

when as we know tragically that helicopter crashed and he lost his life.

Mr. Speaker, we will undoubtedly lose more lives in this, what will probably be a protracted war, but the first of them was among the finest young men that we had to offer, and I on behalf of the House would like to extend my condolences and our condolences to his parents and remind ourselves as a House of Representatives, as a Congress and as a Nation that it is only because of the likes of Kristofor Stonesifer and his willingness to train and prepare for battle that we, in fact, can authorize force and can have a force that will prevail and will protect this country.

#### BEING A GOOD SAMARITAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague in acknowledging the loss of our fine young men and offer to their families my deepest sympathy.

Mr. Speaker, I am reminded of the biblical verses that tell the story of the Good Samaritan. In that instance, a person of goodwill and caring attitude came upon a brutalized and broken person, having been attacked by those who would do evil. The person did not look around to secure help from anyone else but took that battered soul to a place of refuge, indicated to the innkeeper that whatever the expenses might be to secure him and to make him whole the Good Samaritan would return and pay for it.

It comes to mind that on September 11 it generated the opportunity for this government and this Congress to be good Samaritans, to heal our land and to embrace Americans and to respond to their very needs, the needs of securing America, the needs of ensuring that we had the military personnel and resources to fight against terrorism.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I was sorely disappointed in the legislation that was brought to the floor of the House in the name of stimulus, in the name of helping, when all it did was the simply take from a dying man.

The headline in the USA Today said it well, special interests payback. The stimulus package that was passed today was not worthy of its name. In fact, I would say to those who have paid attention to this debate it was shameful, and as evidenced by the 216 to 214 vote, merely two votes that cast and made this legislation or caused this legislation to pass, it gives me reason to come before this House and to explain to the American people what we did today.

First of all, we are not secure at the passage of this legislation. No one single American has been made more se-

cure. Not one single child has been educated. Not one single school has been built. Not one employee over a period of time will get immediate relief. In the Republican bill, workers will not see relief for some 6 months.

Listening to Daniels of the OMB, he made a statement about President Bush's main priorities. His quote, as I paraphrase as such, President Bush cares about agriculture, but if he cares about any two issues he cares about these two: Conquering international terrorism, I agree; and protecting Americans at home, I absolutely agree.

Let me tell you what the Republican stimulus package does. My son was born in 1985. He is 16 years old. The Republicans' stimulus package provides an elimination of the permanent repeal of the corporate alternative minimum tax, and what that does is it retroactively gives that corporation dollars for over 15 years, almost \$20 billion. Seven corporations alone will have a \$3 billion gift.

Does that provide airline security? No, it does not. Does it give the men and women of the postal service, two that have lost their lives, the kind of equipment, the kind of protection or the kind of instruction that will allow them to continue to deliver the mail safely? No, it does not. Does it infuse energy into our public health systems, our county hospitals, our private clinics? Does it help private practitioners in rural America and urban America be sensitive to the potential threat of smallpox and anthrax? Does it provide vaccinations for 200 plus million Americans? No, it does not.

What it does do is it provides a permanent reduction of capital gains taxes. Seventy-two percent of the benefit of that reduction are to be enjoyed by 2 percent of the Nation's citizens.

Let me say this to my friends. I certainly believe that we should help businesses, small and large. I think we should help them provide opportunities for jobs. Most Americans would want to support those who are creating new jobs.

This past week I rode home with a constituent who indicated to me that there is a silent recession going on in this country. Four hundred people were laid off in one of our large accounting firms, investment firms, Pricewaterhouse. This is happening all over the country. Will giving corporations \$3 billion, \$20 billion by eliminating the alternative minimum tax, help anybody? Absolutely not.

Mr. Speaker, this today was a tragedy before this Nation. No one, Mr. Speaker, has been helped today. No American has been secured. No military has been funded. No military personnel has been supported. No indigent people have been helped, and no medical care has been given to those who are in need. Where was our heart today? I believe at the bottom of our sleeve.

I would simply say, Mr. Speaker, that this is an important time in America's history, a time that we could rise to the occasion and be the Good Samaritan. Tragically we have taken from that laying down, broken person, dying on the side of the street, we have taken from them. We have not given to them.

#### SCREENING LUGGAGE AT AIRPORTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak this evening about this matter of the airline security, because most Americans when they buy an airline ticket believe that when they get on that plane that the luggage that has been loaded into the belly of that airplane has been screened for explosive devices, and the fact is that it has not. Probably less than 10 percent of all the luggage that is put on passenger planes is screened for explosive devices.

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Last week, this House left town on Wednesday evening. We returned this Tuesday at 6 o'clock p.m. We went into session at 10 o'clock this morning. We completed work before 5 o'clock this afternoon. And tomorrow we are told to be prepared to leave town by 2 o'clock in the afternoon. It has been 43 days since those two planes were hijacked and tore into the World Trade towers in New York City. It has been 43 days since the Pentagon was attacked and all those lives were lost. It has been 43 days since those innocent people went down in that plane in Pennsylvania. And we still have not passed an airline security bill in this House of Representatives.

Two weeks ago, the Senate passed an airline security bill 100-to-nothing. Every Senator joined together to vote to protect the traveling public. Yet this House has not acted. Why have we not acted? It is because the leadership here is opposed to making the people who work in our airports, to provide the security for our traveling public, Federal employees. And they know the American people want this. They know that Republican and Democrat Senators alike wanted it, and they know if it comes to this floor for a vote, it will pass, because a vast majority of the Members of this House believe that those employees should be Federal employees, well-trained, well-equipped, well-paid professional people who are charged with the responsibility of keeping us safe when we fly.

Many Americans are shocked to learn that in some of the major airports in this country, up to 80 percent