

that he was elected to the State legislature, where he established himself as one of Augusta's most accomplished and hard-working State representatives. He was reelected seven times in a row.

Just before his last reelection, the local paper praised Representative Howard, saying simply: "His goal is the same of every Augustan, the betterment of our city."

When Henry Howard passed away Monday morning, we lost a public servant who led by example, a leader who shared the beliefs and hopes of his hometown.

The Bible says a good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver or gold. Mr. Speaker, Henry Howard made a good name for himself, his family; and he enjoyed the loving favor of all who knew him.

#### REDUCING CONGRESSIONAL SPENDING

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the publications on Capitol Hill today have been filled with information about a topic: How do we go about reducing spending. What a nice deliberation for us to have in this body. How would we choose to reduce spending: across-the-board cuts or looking at specific programs.

Last week I came to the floor and I talked about three bills I had introduced. Each of these bills would call for across-the-board cuts, whether 1, 2, or 5 percent reductions. I want to thank the Speaker and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) for listening to the proposal. I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR) for signing, and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE) for his leadership as we work to find a way to fund the Hurricane Katrina disaster and as we look at a way to prioritize spending and address fiscal responsibility in this body.

#### FUNDING CHOICES

(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, I think it is certainly important for this body to be fiscally responsible, but let me share with Members that in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, there are cities and towns in rural areas that cannot pay their bills. It is a matter of choices. We have to look at a new way to deal with the Iraq war and Afghanistan and stop the spiraling spending of \$480 billion.

The reason I say that is because some of the unsung heroes of Hurricane Katrina, although they do not want applause, deserve so. Even though I voted for the Department of Homeland Security

appropriations, I know we are not funding homeland security enough. The Coast Guard has saved over 23,000 individuals, fire fighters and police, those who did not walk away from their jobs. Citizen Corps has been found out to be one of the best means of homeland security where we train neighborhoods to secure themselves. All of that needs enhanced homeland security funding.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have to make choices, but we should not be cutting the budget now.

#### GETTING FINANCIAL HOUSE IN ORDER

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, tonight I want to commend our Republican leadership in the House for taking a bold move to actually look at ways to get our financial house in order. It is time that we move forward, that we move forward as a government and look at these programs that we have been spending more and more and more on every year.

As a result of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, we have had to spend a lot of money in the gulf coast region; but we have to do as a government what families do across America, and that is looking at the family budget and saying where should I spend and not spend. That is what we are going to do as Republicans in the House. I am so proud we have Republican leadership that is willing to take on this courageous fight to cut spending and keep returning every taxpayer's dollar back to them as much as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy about the leadership we have in the House, and I am glad we have bold leadership.

#### MEETING AMERICA'S ENERGY NEEDS

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, somebody once said when talking about government, no matter how cynical you get, it is never enough to catch up.

Mr. Speaker, we have been hearing for so long the Republicans should do something about bringing down gas prices. Well, we have an energy bill, and we are going to have another one. I have heard a lot of talk now that we are actually going to talk about the ability to have additional refineries, gee, we do not need them now it turns out.

Yes, we do need them. We have not built one in 30 years. Even though some have pushed their capacity up a little bit, it is time to allow for a new refinery in the United States. We are becoming far too reliant on foreign gasoline, and that continues to grow. It is time to do something, and we are

going to have a chance to do that. It is time to put up or shut up.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will find out who really wants to help Americans pay less for gasoline, and we will find out who wants to keep sticking them with higher prices.

#### TRIBUTE TO JON PICINI, JR.

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

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a very heavy heart. This past Sunday, good friends of mine, the Picini family from Las Vegas, Nevada, lost their son, 19-year-old John Picini, Jr., in his sleep.

My prayers and my thoughts go to the Picini family for the loss of a loved one which is hard to imagine, as a father myself. I know how difficult a time it is, and I will provide for the RECORD words of his Aunt Terry Murphy, also one of my best friends, regarding her heartfelt thoughts at the loss of John Picini, Jr.

The words of Ms. Terry Murphy, referred to above, are as follows:

John Joseph Picini Jr.

Man. Boy. Brother. Son. Cousin. Friend. Dude. Musician. Angel. Amazing. Loving. Giving. Kind. Adorable. Sweet. Sad. Happy. Fun to be with. Inventive. Creative. Peaceful. Beautiful. Sensitive.

These are all the words to describe John Picini Jr. Two days before his birth, John nearly didn't make it into this world. Upon arrival, we all learned about the Duffy Factor, a blood disorder which made his entry into the world a bit more difficult than most. As we all watched John grow, we never ceased to be amazed at who he was becoming. At who he did become.

When he made music, he was transported to a different plane and he took along with him all who watched and listened. He carried us away. Only a very evolved soul can so profoundly move people with his own creations and John's were beyond amazing.

John was graced with an unusual sensitivity. Webster's dictionary defines sensitivity as the capacity of being easily hurt, and the awareness of the needs and emotions of others. This sensitivity was the foundation of his creative abilities. It was also the foundation of what made us all love him to the core.

When John suffered the accident that damaged his knees, he turned his pain into comfort for others. His first act after receiving compensation for his injuries was to give his mother a gift of \$2,000.00 to be used for a research program which was designed to, and did help people. He then set up a big Texas Hold-em game. Upon learning that a friend of his mother had no money to pay her rent, he took the money from the game, gave it to his mom and told her to pay the rent, but not to tell the woman where the money came from. Giving selflessly and without expectation of gratitude. That was John. He took great joy in giving. And in his life he gave us more than he ever knew.

John took his own pain and turned it into good fortune for others. This is truly a lesson to all of us in what living is about. A statue of St. Francis of Assisi stood in John's house. From St. Francis, John learned that it is in giving that we receive, in comforting that we find comfort, in giving faith that we find it, and in loving that we are loved.