice of American patriots like Tony Capra that a dangerous dictator no longer menaces his own people and the world, and that 25 million human beings who were oppressed for a quarter of a century are currently struggling to establish a democratic government that answers to its own people, that stands for freedom, and respects the rule of law. That was Tony Capra's vision. That is why he served his country so well.

I hope, in time, that Tony's unwavering patriotism and courage gives some comfort to his family. I know it does. But, today, there is so little we can say to soften this blow. As his young brother James said shortly after his death, "It's like a puzzle. Our family is not complete without all the pieces together."

Memories of Tony are all that can be put in his place, and I know how insufficient they must seem right now. But my sincere hope for you, the family and friends of Sergeant Capra, is that those memories will turn in time from a source of grief to a well of comfort; that you will be consoled by the loving and devoted way he lived, and the fearless way he died in the service of others.

Let me end with this thought. We often speak in abstractions in this Chamber. We use words like "supplemental," "counterinsurgency," "redeployment." But behind each of these words is a young life like Sergeant Capra's. More than 4,000 Americans, like Tony Capra, have paid the ultimate price, have given the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation in Iraq and Afghanistan. They bear the burden of the decisions we make here almost every day. And we have a responsibility, indeed, we have a moral obligation, to never forget the Tony Capras and the 4,000 others whom we have lost.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless Tony Capra, a man of courage, patriotism, valor and commitment, and may He console and strengthen those who grieve his loss.

TIME FOR A DIVORCE FROM CORN-BASED ETHANOL

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Congress has a love affair with corn-based ethanol, and that love affair, Mr. Speaker, is on the rocks.

Ethanol has led to increased food prices, food shortages, and more pollution and less energy. As we have in-

creased our reliance on ethanol, food supplies and prices have soared and have led to a global food shortage as customers stock up before stores run out. Shortages have led to food riots in Egypt, Haiti and other nations. There is an international shortage of basic commodities such as rice and wheat, and this has resulted in protests and riots.

American consumers are reactionary. They read about the international shortage and the riots and they run to the store to buy more food, stocking up. Yesterday, Wal-Mart and Costco announced they were limiting purchases of rice. You can only buy four bags of rice on any one trip at Wal-Mart.

Mr. Speaker, who would have thought that in the United States we would start having food rationing?

Also, because of inflation of the prices of corn-based ethanol, other food products are going up. Prices on beer, bread, coffee, pizza and rice are dramatically increasing. Anything that has a corn-based product has also increased in price.

In Mexico, cornmeal prices are up 60 percent. In Pakistan, flour prices have doubled. And even China is having a food inflation problem. In America, the cost of all groceries is skyrocketing. The shortage of staple food has larger consequences for our country, and, of course, it adds to inflation.

Also, we are now finding out that corn-based ethanol contributes to global warming. In March, Science Magazine reported that "Using good cropland to expand biofuels increases global warming."

Under Congress' ethanol mandates, farmers must plow more land to grow enough corn to use in our vehicles. This releases carbon stored in plants and in the soil. And Science Magazine continues to say that corn-based ethanol will increase greenhouse gasses by 93 percent in 30 years.

Ethanol also pollutes. Factories that convert corn into ethanol release carbon monoxide, methanol and some carcinogens at a very high level. The science that predicted less CO₂ from corn ethanol is now being questioned as junk science.

Ethanol pollution has also contributed to the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico. What that is, Mr. Speaker, is the water that runs down into the Gulf of Mexico at the mouth of the Mississippi, because of the pollutants in that water, it causes a dead zone about the size of New Jersey where nothing lives and nothing grows.

As Congress continues to subsidize corn-based ethanol, farmers are using more and more fertilizer to plant corn, and thus more fertilizer runs into the Mississippi River, down the river to the Gulf of Mexico, and the dead zone continues to grow.

You see, we don't eat corn anymore. We burn it in our cars. Farmers planting more corn only increase the dead zone problem. So now we are having a

problem with food production that comes from the sea, from the Gulf of Mexico, all because of corn-based ethanol.

And, of course, ethanol hurts other industries. While grain producers have benefited from ethanol mandates because of record profits, some other industries are hurting. The losers are livestock farmers and ranchers, who have lost about \$30 more an animal since the fall.

□ 1545

In other words, corn prices going up cost more to feed their beef, and then beef prices continue to go up as well. And we pay. The consumer always pays.

So, Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to rethink its love affair with ethanol. We need to lift the offshore drilling prohibition against drilling for crude oil and for natural gas. We need to develop our own natural resources. We need to allow permits for clean coal production. We need to use safe nuclear energy. And, we need to get back to eating corn instead of burning it in our vehicles. It is time for us to get a divorce from corn-based ethanol.

And that's just the way it is.

RETIRED OFFICERS AS PAWNS OF THE PENTAGON

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

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday the front page of the New York Times included a story about the efforts of the Pentagon's public affairs operation to influence retired military officers now working as military analysts for some of our Nation's largest media organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I am very angry about the issues raised by the New York Times story, as are many of my colleagues who have called me aside to discuss it. The story does not reflect well on the Pentagon, on the military analysts in question, or on the media organizations that employ them.

Mr. Speaker, maybe I am too idealistic, but this story is appalling to me on a number of levels. For me, it all comes down to trust and credibility. And it would be a dangerous thing for the American people to lose trust in the Pentagon, in our retired officers corps, and in the press, each of which has a critical role to play in preserving our Nation's freedoms.

Through the years, I have frequently urged our military services to improve their efforts to tell America about the good work that is being done by our country's sons and daughters in the uniform. Our military services have an important story to tell, and public affairs offices are critical to that task. But credibility is paramount. Once lost, it is difficult or impossible to regain.

There is nothing inherently wrong with providing information to the public and to the press; but, there is a