

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain ten 1-minutes from each side.

THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF THE 109TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. FOLEY. Madam Speaker, in the first 100 days of this Congress, we have passed class action fairness to combat lawsuit abuse. We have passed a supplemental appropriation funding our troops and their successful war in Iraq. We have passed a budget resolution. We have enforced and passed the REAL ID Act and border security, implementing driver's license reforms, defending our borders, strengthening deportation laws. We have passed the death tax repeal, the bankruptcy bill, and the Job Training Improvement Act. These are significant accomplishments.

Some on the other side of the aisle would prefer to bring down the character of a man that leads this Chamber. I suggest when my colleagues are out of ideas and out of opportunities, they attack other people.

It is time to get our own House in order. Lead forth the American people on behalf of the American people and stop this name calling, finger pointing, and derogatory accusations.

America's House of Representatives is much better than that. Let us lead by example. Let us not lead by destruction.

FRIENDS FOR THE CHILDREN

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, in 1993 a gentleman in my community, Duncan Campbell, provided three full-time friends for 24 at-risk children, children who were at the bottom of the barrel, children who were guaranteed to fail, not just poor but without family support.

With the efforts of these full-time mentors and this innovative program, we have produced stunning results over the course of the last 12 years. Ninety-eight percent of these children are still in school. Ninety-seven percent have passing grades. Ninety-eight percent have never been incarcerated. Ninety-seven percent do not use drugs or alcohol on a regular basis.

Today, this program has spread across the country. It is in 11 different communities with over 600 children. First Lady Laura Bush is expected to visit the Friends of Children program in Portland tomorrow. I commend her for taking the time to visit with the kids and learning more about this program.

Tomorrow, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), my colleague, and I are

introducing legislation that would authorize \$7.5 million for Friends of Children to support local programs at existing sites and disseminate this information to policy-makers around the country to make a commitment to improving the lives of at-risk children.

THE MINUTEMEN PROJECT

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, government waste, fraud, and abuse have taken every shape and form one can imagine, and now it is even affecting our lax immigration policies.

The U.S. Government recently spent close to \$240 million to help our border patrol with the latest technology. The problem is the equipment does not work. That is right, \$240 million and the government is left with a bunch of useless equipment. Sounds like we ought to get a refund.

The border patrol needs all the help it can get, and for the last few weeks, hundreds of concerned citizens formed the largest Neighborhood Watch in Arizona, the Minuteman Project. Their goal is to help spot illegal aliens crossing the border from Mexico.

Ordinary people watching the border and easily spotting aliens illegally crossing should outrage every single Member of Congress. How can we claim to be for national security, for the rule of law, when such incredible violation takes place in front of our very own eyes?

Madam Speaker, America is a very generous Nation, but we are allowing our laws to be broken and our borders to be violated without consequence.

It is long past time we secure our borders, reevaluate our immigration laws, and get serious about national security.

GM AND THE AMERICAN FISCAL CRISIS

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, it used to be said that what is good for GM is good for the country. Well, things are not so great for GM. What does that say about America?

Their cars are not selling because they face skyrocketing health care costs that put them at a competitive disadvantage with Toyota and other companies.

For every car GM produces, they actually spend more on health care than on steel. Yet it is not the United States Congress, the White House, seeking to help GM out of this problem. GM's knight in shining armor is Toyota.

On Monday, Toyota's chairman said the Japanese auto maker was considering raising its prices in order to give American car makers some breathing room.

Here is what former Governor John Engler from Michigan said of the GM crisis: We cannot, with the deficits we face today, step in and help this company get back on its feet.

We are too deep in debt to save hundreds of thousands of jobs and help an American company compete and win.

Today, we are facing a fiscal crisis that is stripping America of its ability to compete and win. The health care crisis facing General Motors is the same health care crisis facing the Federal Government and every American family, and yet we are in debt of nearly \$8 trillion and unable to compete and win in today's economy.

CONGRATULATING VILLA MADONNA ACADEMY ON ITS FORTHCOMING CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Villa Madonna Academy of Villa Hills, Kentucky, on its forthcoming centennial anniversary on May 14, 2005.

Villa Madonna Academy carries a long, distinguished reputation of preparing students to respect themselves and others, to have a sense of self-discipline, to accept personal responsibility for their attitudes and actions, and to dedicate themselves to academic excellence and lifelong learning.

Villa Madonna Academy has demonstrated its academic distinction by being the only greater Cincinnati-northern Kentucky area high school to receive designation, under two separate criteria, as a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School of Excellence two consecutive years in 2002 and 2003.

Villa Madonna Academy's partnership with the nearby Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery provides opportunities for area youth to participate in a variety of sports activities and be outstanding neighbors in our community.

Once again, I want to congratulate the students, teachers and alumni of the Villa Madonna Academy on its centennial anniversary and to thank them for being such fine individuals and stewards of our community.

WORKERS' RIGHTS IN BREWER, MAINE

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

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, an all-out attack on workers' rights is happening in Brewer, Maine; and I come to the House floor today to tell DHL that it is time for them to stop their assault.

These Brewer workers have borne the brunt of these union-busting practices, and they are paying the price. For many, the price of their jobs has been

too much for them and their families to bear. Workers have been fired. Many were put on the street with no severance pay, no insurance, and no assistance to make ends meet. Management has reverted to using interrogation and coercion to keep workers in line.

This is simply outrageous. I know as a union member how important unions are to ensure better jobs and basic protection of rights. I will do all I can to assure that their rights are protected.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHIL-LICOTHE POLICE OFFICER LARRY COX

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

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Chillicothe, Ohio, police officer Larry Cox.

Officer Cox was a man of dignity and compassion. A 19-year veteran of the Chillicothe police force in Chillicothe, Ohio, Officer Cox was a devoted law enforcement official who had dedicated his life to one of our Nation's noblest fights, keeping our children away from drugs.

As a DARE officer, Officer Cox was able to provide impressionable elementary school students with the guidance and support that many could not find elsewhere.

This past Thursday evening as Officer Cox walked home from visiting his parents in Chillicothe, Ohio, he surprised a fleeing robbery suspect who then shot and killed him in an utterly senseless act of violence.

It is times like these that we question the world we live in, but we must not let this senseless act blind us from the goodness that is all around, the compassion of our teachers, the innocence of our children, and the ultimate bravery of our law enforcement officials. For it is these things that Officer Cox was born of and ultimately died for.

So I stand here today to honor the life of Officer Larry Cox, to honor each and every law enforcement official that risks their life to protect the most treasured pieces of our community. Officer Cox understood these treasures and the paramount importance of caring for others; and though his body has left us, his spirit of bravery, dignity, and compassion will forever be found in our communities.

CLOSING THE HEALTH CARE DIVIDE: PRINCIPLES FOR ADDRESSING RACIAL AND ETHNIC HEALTH DISPARITIES

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to announce the adoption of the Democratic principles that will be unveiled today that will seek to eliminate racial and ethnic health care disparities.

The community that I represent is multicultural. Sixty percent of the residents are Latino, 20 percent are Asian Pacific Islander, and 40 percent of those residents in my district were born outside of the United States, and many of them cannot afford to pay for medical coverage.

Unfortunately, our health care system is not meeting the needs of all these people, who in most cases are children.

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For racial and ethnic minorities, as for most all communities, the lack of health insurance is a major barrier in quality health care. In our Nation, there are over 43.3 million people who do not have any form of health care coverage.

A staggering 1 in 3 Latinos in this country are uninsured. Actively challenging the racial and ethnic inequalities affecting all branches of our health care system is key to helping the Latino community achieve better health care.

These Democratic principles address the many health disparities plaguing our communities. I strongly support these principles and stand united with my colleagues to end racial and ethnic health disparity. We must make this a national priority for our country.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. CHOCOLA. Madam Speaker, Social Security was created in 1935, and over the decades has become a vital resource to millions of Americans. But demographic realities have changed over the past 70 years. Now fewer workers, more retirees, and longer life spans will cause Social Security's promised benefits to exceed the system's income by 2017.

If we do not act now to strengthen Social Security, the system that so many depend upon today will be unable to meet its promises to tomorrow's retirees, and it will burden our children and grandchildren with exhaustive taxes.

The Social Security Trustees, the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board have all agreed that the sooner we act, the smaller and less abrupt the changes will be.

So, Madam Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to consider all the options now and work toward a bipartisan solution that renews Social Security's promises for future generations.

TRIBUTE TO HARLINGEN HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Harlingen High School for being selected as one of the 2005 College Board Inspiration Awards. Harlingen High School is one of three exemplary high schools in the Nation being honored for their steadfast commitment to fostering student success in some of America's most poverty-stricken communities.

Each school receives a prize of \$25,000 to use in furthering its academic goals. The Inspiration awards recognize outstanding work in improving the academic environment and helping economically disadvantaged students achieve the promise of a higher education.

I would like to congratulate the superintendent, Dr. Linda Wade; the principal, Richard Renaud; the teachers, students, and entire school community for their prestigious award. Harlingen High School is truly an inspiration for all of us who value education and academic excellence for all students.

For the Hispanic community, it reaffirms our core faith in our own potential. Over 87 percent of the students at Harlingen High School are Hispanic and many of them are bilingual. Their motto is: "In relentless pursuit of student success."

I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting Harlingen High School for its achievement and applauding the College Board for sponsoring the Inspiration Awards. May each year be more competitive than the last.

CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION NOTIFICATION ACT

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, America as a Nation must defend life from the moment of conception to natural death. Later today, the House will take up H.R. 748, the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act, introduced by my good friend, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN). This bill will protect minors and their parents from inconsistent State abortion laws.

Currently, 23 States require a parent to be involved in a child's abortion decision, while 27 do not. This bill would prosecute anyone who transports a minor to a State without parental consent laws with the purpose of undermining parental rights. It requires that any time a minor goes for an abortion, the physician must at least try to notify the parents.

Madam Speaker, we need to make sure that we have serious parental involvement in these difficult and potentially dangerous decisions. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this reasonable measure and vote "yes" on H.R. 748 later today.

ETHICS CRISIS IN THE HOUSE

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House