CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
*Washington, DC, July 15, 2008.*

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
*Speaker of the House,*
*U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.*

Pursuant to Section 214(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15344, I am pleased to reappoint Mr. Thomas A. Fuentes of Lake Forest, California to the Election Assistance Commission Board of Advisors.

Mr. Fuentes has expressed interest in serving in this capacity and I am pleased to fulfill his request.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
*Republican Leader.*

## FREE EGYPTIAN BLOGGER KAREEM AMER

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call upon Egypt to demonstrate it is a force for tolerance in the Arab world by releasing Kareem Amer from prison.

While other prisoners of conscience languish in Egyptian jails, the most troubling case is that of a young human rights blogger, Abdel Kareem Nabil Soliman. Kareem Amer, as he is known on the blogosphere, was sentenced to 4 years in prison in February 2007 solely for what he wrote on his blog—condemning Islamic extremism and the treatment of women.

Tomorrow, Egypt celebrates Revolution Day, a holiday during which the Egyptian President customarily releases prisoners. I strongly urge President Mubarak to release Kareem Amer, who now has served 17 months of his sentence.

Egypt is one of the largest recipients of U.S. taxpayer aid, and we should ensure that the partners of ours of this magnitude are also dedicated to the freedom of expression. The release of Kareem Amer, the first blogger arrested in the Arab world simply for what he wrote on his blog, would demonstrate Egypt's commitment to Internet freedom and to human rights.

## ENERGY PRICES

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Bush removed the executive ban on offshore drilling. After the announcement was made, crude oil futures plunged. Prices fell $6.44 in the biggest one-day drop since the Gulf War. The next day, prices dropped another $4.50 to $134. This is not a coincidence.

The Democratic majority says it will take years to produce oil from offshore drilling and that it won't affect energy prices.

If Congress lifts the ban on offshore drilling, we will continue to see oil prices fall. Energy traders do take government policies into account. Deciding to develop our American energy resources can immediately lower the cost per barrel of oil and can provide relief at the gas pump.

Democratic Party leaders should heed the will of the American people and should schedule a vote to increase our American energy supply.

## THE 34TH COMMEMORATION OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, Sunday, July the 20th marked the 34th commemoration of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. That invasion claimed the lives of 5,000 Greek Cypriots while an additional 200,000 were forced from their homes. Today, nearly 36,000 Turkish soldiers, 1 soldier for every 2 Turkish Cypriots, are embedded in Cyprus, occupying 35 percent of the island. It is one of the most militarized areas in the world.

The Turkish and Greek Cypriots, themselves, live in harmony, making the occupation all the more unacceptable and unnecessary. There have been no recent incidents of violence between the two communities. In a show of friendship, Ledra Street, which connects Greek and Cypriot Cyprus, was recently opened for the first time since 1964. Thirteen million Greek and Turkish Cypriots have crossed the border, each time without incident.

In the House, House Resolution 620, which I cosponsored, cites these crossings as evidence of the goodwill between the two communities, and it refutes the Turkish claim that a military presence is necessary.

As we remember the invasion to split Cyprus in two, it is important to note that there are concrete efforts underway by the heads of the communities to reunify.

## SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

## PASSING ALONG CONCERNS OF HIGH FUEL PRICES FROM ARKANSAS' THIRD DISTRICT RESIDENTS

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, I spent an afternoon at JV Manufacturing in Springdale, Arkansas, listening to hardworking Arkansans talk about how the high price of gas is affecting their families. I promised them that I would bring their stories back to Washington and that I would put pressure on Congress to enact a commonsense energy policy that would help lower what they're forced to pay at the pump.

Arkansans are paying an average of $4 per gallon, and many families in my district are having a hard time just making ends meet at all as all of their disposable income is going straight into the gas tank. Now is the time for this Congress to act. Let me mention a couple of stories that I heard, and then let me urge a few actions that we could take that would have immediate relief.

I met a single mom who is working full time at a good-paying job, but she is still having trouble meeting the needs of her kids and filling up the gas tank.

I met a family who bought a Jeep, who planned to use it for recreation, but now they can barely afford the expense of driving back and forth from work.

One woman told me about her husband, who is an independent owner and operator of a diesel truck, who has already spent as much on diesel in the first half of 2008 as he had spent all last year.

So what should Congress do? First, we need to increase the production of American energy through more energy exploration and production here at home. Congress needs to open up a small sliver of ANWR in Alaska and in the Outer Continental Shelf for energy exploration. Congress needs to encourage the construction of new refineries and of more nuclear power plants. They need to promote efficiency and new sources of American renewable energy.

Each of these would reduce pain at the pump. It's very important to understand that gas prices and other types of energy prices are related to each other. For example, if we want to start using more plug-in hybrids, we're going to have to increase our electricity production to charge up these electric cars. That's why it's so important to support nuclear, clean coal and alternative energy sources.

Also, if this Congress will take these steps, it will send an immediate signal to speculators and to other investors that we are serious about increasing production, and costs will come down in the short term as well as in the long term. We saw this when the President lifted the executive order banning offshore drilling.

Congress has waited too long to help provide relief to Arkansans and to the rest of the American people. We must act now and pass sensible legislation so that residents of the Third District of