

KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO THE COAST GUARD

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

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, as a new Member of this body, let me extend my condolences to the majority leader on the loss that he has suffered.

Madam Speaker, during the August recess, I joined the United States Coast Guard Fire Island Station for a tour of erosion areas on the south shore of my district. As we returned to the station, the Coast Guard received a report of a swimmer in distress. Coast Guard personnel risked their lives that day, despite turbulent waters and an incoming storm to save another life.

Imagine my surprise, Madam Speaker, to learn that many of those same courageous men and women are forced to take part-time jobs because their rate of pay is too low and the cost of housing and health care on Long Island is too high. Some of those people go from saving lives and property during the day to serving pizza and waiting on tables at night.

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Madam Speaker, it is not sufficient merely to pay tribute to the men and women of the Coast Guard. We have to pay them living wages for protecting our shores and saving our lives.

As a new Member of the House Coast Guard Caucus, I am honored to join my colleagues in our efforts to keep our promises to those who protect our lives and our shores with fair pay, decent housing, and affordable health care.

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF THE REVEREND JIM FORD

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my condolences to the family of Reverend Jim Ford. Jim was a very, very good personal friend of mine and many of us in this House. He served the House for over 20 years with great distinction; and in serving the people that work in this House, including the Members and the staff, he served his country very well.

He was a very proud man. He cared very much about the House of Representatives, the Members who are sent here. His service to this House and to his country will long be remembered because it was a service of distinction and integrity, and really trying to help Members and families get through troubled times, but also bringing people together through the marriages that he performed for a number of Members.

So we will long remember our friend, Jim Ford, and our condolences go out

to his family for the loss that they have incurred. We wish Godspeed to Reverend Ford. He will long be remembered in the halls of the House of Representatives.

CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY OF THE REVEREND JIM FORD

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

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I, too, want to join my friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) in remembering Jim Ford.

Tom Bliley, a recently retired Member from Virginia, and I and other Members would play tennis frequently with Chaplain Ford. I really came to know him, Madam Speaker, on the tennis court rather than within these halls.

He used to have a shot: He would put an obvious spin on the ball. When the ball would strike the surface of the court, it would be virtually impossible to gauge in what direction it would go. Jim Ford called that his squirrel shot, and Bliley and I used to refer to that as Chaplain Ford's patented squirrel shot.

Madam Speaker, we have an outstanding Chaplain in Father Dan. We had an outstanding Chaplain in Jim Ford. We want to remember Mrs. Ford and the children in this hour of grief.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that she will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

DRUG-FREE COMMUNITIES SUPPORT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2291) to extend the authorization of the Drug-Free Communities Support Program for an additional 5 years, to authorize a National Community Antidrug Coalition Institute, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2291

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION OF DRUG-FREE COMMUNITIES SUPPORT PROGRAM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In the next 15 years, the youth population in the United States will grow by 21 percent, adding 6,500,000 youth to the population of the United States. Even if drug use rates remain constant, there will be a huge surge in drug-related problems, such as academic failure, drug-related violence, and HIV incidence, simply due to this population increase.

(2) According to the 1994–1996 National Household Survey, 60 percent of students age 12 to 17 who frequently cut classes and who reported delinquent behavior in the past 6 months used marijuana 52 days or more in the previous year.

(3) The 2000 Washington Kids Count survey conducted by the University of Washington reported that students whose peers have little or no involvement with drinking and drugs have higher math and reading scores than students whose peers had low level drinking or drug use.

(4) Substance abuse prevention works. In 1999, only 10 percent of teens saw marijuana users as popular, compared to 17 percent in 1998 and 19 percent in 1997. The rate of past-month use of any drug among 12- to 17-year-olds declined 26 percent between 1997 and 1999. Marijuana use for sixth through eighth graders is at the lowest point in 5 years, as is use of cocaine, inhalants, and hallucinogens.

(5) Community Anti-Drug Coalitions throughout the United States are successfully developing and implementing comprehensive, long-term strategies to reduce substance abuse among youth on a sustained basis. For example:

(A) The Boston Coalition brought college and university presidents together to create the Cooperative Agreement on Underage Drinking. This agreement represents the first coordinated effort of Boston's many institutions of higher education to address issues such as binge drinking, underage drinking, and changing the norms surrounding alcohol abuse that exist on college and university campuses.

(B) In 2000, the Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati surveyed more than 47,000 local students in grades 7 through 12. The results provided evidence that the Coalition's initiatives are working. For the first time in a decade, teen drug use in Greater Cincinnati appears to be leveling off. The data collected from the survey has served as a tool to strengthen relationships between schools and communities, as well as facilitate the growth of anti-drug coalitions in communities where such coalitions had not existed.

(C) The Miami Coalition used a three-part strategy to decrease the percentage of high school seniors who reported using marijuana at least once during the most recent 30-day period. The development of a media strategy, the creation of a network of prevention agencies, and discussions with high school students about the dangers of marijuana all contributed to a decrease in the percentage of seniors who reported using marijuana from over 22 percent in 1995 to 9 percent in 1997. The Miami Coalition was able to achieve these results while national rates of marijuana use were increasing.

(D) The Nashville Prevention Partnership worked with elementary and middle school children in an attempt to influence them toward positive life goals and discourage them from using substances. The Partnership targeted an area in East Nashville and created after school programs, mentoring opportunities, attendance initiatives, and safe passages to and from school. Attendance and test scores increased as a result of the program.

(E) At a youth-led town meeting sponsored by the Bering Strait Community Partnership in Nome, Alaska, youth identified a need for a safe, substance-free space. With help from a variety of community partners, the Partnership staff and youth members created the Java Hut, a substance-free coffeehouse designed for youth.