

at any time for a look at the food banks and soup kitchens filled with senior citizens, children, American veterans, and working families.

Hunger is a fact. It is the underbelly of our booming economy. You can choose not to look at it; but it is real, and it is ugly. It plagues 26 million of our fellow Americans each year. Please come take a look.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma). Members should direct their remarks in debate to the Chair and not to others in the second person.

CELEBRATING FLAG DAY

(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, ladies and gentlemen, today is Flag Day, of course, and a day to honor the symbol of our Nation, a symbol of our independence and a symbol of American ideals.

Historically, the idea of celebrating an annual holiday honoring the United States flag and the anniversary of the official adoption of "The Stars and Stripes" is believed to have first originated in 1885 by a school teacher in Wisconsin.

In the years following, the tradition grew; and in 1916, President Woodrow Wilson established Flag Day by a proclamation.

Over 3 decades later, President Truman would sign an Act of Congress officially designating June 14 of each year as National Flag Day.

I, like many Americans, look at our flag and see our history, our triumphs; and most importantly, I see our future.

Today is a day to unite to pay tribute to the symbol which has grown with our country and represented our Nation's ideas since it first flew as "The Stars and Stripes" in 1777.

On this day, I am proud to honor our flag and all that it represents.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLE OF TROY

(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, on this Flag Day 2000, I rise to salute and pay tribute to the people of Troy and surrounding areas for the wonderful display of patriotism which I witnessed over this past weekend. On Sunday, tens of thousands of people from Troy and surrounding areas came together to celebrate the fact that we live in the freest and most open democracy on the face of the Earth.

They actually recognized the fact that freedom is not free, and that we paid a tremendous price for it. And so today, I remember with gratitude all of those who, like my brother, Bill, made the supreme sacrifice, all of those who in the past wore the uniform of the United States military, like some of the people I am looking at in this very Chamber.

Also, I thank all of those who currently are in active service in our military protecting our interests here at home and around the globe.

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CHRISTIAN MEN'S FREEDOM FORUM 2000

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, on July 4, 2000, I will join the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES), the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) at the Firststar Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. As members of the Congressional Black Caucus, we join in support of the goals and objectives of the Christian Men's Freedom Forum 2000, which will convene on the eve of the African Methodist Episcopal Church's Quadrennial.

We will interact with men and women from across the United States who appreciate and recognize the positive effect an open and honest exchange of ideas can bring to the body politic in this great Nation. It is the goal of the Christian Men's Freedom Forum's National Chair, Bishop Vincent R. Anderson, whose keen vision set in motion this extraordinary challenge to acknowledge our ideological differences while embracing our core common ideals. As we prepare to celebrate Independence Day, all Americans should seek to embrace and replicate this initiative.

Bishop Anderson is to be congratulated for this tremendous undertaking. This nonpartisan, nondenominational forum is the kind of collective effort that has, in the past, and could today, help to close the gap between those who have strong voices and those who feel they have no voices at all.

Mr. Speaker, let me close with the hope that on Independence Day we will find it within ourselves to not only commemorate our Nation's founding, but also to celebrate such constructive undertakings.

WORLD AWAITING RESULTS OF IRANIAN TRIAL OF JEWISH HOSTAGES

(Mr. WEINER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, today the world awaits the result of the show trial of 13 Jewish hostages in Iran. They have been held for over a year simply because they are Jewish. Without evidence, without a chance to confront their accusers, without lawyers of their own choosing, these 13 hostages have been subjected to a kangaroo court.

But Iran's new so-called moderate government is also on trial here. If Iran does not free these hostages, and soon, it should be a clear sign that that country has not changed its stripes.

Our response? Well, we should offer no more favorable trade agreements, such as the ones we did for rugs and pistachios recently. We should offer no more IMF or World Bank loans.

The fate of these 13 Iranian Jewish hostages should be our litmus test of Iran's new-found moderation. The world, Mr. Speaker, is watching.

MOURNING CHILD VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today is Flag Day, and I rise to salute the flag, for the flag symbolizes freedom. But it should also symbolize safety.

This evening I will mourn the thousands upon thousands of children who die every day at the hand of gun violence. It is time that we recognize as Americans that we can pass real gun safety legislation in this House and in the Senate, if it would adhere to the values of this Nation.

How tragic it is in my own community, Sunday, June 11, that a 14-year-old girl shot and killed a 16-year-old boy; to find out that a 3-year-old accidentally shot himself in the foot with his father's gun, found in a linen closet; that on June 8, a 12-year-old middle school student in Chesapeake, Virginia, was charged after he brought a gun to school; that a 13-year-old shot a teacher; that a 6-year-old shot another 6-year-old; and that the overall rate of firearm deaths for children younger than 15 years of age is 12 times greater than the other 25 industrialized nations.

How much longer will we mourn? It is time now to stand up for our children and pass real gun safety legislation.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 761, ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES IN GLOBAL AND NATIONAL COMMERCE ACT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I