

all ranks, and I've been told if you don't have an endpoint to a strategy, you have no strategy.

I hope Mr. Obama will keep his word and start in June of 2011 to downsize the military in Afghanistan because, Mr. Speaker, it breaks my heart to stand on the floor and to show a beautiful young couple, and yet the husband was worn out and tired. In fact, the title of the article says, "A predictable suicide at Camp Lejeune: A doctor warned that mental health care for violent, disturbed marines was inadequate. Sgt. Tom Bagosy proved it."

Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of representing Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point and Seymour Johnson Air Force base, and what I would like to continue to say before I close is we thank you in the military and your families. You have done a magnificent job for this country. But those of us who make policy, Mr. Speaker, we need to understand and develop and demand an endpoint to the strategy because it's not fair and it's not right to wear out our military and its equipment.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I do and have many times, I will close this way: I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God in his loving arms to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. And I will ask God to please bless the House and Senate, that we will do what is right in the eyes of God for this country, including our military. And I will ask God to please bless the President of the United States, Mr. Obama; give him wisdom and strength to do what is right in the eyes of God for his people. And three times I will ask, God, please, God, please, God, please continue to bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

BP'S RESPONSIBILITY TO SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUNITIES CONTINUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROSLEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROSLEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, last week, as we know, BP announced that it had capped the oil well, and that for the first time in more than 80 days oil had stopped gushing into the

Gulf of Mexico. While last week's announcement was cause for relief among many, I have since urged cautious optimism. Much work remains to be done to address the worst environmental disaster that this country has seen in recent memory.

BP is still responsible for ensuring that every last drop of oil is removed from the gulf. BP still has a financial responsibility to those residents in the gulf coast, particularly in my congressional district of the Florida Keys, who remain financially devastated from the public perception, however false it may be, of tar ball-covered beaches and oil-soaked fish.

Despite promises of improvement, however, the BP claims process has not improved. I support legislation introduced by my friend, Congressman CHARLIE MELANCON, to tax-exempt BP claims checks. It is the least we can do for those small business owners who continue to suffer to this day, mom and pop fishing charters. They must provide years' worth of financial data in order to prove the possibility of economic injury as a result of the spill.

□ 1650

Of course, this data does not truly explain the current hardship. For years, Keys fishermen have struggled with hurricanes, tropical storms, unnecessary fishing closures, and a sluggish tourist economy. This year, 2010, was supposed to represent the light at the end of the tunnel. Unfortunately, the gulf oil spill has dashed those hopes. Charter boat captains in the Keys have lost more than half of their businesses this summer due to the oil spill perception.

My constituent, an Islamorada charter boat captain, Larry Wren, was denied financial compensation by BP. Captain Wren provided all the necessary tax documents, proof of cancellations, and even his trip logs from the past few years. After being informed that he was eligible for assistance, BP claims officials have reversed their position. BP says it will no longer pay the claim because oil has yet to reach the Florida Keys' shoreline, if it ever will.

I say shame on BP. BP must be held to task. The company's responsibility to all financially impacted gulf coast residents and businesses will not go away once the relief well is completed.

Now, earlier today, I voted on legislation to increase Federal research on the potential hazards posed by technologies used to counter the oil spill. I have long voiced my concerns about the use of chemical dispersants in such a sensitive marine ecosystem. BP contends that the chemical it is using to break down the oil is safe, but the fact remains that this dispersant has never been used in such vast quantities.

Keys commercial fishermen, whose season kicks off later this year, are also concerned about the long-term consequences of dispersants on the overall health of the fishery. Members

of the environmental community are also worried about the potential harm caused by these chemicals on our already fragile coral reefs.

As BP works toward a permanent fix to the leak in the Gulf of Mexico, it is essential that Congress and all Federal agencies continue to place pressure on this oil giant to address both the environmental and the financial aspects of this disaster.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

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

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

SAVING THE ICONIC AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS, THE AUTO DEALERS

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, about a year ago, both General Motors and Chrysler went through a government orchestrated bankruptcy in an effort to save these iconic American manufacturers. I firmly believe that the survival of these companies was then and is today vital to our national economy as well as to our national security.

While I am very thankful that these companies are coming back strong, I do have serious questions over steps that were taken, most importantly, the shuttering of thousands of car dealerships across the Nation and the elimination of countless jobs that were produced in those auto dealerships. I didn't understand, when these bankruptcies were moving forward, how the elimination of thousands of dealerships, who are really the customers of the auto companies, would help to provide any savings to the bottom line for General Motors or Chrysler. I also did not understand how the arbitrary elimination of thousands of profitable small businesses and the elimination of tens of thousands of good-paying American jobs were in the best interest of our Nation or in line with the stated desire of this administration to protect and to create jobs.

Based on a recent report that was just released this past Sunday, it seems now that the inspector general of the TARP program, the Troubled Asset Relief Program, is also asking these same

questions, Mr. Speaker. That report found that the Department of Treasury did not show why the elimination of dealers was either necessary for the sake of a company's economic survival or prudent for the Nation's economic recovery.

The report went on to say that Treasury made a series of decisions that—and they say—may have substantially contributed to the accelerated shuttering of thousands of small businesses, and that those decisions resulted in adding tens of thousands of workers to already lengthy unemployment rolls, all based on a theory and without sufficient consideration of the decision's broader economic impact.

These findings seem to back up what many of us were saying at that time, Mr. Speaker. The elimination of customers for the auto companies is counterintuitive to the financial well-being of these companies, and the government's aiding and abetting the elimination of tens of thousands of jobs—of good jobs—is certainly abhorrent at any time but particularly at a time of economic difficulty when such jobs are already in very, very short supply.

Fortunately, Congress took action that required an arbitration process for dealers, which has led now to the reinstatement of over 700 auto dealerships, but this is very little consolation to the tens of thousands of workers who have lost their jobs or to the communities that have lost very good taxpayers and excellent corporate citizens.

These types of outcomes also further erode the confidence of the American people in the idea that Federal intervention in our economy will bring about positive results. Because of the actions taken last year by this administration, thousands and thousands of our fellow Americans are today searching for jobs. American citizens are being victimized by an inept Federal Government plan that went wrong.

This administration needs to understand that the American people do not want further Federal intervention into our economy. They simply want the government to get out of the way and to allow the entrepreneurial spirit of this Nation to, once again, take flight and to lead us back to prosperity.

As President Ronald Reagan said so well 30 years ago, "Big government is not the solution to our problems, it is the problem."

It is long past time for this administration and this Congress to focus like a laser on how we create jobs instead of devising plans that actually destroy jobs, Mr. Speaker. Too many American auto dealers and the workers who lost their jobs have paid a very dear price as a result of this administration's actions. Let us be determined now that we in Congress will conduct our proper oversight responsibilities to get to the bottom of how this happened and to make sure that it never happens again. American auto dealers, Mr. Speaker, deserve no less from this Congress.

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

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

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.)

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

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

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

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

MANUFACTURING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

I want to spend this evening talking about manufacturing. Manufacturing matters. It is the foundation of any solid economy. It is the one part of the American economy that is seriously hurting, and with the great recession, the manufacturing sector in America has even further weakened.

I would like to start this discussion with just a quick review of what has happened with regard to jobs over the last 3 years.

If you will look here on this diagram, you will notice that, beginning in 2007, jobs in America slowed down and began to decline, so much so that, between 2007 and November of 2009, some 700,000 jobs a month were being lost in the fall and into the early winter of 2009.

When the Obama administration came in, it was at the lowest possible point of some nearly 800,000 jobs lost in December and January. As the administration came in, very strong action

was taken—the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in February, which was an effort to move the economy and to put people back to work.

□ 1700

It was a major tax cut in that. The largest middle class tax cut ever was part of that. There was an effort to build roads and streets and infrastructure, and money was sent to school districts to continue to employ teachers and to stabilize the American economy. It worked. It worked, and slowly we saw a decline in the number of jobs that were lost. We didn't see an immediate growth in jobs. It didn't happen.

It takes a long time to recover from a very serious recession, in fact, the worst recession since the 1930s. But over the months that followed, each month, improvement, improvement, improvement, so that this year we're beginning to see the effects of the efforts of the Democratic Congress, some Senate help, and the President in turning around the economy, so that in 2010, in the most recent months, we're beginning to see job growth. In fact, we've added nearly 600,000 jobs this year. No longer a decline; stabilization and now job growth.

So with this background, we can begin to understand the efforts that are being made here in Congress by the Democratic Party and by the President.

An historic piece of legislation was signed today that deals with the underlying collapse and the reasons for the collapse of the American economy and, indeed, the economy of the entire world. Today, around 11:30 today, President Obama signed the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, a very important law—clearly, the most important financial regulation law since the 1930s—designed specifically to deal with the underlying problems that led to the collapse of Wall Street. Many parts of it, the kinds of excesses and gambling with our money that took place are going to be history. They're not going to be allowed under the new law. A consumer protection agency has been put in place to provide consumers with a place to go with their complaint and to protect them.

Now, I know about this. I did this for two terms as the insurance commissioner in California. I know the importance of a consumer protection agency. We will soon have such an agency in the United States to help us, as consumers, to make sure that those mortgages are no longer subprime and hidden costs with hidden resets. All of that is in law now, as a result of what this Democratic Caucus did, and with the help of just three Republicans over in the Senate passing the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

Now, what has been done is good, and I'll talk about some other bills as we go through this afternoon, but I want also to make it clear that it is not enough.