

[Mrs. SMITH of Washington addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. SMITH of Michigan addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. WELDON of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

THE SHRINKING MIDDLE CLASS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, there is a rising tide of despair and growing resentment all across this Nation. The American dream is being snuffed out for more and more American families.

This is directly related to the decline of the middle class. The rich are getting richer, but the middle class is being assaulted today by the flight of family wage jobs overseas, by high taxes, by the disparity of income between the rich and the middle class. The middle class has shrunk, as many families no longer have the income to buy a home, save money for their children's education or prepare for their retirement.

The number of millionaires is dramatically increasing. That is great, unless at the same time more people fall out of the middle class to become the working poor, descending into poverty.

Many say that the Republican Party is the party of the rich. I say this Republican Congress is the party with the duty to resurrect the middle class.

My dad quit school and went to work at age 16 on his first job for \$1 a day. That was the pay, \$1 a day on his first job. Just 10 years later, he made enough working in a mill in Marysville to support a family, built his own house and, 2 years after that, to build his own small commercial fishing boat. And all that was paid for at that time.

Today with both husband and wife working, many families cannot get ahead. They are caught in a cycle of what we have to call the working poor. We must ask ourselves, what is happening to America? What is happening to the American dream? What is the cause? Is it the flood of immigrants who are desperate, who will work for anything, pennies, just to get to live in America? Is it the giant multinational cartels of this era? Is the Government

wasteful and inefficient? Is it the former Congresses who voted us \$5 trillion of debt? Is it the interest on that debt that now costs hundreds of billions of dollars each year just to pay the interest, hundreds of billions of dollars each year?

I believe this Congress has no more important duty than to find out what went wrong, to report to the American people exactly what went wrong and the steps American must take to fix it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. WICKER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. WICKER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. COLLINS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. COLLINS of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR JAMES THOMAS WIGGINTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. BRYANT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BRYANT of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the House of the passing of one of Tennessee's valuable leaders, Mayor James Thomas Wigginton. Tommy Wigginton, mayor of Michie, TN died earlier this month at the age of 52.

Mayor Wigginton dedicated his life to the service of others. He was a man who portrayed undying Christian principles in everything he did, every day of his life. He was a blessing to his family, his friends, and every citizen of the community of Michie. Mayor Wigginton served the community as mayor, wholeheartedly, for the past 19 years. He was also a benevolent contributor to the lives of the residents of McNairy County, which has a population of more than 23,000 people. Mayor Wigginton played a key role in the education of McNairy County's school children, and he was the transportation supervisor for the McNairy County school system.

Superintendent of Schools Billy Joe Glover said of Wigginton: "Tommy was a valuable part of the department of education. He had really worked hard and had been concerned about drivers, buses, the children and the problems that related to all of them. He worked to do the right thing, the Christian thing in dealing with others. He was constantly concerned that everyone around him be treated fairly."

The residents of Tennessee and the community of Michie owe a great debt to Tommy Wigginton. He was a man who lived every day for the betterment of the community. Tommy was an excellent leader in many aspects of his life. He will be missed greatly by all of the people he affected while on this Earth.

I want to extend my sympathies to his wife, Elizabeth Ann, and his three sons: Tommy, Shea, and Jim, and let them know Tommy's contributions to his community are greatly appreciated.

Let us remember Mayor Wigginton, as a man of honor, honesty, and patriotism.

DONALD DUGAN'S WIDOW'S LETTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to yield some time to Mr. DORNAN of California because he was reading a letter of a widow of a great American and he was not through with it.

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I just found another paragraph in Miriam Dugan's letter, the widow of Donald Dugan, the handsome 35-year-old, 17-year Army sergeant who died in the presence of the children that he was trying to save from a land mine.

I just wanted to read the opening of her letter and the whole letter will appear in the RECORD for anybody interested who watches our proceedings on C-SPAN.

I am writing this letter on behalf of my husband, Specialist First Class Donald H. Dugan, and my family. My husband was killed disarming an explosive device while deployed in Bosnia. I would like to take this opportunity to let everyone know he was not the type of person that the media has represented him to be. He was portrayed as careless for trying to disarm the explosive when specific guidance had been issued to leave explosives alone. He was not careless.

Mr. KINGSTON. I hate to interrupt this great letter but are you saying to me that a war hero, right after Memorial Day, was depicted by the U.S. Army for being careless and irresponsible because he was trying to save children's lives?

Mr. DORNAN. It started the very week Don Dugan died, when I went to a big military dinner and a four-star general says to me, without knowing the facts and did not even know his name, Well, I hear he was way out in front of his troops and he was not doing what was right.

I looked at this four-star and I said, we are not developing a story here so that Clinton bears no blame for sending these people to Bosnia. I said, you