

have been kidnapped in this treacherous town. Mr. Speaker, I have a recent newspaper article from Nuevo Laredo that shows a police officer, a policewoman, that was set on fire in the streets of Nuevo Laredo trying to enforce the law. The reason that there is chaos, Mr. Speaker, is because these drug cartels are trying to come into the United States. They are fighting over territory. Because the United States basically has no policy in protecting our borders, there is chaos on the border.

Mr. Speaker, the border is a perilous place. How many more people have to die? How many more Americans have to be kidnapped in this border town before we protect our borders?

HURRICANE KATRINA FUNDING

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, why is Hurricane Katrina funding being treated differently than all other emergency funding? And why is this body proposing that the poor, elderly and children be made to pay for it while the corporations rake in the money and the wealthy in this country continue to get tax cuts?

And why is it that the temporary expansion of Medicaid, unemployment and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families—the very kinds of programs that need to be provided in this emergency—are being blocked?

There is something very wrong with this picture and we need to change it. There are no offsets for rebuilding Afghanistan and Iraq. There should be none for our fellow Americans.

My colleagues, Congress needs to pass the Grassley-Bacchus bill to provide the lifeline to those who Katrina left devastated and homeless. We must stop the madness of proposed cuts to entitlement programs. We cannot continue to talk about Medicaid cuts in the next 2 years.

And it is time that the rich share some of this country's burden for a change. The tax cuts cannot be made permanent.

My colleagues, the world is watching. More importantly, God is watching. Let us do the right thing for the people of the gulf region, for all Americans, and for our country.

MATT SMITH

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

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the services of a great American, Matt Smith.

Matt Smith was enlisted in the Special Forces out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky and served in Iraq in February of 2003. While there, Matt Smith was struck by six bullets which left the left side of his body paralyzed. Remarkably, he suffered no cognitive damage

and is beginning the process of his physical recovery.

Matt Smith has since been awarded a Purple Heart, a Meritorious Service Award, Global War on Terrorism Medal, a National Defense Service Medal, and an Army Achievement Medal, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, Matt Smith represents some of the best that Ohio and America have to offer. I want to honor him for his upstanding citizenship and for the love he has for his township and his home of Morgan County, Ohio.

EQUIPPING OUR TROOPS

(Mr. BISHOP of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, "payback" has more than one meaning for our troops. For dozens, perhaps hundreds, of their families, it referred to a glaring oversight by the Pentagon that led to grave disappointment, dismay and continuing frustration.

Until the Pentagon finally issued regulations yesterday, 1 year after Congress imposed its deadlines, many troops and their families were not reimbursed for their body armor, combat helmets and protective gear. We ask our troops to risk life and limb to defend us, and yet, unconscionably, we made their families pick up the tab.

With their lives on the line, our troops cannot afford to focus on the mission with distractions and worries about family debts incurred to help America's war effort. We have spent over \$200 billion in taxpayer funds to carry out the war in Iraq.

The first priority for this money should be supplying our troops with protective gear they need to survive combat. I commend the Senate for voting last night to shift control of this money directly to unit commanders in the field.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to measure up to the valor and sacrifices of our troops by expanding these rules to also cover rifle scopes, additional radios and more armor for Humvees before we approve another dime in yet another supplemental funding bill.

FEDERAL RESOURCES OUGHT TO BE FOCUSED ON THOSE THAT NEED IT MOST

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, as Congress considers how to provide Federal assistance to these victims of these hurricanes, it is critical that we make sure resources are focused on helping the poor and the needy rather than subsidizing certain self-sustaining industries like the gambling industry.

The vast majority of the casinos on the gulf coast are owned and operated by entertainment companies that have

been and are likely to continue record profits. Most gambling conglomerates have been named to the Fortune list of 100 fastest-growing companies for the fifth consecutive year. These conglomerates have vowed to rebuild bigger and better along the coast.

With budget deficits growing to historic levels, we need to make sure that tax dollars for hurricane relief are going to those who truly need the government's help and not the gambling industry. The truth of the matter is, as Congress struggles to rein in the growth of mandatory spending, it just does not make any sense to give tax breaks to casinos.

Mr. Speaker, I hope and trust that Congress will do the right thing and make sure our Federal resources go to the poor, the needy, the vulnerable and not the big gambling interests to rebuild the casinos.

VOTE AGAINST THE GAS BILL

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, Republicans in Congress lost no time in turning the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina into an opportunity to enrich their friends in the oil industry at the expense of the American people. The Gasoline for America's Security Act of 2005 should be called the Second Energy Special Interest Act of 2005.

Energy companies got \$12.8 billion in subsidies and tax breaks just 2 months ago. Now, Republicans are giving them a bill filled with the measures that were too objectionable to go in the first time around. This bill is a polluter-friendly giveaway that has nothing to do with helping hurricane victims or securing America's energy needs.

Not only does this bill do nothing for Americans facing soaring gas or home heating prices, it guts clean air protections and undermines the Environmental Protection Agency. Only the profit-soaked oil and gas companies win with this bill. Everyone else is stuck paying higher energy prices in the short run and the incalculable long-term costs that will result from compromising our environment and failing to achieve energy independence.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF GENERAL RICHARD MYERS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, throughout the past 4 years General Richard Myers has served our Nation with distinction and honor. While serving as the 15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he has overseen some of the most challenging times in our Nation's history. After leading our troops to conquer terrorists in Afghanistan and to liberate the