

REFLECTING ON OUR FALLEN FRIENDS

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago have now passed since the hot, sad day that an act of senseless violence took our friends, Detective John Gibson and Officer J.J. Chestnut, from us. The tragic shock of their loss is gradually receding and the weight of their absence is settling on us more deeply. It weighs on us because of the special men that they were.

And when we reflect back on our lost friends, their bearing, conduct and commitment reminds us of David's words to Solomon. He said, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid nor discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you."

As we know, David charged his son Solomon to build a great temple for the Lord. Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson were the protectors of a great tradition: open and accessible democracy.

Our fallen fellows and friends served their country and the cause of freedom in the United States Capitol, a building that stands as the world's foremost temple of liberty. But the Capitol could never have been built without an older American tradition of sacrifice and defense of the core freedoms that support our society. No less than other heroes who fell far from American soil, J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson are a part of that noble group.

Three years ago, hundreds of people were in grave danger. And as they operated under dire circumstances, Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson stood tall for all of us. When America needed them to be courageous and strong, they were. And I know that they are with the Lord now.

They have our deepest respect and our deepest gratitude. We will never forget them or the values that they embodied. Today our hearts and prayers go out to the Chestnut and Gibson families. God bless them.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to make an announcement.

On July 24, 1998, at 3:40 p.m., Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson of the United States Capitol Police were killed in the line of duty defending the Capitol against an intruder armed with a gun.

At 3:40 p.m. today, the Chair will recognize the anniversary of this tragedy by observing a moment of silence in their memory.

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM IS SECURE

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, this is a \$5 billion Treasury Note. More than \$1 trillion of these are on deposit. Let me read from it: "This bond is incontestable in the hands of the Federal Old Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund," Social Security. This bond is supported by the full faith and credit of the United States of America. The United States of America is pledged to the payment of the bond with respect to both principal and interest. More than \$1 trillion is on deposit.

Americans will pay \$93 billion this year more in FICA taxes than is necessary to support the system, with the idea they are being deposited to pay for their retirement. In 2016, there will be \$6 trillion on deposit, and Secretary O'Neill of the Treasury and the Bush Privatization of Social Security Commission is downtown right now like a hive of termites trying to undermine the system and say we might not honor that \$6 trillion of debt.

Well, if the bonds on deposit backed by the full faith and credit of the United States of America will not be paid for Social Security, what other debts will this government default on?

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to go on record as saying I, for one, do not believe that former Senator Moynihan is a termite.

Mr. Speaker, I am worried about the left wing of the Democrat party. Mr. Speaker, I think they are losing it. In all corners of the Washington liberal establishment, there is panic. War has been declared on the people's tax relief. Just as the checks are in the mail, dire predictions and horrifying stories are being told about a government doing without, catastrophe for the economy, all because we sent a small portion of record surpluses back to the taxpayers who sent their money to Washington.

Good grief, Mr. Speaker. What are we to do with this kind of panic on the left?

Over the weekend, they put their foot down. A very distinguished Member of this body announced with pride his belief that the tax increases of 1993 were the right thing to do and that he would do it again.

Mr. Speaker, in a fine bit of revisionist history, the Democrat leadership has proclaimed that 1993 budget, Bill Clinton's first budget, as a huge boon to the American economy and the American people.

Let me say this about that budget. It did do three very important things: it did raise taxes on energy; it did raise taxes on seniors; and it raised taxes on the working middle class, that is, Mr. Speaker, working moms trying to move up the economic ladder. And this Member said he would do it again. I give him credit for brutal honesty, that is, it is honest and it is brutal.

What a view of the world. What a denial of basic economics.

Tax relief is good for the American economy, good for American families. The refund checks being delivered today to American homes even as we meet will help buy school clothes, help pay bills, maybe even help with home improvement projects to make a house more energy efficient.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my friends from the other side of the aisle, reject this view that the Government needs this money more than real people do. Come out into the light. Reject this war on tax relief and embrace the sunshine of economic opportunity for the 20th century. Try it once. Try it once. Cut taxes for real people; and I bet you will feel so good you will say, I will do it again.

SUPPORT THE GANSKE-NORWOOD-DINGELL PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I have always been a strong advocate of the Patients' Bill of Rights and am proud to be part of cosponsorship of the Ganske-Norwood-Dingell bill, which is the bill that we will be debating this week, and no other bill.

There are protections within the Patients' Bill of Rights. The Patients' Bill of Rights creates an external appeals process that, once exhausted, allows the patient to pursue claims against the HMO in State or Federal court, depending on the cause of their harm.

What is getting those opposed to patient protection all hot under the collar? Because opponents do not want hard-working Americans to have access to their State courts when HMOs deny them proper health care. This hypocrisy escapes no one. No one is paying attention to the fact that the great defenders of "States' rights" in this Chamber are the ones opposed to allowing Americans access to State courts.

And why is it? Because they are afraid. They are afraid to let juries and State courts make decisions about what an HMO owes a patient who has been harmed as a result of the HMO's heartless, bottom-line-driven cost-cutting.