

why we must act. We must reach a compromise. We must restore confidence in the American public so they will fly on the planes, and we must send a message to the terrorists that they are not going to scare us into changing our way of life.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN). The Chair will extend the number of 1-minute speeches to 15 on each side.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan. For nearly 7 million Muslims in America and more than 1 billion worldwide, this is a period of introspection and faith. As Muslims prepare for the daily fast, they begin a month of deep spirituality and communal observance.

Like many things related to Islam in America, Ramadan is not well understood by most Americans. The word "Ramadan" comes from the Arabic root word for "parched thirst" and "sun-baked ground."

Some say the word expresses the hunger and thirst felt by those who spent the month in fasting. Others suggest it is so-called because, during Ramadan, hearts and souls are more readily receptive to the admonition and to the words of God, just as sand and stone are receptive to the sun's heat.

Ramadan is a beautiful work that truly captures the spiritual and the physical renewal of this most treasured time for Muslims. Americans have benefited immensely from learning more about these traditions.

I join my colleagues today in sending our message of solidarity and warm greetings for a blessed beginning to the holy month of Ramadan for all Muslims, here at home and around the world.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN JEOPARDIZES NATIONAL SECURITY

(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, yesterday the Nuclear Regulatory Commission joined the Department of Energy in what appears to be a collusion to ignore public safety. An NRC statement said that it believes that the Department of Energy has done all the work

necessary for approval to license Yucca Mountain. Earlier this week, the Yucca project chief for the DOE said that the analysis for terrorist threats would not, I repeat, would not, be included in a final report to the Secretary of Energy.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the last time I checked, we were at war with terrorism; and it seems to me that a giant mountain filled with 77,000 tons of nuclear material located near Las Vegas, Nevada, makes an unfortunate, yet attractive, target for these evil terrorists. It is simply reckless and irresponsible for the DOE and the NRC to ignore the threat of terrorism.

It is obvious that the DOE and NRC are on a mission to store nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain at any price. Unfortunately, that price may be the safety of the American people.

PUTTING BOOKS IN THE HANDS OF CHILDREN

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I just left a wonderful event at Union Station sponsored by First Book, Coca Cola, and Scholastic Educational Services.

We all know that the mission of First Book is to put a book in the hands of children and encourage them to read. They are going to be there the rest of the day, so I am encouraging people to go by, sign this giant book, because for every signature that they get, some child is going to get their very own book to read.

RECOGNIZING THE VISION AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF HARRY W. COLMERY

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

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the vision and achievements of Mr. Harry W. Colmery of Topeka, Kansas. Mr. Colmery's efforts led to the enactment of the GI Bill of Rights in 1944. This bill made a college education possible for 2 million veterans and has also allowed for more than 2 million others to buy homes for their families.

In December of 1943, Harry Colmery, the National Commander of the American Legion, wrote the first draft of what became the Servicemen's Readjustment Act, known as the GI Bill. Thanks to the work of Mr. Colmery and others, his bill was signed into law by President Roosevelt some 6 months later.

The GI Bill continues to serve as a fitting reward to servicemen and women who have risked their lives to

protect our freedom. Millions were able to better themselves and their families through higher education.

For this reason, I am asking President Bush to posthumously award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Harry W. Colmery, and I ask my colleagues to join me.

AVIATION SECURITY

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, if we want to revitalize the airline industry, we have to get people back on the planes. It is clear that people do not feel safe flying. Airlines are losing money, and the number of passengers is way down. Yet, here we are, more than 2 months after the events of September 11 without an agreement on airline security.

To prevent future attacks and to restore the public's confidence in flying, we must take steps. We cannot just hope that the same security companies that have committed gross violations of current law will do a better job in the future. We have Federal oversight of private, for-profit companies right now; and the current system is not working. This is a very real problem, and it deserves a real solution.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should stay in session and pass an aviation security bill that protects the flying public.

WE NEED A REAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE FOR AMERICA

(Mr. TOOMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, hundreds of thousands of Americans are losing jobs. We need an economic stimulus package now that will lower the Federal tax burden and, thereby, increase incentives to work, to save, to invest, to start new small businesses, to hire new workers.

We need to create an environment of opportunity, to help people get back to work, because the people that I represent of the Lehigh Valley and the Upper Perkiomen Valleys of Pennsylvania, they do not want to know how long they can stay out of work; they want to know how quickly they can get back to work.

The President has proposed and the House has passed a meaningful, tax-lowering, back-to-work economic stimulus package. And what is the other Chamber doing? Instead of a real economic stimulus package, the majority party in the other Chamber has proposed a package mostly consisting of unproductive government spending.

Unbelievably, less than 30 percent of the Senate Democrats' stimulus bill, so-called stimulus bill, is dedicated to