

70 percent of family businesses do not survive a second generation. Ending the death tax penalty will do much to keep our economy moving.

House and Senate negotiators have been working on a compromise for a transportation bill that would make much-needed improvements to Federal highways. Tonight they came to an agreement, both on a bipartisan and bicameral agreement, to move that bill forward. Economists estimate that for every \$1 billion spent to improve our highways, 40,000 jobs will be created.

On all of these accomplishments, I want to thank those Members on the other side of the aisle who chose to work together to get good things done for the American people.

Our work is far from done. Next month we should complete work on conference reports, on job creation bills like the highway bill and the energy bill, as well as legislation dealing with CAFTA. We also plan to take up the PATRIOT Act, reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act and the taking of people's private property by the government. And soon we will begin the steps of reforming Social Security for coming generations.

I am proud that this House under Republican leadership has stayed focused on a real agenda. We are doing what we can to improve conditions for America's families and to foster job creation, economic growth and innovation. We are getting the work done.

One of my heroes, Ronald Reagan, once said, "Government can and must provide opportunity, not smother it; foster productivity, not stifle it." That has been the goal of our Republican Conference each time the American people have sent us back into leadership.

In the end, I really do believe that we will be judged by our work and our accomplishments for the American people. The partisan sniping that has become the mainstay of Washington does nothing for the farmer back home in the cornfields of Illinois, the housewife in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania or the struggling family in Greenville, Mississippi. We help the American people most by showing leadership, by taking action, by keeping our promises.

This 109th Congress is off to an unprecedented start, and I thank our Members for their perseverance, their dedication and their commitment to the people of the United States of America. God bless you all.

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN FRANCIS GAUGHAN

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, too often today we call people "heroes" when in fact their actions do not rise to the level of the heroic. Tonight, however, I want to say a few words to honor the memory of a true hero, Prince George's

County, Maryland, police officer Steven Francis Gaughan, who was killed in the line of duty on June 21 trying to protect the community that he loved.

Officer Gaughan was a 15-year veteran of the police force, and was a member of a special unit that tracks and arrests drug dealers and violent criminals. According to all who knew him, Steven was devoted to his work, his church, sports teams and family; his wife, Donna, his son, Daniel, and his daughter, Rachel. To Donna, his children and all his family and friends, I extend on behalf of all of us our deepest sympathies.

Let me close, Mr. Speaker, by quoting the Washington Post, which stated: "Steven's exemplary courage, and his profound sacrifice, stand as painful reminders of how little is truly routine about police work, and of the debt of gratitude that officers are owed by society. His death is a blow to the community, but by his bravery he set an example and left a legacy that will not be soon forgotten."

Mr. Speaker, Steven Gaughan was a hero, and he will be deeply missed. May God bless his soul and comfort his family.

NEED TO FIX SOCIAL SECURITY NOW

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, Social Security is an issue that needs our attention now. We are dedicated to a solution. We are dedicated to securing the funds we have promised to today's seniors and securing funds for future generations.

Allowing workers to place part of their Social Security money in a personal account with their name on it ensures that Congress will have to find the money elsewhere.

It is time to stop the raid on Social Security. We are reaching out across the aisle in an attempt to address this issue in a bipartisan manner, Mr. Speaker. However, members of the minority have chosen to mislead and obstruct, rather than work together to help the American people.

Congress has been spending Social Security money on programs other than Social Security. A philosopher once said, "The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world it leaves to its children." How can we call ourselves moral and effective legislators if we simply deny the problem and leave the mess for future generations to clean up? But how can we do this if Congress keeps raiding the Social Security cookie jar.

On March 6, the minority leader stated on Fox News Sunday, "We must stop raiding the Social Security trust fund of its money to pay for other things." The minority leader has since changed her tune. This week she stated that "there is nothing wrong with Social

Security lending money with the prospect of returning it."

The minority should join the effort to strengthen Social Security, and help secure the retirement security of future generations.

PROVIDING FULL FUNDING FOR VETERANS HEALTH CARE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for a long time I have shared the neighborhood with the Houston Veterans Hospital.

Today, Mr. Speaker, just a few minutes ago, we rose to the floor of the House to cure the unpardonable, and that is, of course, the mistaken numbers and the failure to provide the right kind of information to be able to provide the right dollars to serve America's veterans. \$1.5 billion is what the Senate passed.

Frankly, the need is \$1 billion and more, with the number of returning Iraqi veterans and Afghanistan veterans, those who have been maimed and injured on the fields of battle.

It certainly is a shame that we came to the last hours and finally were able to provide for those veterans who were willing to give the ultimate sacrifice. Right now in the Nation's hospitals, veterans are languishing all over America. Families of enlisted personnel are suffering because of the lack of funds for TRICARE. I even know today a young man who is a veteran who is suffering in one of our Nation's military hospitals because of insufficiencies in our local hospital in Houston.

Mr. Speaker, they need more resources, they need more staff, they need our commitment. I hope the majority will not have us end up in the same predicament by allowing this to happen again. I hope we will work through and provide full funding for veterans and veterans health care in America.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the money set aside for Social Security should be spent on Social Security. Americans know this only makes sense. The money set aside for Social Security should be spent on Social Security.

Others, however, do not believe in this principle. In March of this year, the minority leader was against robbing the Social Security trust fund. On Fox News she stated it crystal-clear. She said, "We must stop robbing the Social Security trust fund of its money to pay for other things."