

□ 1100

Hillory was an outstanding athlete, well loved and respected by her fellow peers. Hillory was a good young lady and, therefore, did not deserve this tragic death.

Hillory's death is not the first instance of GHB overdose. In Los Angeles, three men were convicted of using GHB to drug and rape several women. The police found photos depicting sex between the men and the unconscious women. At a New Year's Eve party in 1996, 30 to 50 people collapsed after ingesting GHB. All these victims survived.

Parents, have you heard of the so-called rave parties that are taking the country by a rave? These are teenage parties where GHB is used. The GHB formula can be found on your Internet. GHB can be made in bathtubs by bathtub loads to be able to be utilized by large masses of people. To date there have been 19 deaths officially caused by GHB. There are undoubtedly other deaths that may not have been classified as GHB related because the drug is not part of standard toxicology screen. How many parents are not aware of their young people using GHB?

The Drug Enforcement Administration has been working on placing this drug on Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act at the Federal level. My bill, H.R. 75, directs the Attorney General to schedule GHB as a Schedule I drug and to establish programs throughout the country to educate young people about the use of controlled substances.

GHB has been used to render victims helpless, to defend against attack, and it even erases memory of the attack, making law enforcement activities very difficult. It is responsible for as many as 60 emergency room admissions in the past 6 months in Houston, Texas alone.

GHB is not legally produced in the United States. It is being smuggled across our borders, or it is being illegally created here. The recipe for this drug can be accessed, as I said earlier, on the Internet.

Scheduling a drug on the Federal Controlled Substances Act allows prosecutors to punish anyone who uses a scheduled drug in any sexual assault crime to suffer penalties on the Drug-Induced Rape Prevention and Punishment Act.

This is an act that cannot be done by one committee and one group of Members alone. We look forward to working with the Committee on Commerce in this oversight committee, to work with the Food and Drug Administration to encourage it to hurry with its studies and to be collaborative and cooperative, to stop this abuse of this drug.

It is extremely important that we make sure that we schedule this drug as Schedule I to ensure that we stop the abuse, but also the tragic loss of

life. I believe that we must do whatever we can do to stop the abuse of these harmful drugs. We must work with all of the parties who are interested to ensure that this occurs.

I hope that my colleagues will support this legislation and our effort to protect women and others from the violent crime of sexual assault through these drugs, but, as well, to ensure that our young people are safe. Let us strike in a chord of cooperation and bipartisanship and ensure that there is a speedy response to GHB by scheduling it as Schedule I. We call upon both the Department of Justice and the FDA to work with us to move this along as quickly as we can.

On Thursday, I will testify before the Commerce Committee on Gamma Hydroxybutyrate (GHB) a date-rape drug. This uncontrolled substance has been used to commit date rape by rendering victims helpless to defend themselves against attack.

The GHB legislation that I am sponsoring, H.R. 75, is the result of a tragedy that took place in Texas involving a young woman named Hillory J. Farias. Hillory was a 17-year-old athlete and model student who died from an overdose of GHB on August 5, 1996.

Hillory and two friends went out to a club on the night she died. While at the club, she only drank soda. Later that evening, she complained of feeling sick and her friends took her home with a severe headache. The next morning, her grandmother found her unconscious and not breathing. Hillory was rushed to the hospital where she died.

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Scheduling a drug on the Federal Controlled Substances Act allows prosecutors to punish anyone who uses a scheduled drug in any sexual assault crime to suffer penalties under the Drug Induced Rape Prevention and Punishment Act.

I believe we must do whatever we can to stop the abuse of these harmful drugs. I hope my Colleagues will support this legislation and our efforts to protect women and others from the violent crime of sexual assault through these drugs.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLYLEY). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 12 noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Help us to discern, gracious God, that Your spirit not only ministers to us in the depths of our hearts and souls, but Your word also encourages us to be filled with that spirit and go into our communities and world and do those good works that honor You, and help people in their need. We pray that Your spirit would bless and forgive us personally, and also give us enthusiasm to share the gifts of justice and mercy with those in great need in our neighborhoods and in our world. In Your name we pray, Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY: THE PROGRESS CONTINUES

(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, even though our economy is doing well and expansion is continuing, each of us wants to be certain that when it comes time for our retirement Social Security will be there for us. Our current senior citizens need this assurance, the baby boomer generation needs this assurance, and our young people need this assurance.

Cynicism runs deep, as illustrated by the fact that today's young people believe that it is more likely that they will spot a UFO than that they will collect Social Security when their time comes. That is why Republicans are showing true leadership by securing 100 percent of the Social Security Trust Fund for exactly that: saving Social Security. We are committed to strengthening Social Security for years to come.

It is important to note that in the 40 years when the Democrats had control of the House, they took hundreds of billions of dollars from Social Security and spent it on other Federal programs. When Republicans took control in 1994, this ended. We balanced the Federal budget, brought about badly needed discipline in our spending activities. So today we must continue, forge a budget agreement that saves and strengthens Social Security. The progress continues.

EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY
PARTNERSHIP ACT

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, this week we will take up H.R. 800, the Education Flexibility Partnership Act. I believe this bill can be improved by amending it to provide for the hiring of 1,000 new teachers.

The need for such an amendment is apparent. Schools across this Nation are struggling because student enrollment has drastically increased. Evidence shows that there is a direct correlation between class size and learning ability. Students in smaller classes, especially in the early grades, make greater educational gains, and maintain those gains over time.

Smaller classes are most advantageous for poor students, minority students, and those living in rural communities. However, all children will benefit from smaller classes.

We need more teachers. It is so critical in maintaining and improving our education system, and more importantly, it indeed is the best flexibility we can provide to our education system.

NUCLEAR UTILITY INDUSTRY IS
STRIKING OUT

(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, let us talk baseball, for once. America's favorite pastime is upon us here in Washington, D.C. and the rich nuclear utility industry is striking out. Today, they are simply a backstop against common sense.

It seems that Secretary Richardson has pitched a proposal to store nuclear waste safely on site until a permanent storage area can be determined to be suitable. A great idea.

To no one's surprise, the nuclear industry has balked at the plan, because it would be paid for, get this, with their money, heaven forbid, and would avoid the potentially dangerous task of shipping nuclear waste across America. Here was a chance for all America to hit a home run, but once again, it seems the nuclear industry is holding out for a bigger contract just so they can get paid and put money in their fat pockets.

Mr. Speaker, the nuclear industry fat cats are trying to build an expensive, taxpayer-paid lobbyist expansion team. Remember, the ballfield is in your district, the team is your constituents, and it is your responsibility to oppose H.R. 45 so we can win one for all America.

H.R. 835: MAKING THE R&D 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, I rise today in support of H.R. 835, the bill to make permanent the research and development tax credit. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the bill, because making the research and development tax credit permanent will help to maintain the stunning economic expansion that America now enjoys.

The R&D tax credit is in place right now. In fact, the Congress has extended this on a stop-go basis since 1981. The bill making the credit permanent would assist companies in research-intensive industries, because they need to know that they can count on the credit being there in order to plan their future.

Imagine if a home mortgage interest deduction was renewed on a stop-start basis by the Congress of the United States. The housing industry would be in chaos, and American citizens would not know whether they could count on it or not.

So I think it is time to make the R&D tax credit permanent, just as the home mortgage interest deduction is, and give American companies the tools that they need. We need to continue to expand this economy and keep it stunning. I urge my colleagues to support it.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE MARTIN

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

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with sadness to remember the life of a thoughtful young man from my district. Steve Martin was a friend to so many of us, and his mother, Thelma, is one of my dearest friends and supporters. Steve was taken from us several weeks ago in a tragic and horrifying accident that shocked us all.

I wish I could offer up some sense of what happened, but the truth is there is no earthly answer. Only God in His infinite wisdom knows His plan for each of us.

Steve had his mother's commitment to volunteerism and service to others. He never hesitated to roll up his sleeves and go to work to do what is right. Indeed, there is much to celebrate about a life that was filled with so much promise and was touched by so many people.

I sincerely hope that Thelma and her family can draw strength in these days ahead from those of us who care so deeply for them, and they will continue to trust in God's eternal promise.

CHINA CONTINUES TO THREATEN
NATIONAL SECURITY

(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, even though China threatened to nuke Taiwan, reports say the White House had planned to sell sophisticated satellites to a group of "Chinese businessmen."

Unbelievable. Thank God the Pentagon intervened. According to the New York Times, this group of Chinese businessmen turned out to be the Red Army. The Red Army, I say to my colleagues.

I have said it before, and I will say it again. With policies like this, I believe we should hire a proctologist and assign him to the White House to do some training with their bureaucrats.

I yield back what national security we have left.

TRIBUTE TO HAVIS HESTER

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

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity today to honor a public servant in Pine Bluff, Arkansas by the name of Havis Hester for his years of hard work and commitment, who has given himself to the citizens of Jefferson County, Arkansas.

Havis was born on April 29, 1933 on the porch of a one-room house in south