

the Firefighters Heroes Award from the Twin Cities chapter of the American Red Cross.

After learning about a local family who suffered severe burns during a home fire incident, these firefighters decided to provide a fire safety course to the family to help them overcome their fear and avoid similar problems in the future. When they came to discover the grandmother, who cares for the family's children, was deaf, they reached out to a local hearing professional and were able to get a \$6,000 pair of hearing aids charitably donated.

Madam Speaker, the selfless service of people like Tom Evenson and Ann Korsmo is what makes our communities and our country great, and I am proud to recognize them here today.

POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, this week is Police Week, which has a particular resonance here in Washington, home to the National Peace Officers Memorial. Tuesday, there was a Blue Mass at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in honor of the men and women killed in 2009 in the line of duty. On Thursday, there is a candlelight vigil in the memory of the 117 police officers who gave the last full measure of devotion to protect us from criminals.

In my State of Pennsylvania, seven officers died in the last year. Among them was State Trooper Paul G. Richey, who was killed in Oil City in my congressional district. He left a wife and two children.

Only Texas, Florida and California had more police deaths than Pennsylvania. The number of deaths from gunfire is up 21 percent, from 38 last year to 46.

Many of the events of Police Week help raise awareness and funding for Concerns of Police Survivors or COPS, a nonprofit organization. Proceeds help the family members of fallen officers—a worthy cause.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

IRAQ'S MOST VIOLENT DAY OF THE YEAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, Monday, yesterday, was the most violent day so far this year in Iraq. In what the Associated Press called a "relentless cascade of bombings and shootings," insurgents killed more than 100 people, not to mention hundreds of wounded and maimed, in a series of coordinated attacks. Both civilian and security forces came under siege: a bombing outside a restaurant in Kut province; another at the mayor's office in Tarmiya; another at a market in Suwayra; and security checkpoints throughout Baghdad hit by gunmen disguised as street cleaners.

At a textile factory in the city of Hillah, the bombing was timed at the end of a shift, maximizing the bloodshed and the casualties. When people rushed to help the wounded, a suicide bomber detonated his explosives in the crowd, just adding to the carnage. According to the AP account, the wounded in Hillah could be heard cursing their government for its inability to protect them.

A few years ago, you'll remember we were told the insurgency was in its "last throes." But it is clearly capable of wreaking havoc—and doing so with precision and sophisticated planning. The continuing political instability in Iraq is contributing to the chaos, as the elections held more than 2 months ago have yet to produce a clear winner and a new government. There's real danger, Madam Speaker, that if the Sunnis are not given a stake in the new government, we could see the kind of sectarian strife bordering on civil war that exploded in Iraq just a few years ago.

With most of the recent attention on Afghanistan, this onslaught serves as a chilling reminder of just how dangerous and unstable Iraq remains. Fear and violence remain a way of life. We can't become complacent, Madam Speaker. We can't forget about the role of the U.S.-led military occupation and what role that played in inflaming the insurgency in the first place and in provoking these kinds of attacks. Much was made of the supposed blow to the insurgency when two leaders of al Qaeda in Iraq were killed last month. Yesterday's horror just goes to show that killing terrorists and killing militants just makes it easier for al Qaeda to recruit new ones.

Just a few hours ago comes word that top officials are apparently drawing exactly the wrong conclusion for Monday's attacks. They're talking about slowing down the pace of the redeployment of our troops out of Iraq. What we need instead, Madam Speaker, is an acceleration of the redeployment plan, because our continued military presence is a key factor in motivating militants to acts of unspeakable terror. We're doing as much to engender violence as to tamp it down. We're doing as much to undermine security as we

are to contributing to it. Only by ending our military occupation and replacing it with a civilian surge can we hope to foster peace, stability, and democracy in Iraq.

The men and women of our armed services have performed their duties with honor and courage. They are not to blame for a failed policy, Madam Speaker. But for their safety and for the good of Iraq and for the good of the future of the Iraqi civilians and their country, let's bring our troops home.

ASSAULT ON THE BORDER PATROL

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

Mr. POE of Texas. It's National Police Week, where we honor the lawmen and the women who protect this great Nation. As we pause to recognize the service and sacrifice of all U.S. law enforcement officers, we also need to remember the men and women who work on the border, our Border Patrol agents. Some have sacrificed their lives putting themselves between the bad guys and us. We owe their families a great debt for those sacrifices, like U.S. Border Patrol Senior Patrol Agent Luis Aguilar, who was killed in the line of duty in 2008. Agent Aguilar was attempting to deploy a set of road spikes to stop a narco-terrorist drug smuggler. The drug smuggler attempted to evade our agents and escape back into Mexico across the Imperial Sand Dunes in the Yuma sector of Arizona. The suspect, driving a Hummer, accelerated his vehicle and intentionally hit Officer Aguilar, and he was killed.

Border Patrol Agent Robert Rosas of the Campo, California, Border Patrol Station was murdered in 2009 while performing his duties. Agent Rosas was responding to suspicious activity in the area notorious for alien and drug smuggling when he was shot and killed by unidentified assailants. The murder occurred in a remote border area near Campo, California, where Agent Rosas was shot several times in the head, execution style. Agent Rosas was 30 years of age.

Even our U.S. Park Rangers aren't safe from these terrorists. In the wake of 9/11, Kris Eggle protected his country by intercepting weapons, thousands of pounds of illegal drugs, and hundreds of illegal lawbreakers from foreign countries. He guarded a 31-mile stretch of our Nation's southern boundary. Kris was shot and killed in the line of duty at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument on August 9, 2002. He was pursuing members of a drug cartel hit squad. They fled into the United States after committing a string of murders in Mexico. Kris was 28 years of age when he was mowed down by these narco-terrorists in Arizona.