

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, July 5 will mark the 25th anniversary of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Crisis Negotiation Program. The program created the Crisis Negotiation Unit, which has worked to negotiate the release of hostages for the last 25 years.

We live in a very dangerous world, one that has for two decades seen a steady rise in hostage-taking incidents. We know that we will face new challenges from criminals and terrorists in the next century and that the work of this unit will be even more vital to the security of the American people both at home and abroad.

The FBI Special Agents who serve in the Crisis Negotiation Unit deserve the gratitude of our Nation for their bravery and for their devotion. They deserve recognition of the fact that they have saved the lives of countless hostages and law enforcement personnel in the most dire of circumstances.

The Crisis Negotiation Unit has also protected numerous potential innocent bystanders from harm in many high-profile hostage crises, like the Luft-hansa skyjacking at John F. Kennedy Airport in 1993 to many serious incidents that have received little or no publicity.

On behalf of the House of Representatives, I commend and congratulate the Crisis Negotiation Unit and its Special Agents on their 25th anniversary. They deserve our special thanks for a job well done and our prayers for all the dangers they are sure to face in the coming years.

IN APPRECIATION OF THE VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES

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

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, we are about to again celebrate our independence day. I mentioned on the floor yesterday how grateful we should be to all the men and women who wore the uniform of the United States military through the years. Because had it not been for their sacrifice, we would not have the privilege of going around bragging about how we live in the freest and most open democracy on the face of the Earth.

Freedom is not free. We paid a tremendous price for it. But it goes beyond freedom in the United States of America. Just in the past decade, we have seen the tearing down of the Berlin Wall, the democratization of all of Eastern Europe, the breakup of the Soviet Union. And we should recognize that the sacrifice of our soldiers have meant freedom and democracy for hundreds of millions of other people all around the world.

So it is a weekend where we should practice great gratitude. And, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, I hope more and

more Americans do what I do every morning when I get up. First I thank God for my life, and then I thank veterans for my way of life.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT ENDANGERS RANCHING INDUSTRY

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Interior has issued a policy that requires compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act prior to the renewal or transfer of any livestock grazing permits.

Well, the Department now also requires that the Bureau of Land Management complete an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement prior to this grazing permit reissuance or transfer.

If any of these studies are challenged by some extremist special-interest groups or if the analyses are not complete before the permit or lease expires, the permittee is kicked off the allotment without recourse even if the range is in excellent condition.

Completing these analyses and implementing the resulting decisions will likely take many, many years. During those years, the permittee will be excluded from the allotment, essentially destroying their livelihood, and bankrupting another family business.

The problem here, Mr. Speaker, is that NEPA applies to "a major Federal action significantly impacting the quality of the human environment." The Department of Interior has not explained why a simple paper transaction requires years of study.

The Secretary of Interior is attempting to destroy the ranching industry and is assaulting generations of families who have nurtured and cared for our public lands. Such unreasonable regulation is the death of all good business.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces to all the Members that the Chair will recognize up to ten 1-minutes on each side, not five.

MAKING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT PERMANENT

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

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Research and Development tax credit in our Nation expired. H.R. 835, a bipartisan bill supported by over 150 of

our colleagues, would make this Research and Development tax credit permanent.

Mr. Speaker, because the tax credit has expired, we need to act. What are we waiting for? We really should pass this bill because the bill is good public policy. Making the R&D tax credit permanent is critical to the continuing growth of America's economy, especially our new economy.

If this tax credit were made permanent, our GDP would increase by nearly \$28 billion over the next 20 years.

American businesses, Mr. Speaker, cannot base their planning on a year-to-year renewal of this credit anymore than the American family should base their financial planning on a year-to-year renewal of the home mortgage deduction.

So now that the tax credit has expired, Congress should extend it. What are we waiting for, Mr. Speaker? Let us take action on this and expand our economy in a new and better way.

SALUTE TO NEW MILITARY SERVICE STUDENTS OF PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the Declaration of Independence on the 4th of July this weekend, I rise to talk about the students who will ensure that the United States remains a beacon of freedom throughout the world.

This year I had the pleasure of nominating 25 young men and women from the 16th Congressional District of Pennsylvania to the United States military services academies. A number of those students were appointed to the academies.

This week, those young men and women will start a journey; four years of study at premier institutions of higher learning, followed by active duty in the United States Armed Forces. Throughout their 4 years, they will not only study academics but prepare themselves militarily and physically for service to the Nation as military officers. They are living proof that patriotism is alive at the turn of the millennium, and they are tomorrow's leaders. Therefore, I would like to join their parents and friends in saluting these outstanding students.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION DEBATES SHOULD INCLUDE ALL VIABLE CANDIDATES

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, last November polls in Minnesota said it

was a two-man race for governor. Beam me up. Who were they polling? Bullwinkle? Jesse Ventura, the third candidate, actually won due to the debates and quite frankly he is a breath of fresh air in our country.

That is the reason, another reason, why I have reintroduced my bill that would require that all presidential debates must include every candidate that has a mathematical chance of winning. They qualify on enough State ballots. They qualify for matching funds. They give the American people a choice, and they make the two major party candidates tell us what they really feel.

I yield back Bullwinkle, and I yield back the fact that the Federal Election Commission can do this without my bill.

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U.S. MISSES BOAT ON LATIN AMERICAN TRADE

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, we have all heard the old expression, "You snooze, you lose." An article in yesterday's Washington Times brings that old expression to mind. It was entitled, EU, that is European Union, Latin Trade Zone Doesn't Include U.S.

It seems that while our government has dawdled, European governments have worked hard to cultivate trade relationships in our own backyard. Latin American countries and the European Union worked toward lowering trade barriers, and our government stands idly by.

Trade means jobs. Trade means economic growth. Trade means a higher standard of living for the American people. Let us not continue to sit back and watch while Europe and Latin America reap the benefits of an aggressive trade policy. Let us work with our trading partners to tear down barriers and open up markets for American products around the world. Mr. Speaker, we can ill afford to be pushed out of the international trade markets. Let us get back in the game.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I would simply like to congratulate the gentleman on his remarks; and I would like to associate myself with the gentleman's statement.

THE PRESIDENT'S MEDICARE PROPOSAL

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, it is time that this Congress gets smart and starts to invest in our 39 million Medi-

care beneficiaries. I urge my colleagues to stop hemming and hawing and take heed of the needs of our seniors.

Plainly speaking, the President has a plan to save Medicare by dedicating 15 percent of the Federal budget surplus. The plan modernizes Medicare by adding a vital drug benefit, eliminating the copay on preventive services, providing a buy-in option for the vulnerable and offering needed assistance for low-income beneficiaries. The Republican leadership has no Medicare plan and really has only one choice. Roll up your sleeves, work with the Democrats, save Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, we need to protect our seniors. We can do it and we can do it now.

COMPASSIONATE CONSERVATISM

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

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Joseph Jacobs wrote an exceptional book about "compassionate conservatism," a slogan today adopted by the distinguished governor of Texas, George W. Bush. The concept reminds me that many liberals go through their lives thinking that they are compassionate because of their willingness to spend other people's money.

So often there is absolutely no recognition from liberals that conservatives share many of the same ultimate goals. But we certainly disagree over the best ways in which to achieve them. That is why we hear day after day on the House floor the motives of conservatives attacked. In my view, the liberal version of compassion has done more harm and has had more devastating consequences on the less fortunate than the most fiscally conservative lawmaker ever could have. Theirs is the philosophy of dependence on government. We conservatives share the philosophy of celebrating individual self-reliance. Compassion is not a product of policy. It is a product of the human heart. There is no compassion in destroying the motivation of the less fortunate to achieve, to grow and to prosper.

MEDICARE

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, since the bipartisan Medicare Commission met, the Medicare debate has come front and center. Republicans want to improve the access of seniors to prescription drugs. No senior should have to worry about whether they can afford the medicines they need to stay healthy. We need to work in a bipartisan manner to solve this problem,

putting politics aside. This issue is too important.

The President has recently entered this debate, and we are awaiting bill language, but it brings up some interesting questions. What does the President's plan do? Does it target those most in need? Does it threaten the solvency of Medicare? Does it take money out of the Social Security Trust Fund? Who pays? Will seniors pay higher premiums? Will the Government set price controls? Will all Americans face higher taxes? Will payments to hospitals, doctors and other health care providers be cut? Does the plan address holistic medicine and Medicare fraud, waste and abuse? Will Medicare innovation be threatened? Will seniors be able to participate based upon their choice?

What we need to focus on is providing drug coverage, solvency and choice to our seniors. That is what we will be working for.

PASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, it is July. Half a year is gone. Next week we will go home to tell our constituents what the House has accomplished. What will we say? If we are candid, we will have to say, not enough.

We have not acted to protect patients' rights. We have not acted to reform campaign finance. We have not acted to help communities respond to growth and sprawl. We have not even done an easy thing like renewing the research and development tax credit. It expired last night.

We need to do better. In fact, we need to make the credit permanent and broaden it. A temporary credit like the one that expired last night is a less effective credit because researchers cannot count on it. Making it permanent would end this uncertainty. A broader credit would benefit small businesses and high-tech entrepreneurial startups. Under the law that just expired, these firms did not benefit. We should go further and use the credit to promote collaboration between the Federal Government, the private sector and universities like the University of Colorado in my district.

Half the year is gone, but half remains. We need to stop wasting time and missing deadlines. Let us pass this tax credit as soon as possible.

TOP TEN TERRIBLE TAX ACT

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, the House will soon consider legislation to