

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.

So much did John enjoy giving that he went to a party at the Oasis Center for Children at Christmas time and gave each child a card, a hug, and twenty dollars. He did this again on Valentines Day. These actions represent the very essence of John Joseph Picini Jr.

If we can define a man by the music he loves, we can define John as a peacemaker and a poet. His heroes—John Lennon, Jimi Hendrix, Harry Chapin, Bob Dylan. All peacemakers and poets. All but Dylan, taken from this planet long before their time.

John will be watching and loving us from his new home with the angels. He was, after all, an angel flying too close to the ground as Willie Nelson would say.

We who are left behind have been forever changed for knowing John. And we will be forever changed for having lost him. He is, without a doubt, surrounded with warmth and love and light in the arms of God the father, his son Jesus Christ and the Blessed Mother. They're holding him and keeping him safe. He will live forever in our hearts and he'll have no tears in heaven.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

FUEL PRICES

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

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, as I travel my district in Nebraska, the number one concern is high fuel prices, and I would assume that is true for a great many Members in this Chamber. The reasons are somewhat obvious. Worldwide demand for petroleum has increased. China and India are using more oil than ever before. We are nearly 60 percent dependent on foreign oil at the present time. OPEC can, to some degree, set oil prices because of that. And of course more recently the hurricanes have shut down some of our refineries.

So we took a good first step last July in passing the energy bill. The renewable fuel standards require 7.5 billion gallons of ethanol or biodiesel by 2012, which nearly doubles the amount of re-

newable fuels. Also the energy bill expedites access to 2 trillion barrels of oil in U.S. oil shale deposits. And also it promotes an initiative for the production of hydrogen fuel cells, which I think in 15 to 20 years can pretty much remove demand for petroleum fuel products.

However, we do need some immediate relief, something quicker than the energy bill passed in July can provide. We have had no new refineries built since 1976. It is almost impossible to get a building permit for a new refinery, and so as a result our refineries are operating at roughly 95 percent of full capacity, whereas most in the industry operate somewhere around 75 percent to 80 percent of capacity. So any slight disruption in the process can put us right over the edge, as happened with the hurricanes.

Many Americans are currently spending 10 percent of their income on gasoline, particularly low-income Americans. The agriculture profits have been eaten up by high fuel costs, so many farmers in my area are losing money because of the high fuel costs.

The Gasoline for Americas Security Act of 2005 will be introduced tomorrow, and we will vote on it. I think there are some tremendous aspects of this bill. Number one, it encourages increased refinery capacity by removing regulatory and permitting roadblocks. We have not been able to build one because of all of the environmental concerns.

Number two, it reduces the boutique fuels from somewhere in the neighborhood of 40 to six. Every time you switch from one type of fuel to another, you shut down the refinery, clean out all of the pipes, very time-consuming and very expensive; and this reduces that process to about six types of fuel. It also removes red tape from pipeline construction.

Above all, one of the most important things, it removes the loan guarantees on the Alaska pipeline unless that pipeline is started within the next 2 years. So far we need that pipeline badly because we need the gas that comes from Canada and Alaska, and that pipeline would provide a very valuable source.

Fourth, it promotes carpooling through education and incentives which will save petroleum.

And last, it prevents price gouging and requires the Federal Trade Commission to draft a standard definition of price gouging, because right now everybody has their own definition, and it will provide some enforcement guidelines.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is a good bill. I am looking forward to it. I think it can provide some immediate relief in this country in an area where we can stand some help.

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URGING A "NO" VOTE ON GASOLINE FOR AMERICA'S SECURITY ACT OF 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that one of the biggest concerns that we hear from our constituents is the unjustified increase in the price of fuels. Just in Ohio today, gasoline is over \$3 a gallon. People cannot afford to take their families for weekend drives or vacations because the cost of gasoline prohibits it. Farmers and other small businessmen face higher fuel costs that are making it nearly impossible for them to make a profit. Individuals are concerned about the cost of home heating this year as heating oil and natural gas prices go up faster than windchill blowing across the Great Lakes, and programs like heating assistance for those that cannot afford to pay their bills, like senior citizens, are facing flatlining by the Republican majority in this House when it is eminently clear that the need will be greater this year than ever in the past. We always seem to be able to find money to send to other countries, but we cannot take care of the people right here at home. What a shame.

So what does this Congress do about all of this? Tomorrow we are supposed to be debating the Gasoline for America's Security Act of 2005, H.R. 2360. The wordsmiths have been busy little elves with this one because not only does it have the right words to make the public believe that this body is really doing something about the problem, but it really is not. They have tucked away goodies for their friends in the oil industry who thought that the energy bill that some people voted here a few weeks ago was not enough for them. In the words of former President Reagan, "There they go again."

They give new regulatory subsidies to the refining industry when those industries' profits are at breaking records. If we look, just in this past year of 2004, the five major U.S. oil companies, Exxon, British Petroleum, Shell, Chevron and Conoco, have almost tripled their profits, taking in more than \$50 billion, \$50 billion, more than they did just 2 years before. How much more do they want when so many in our society are living right at the edge?

In 2005, after months of suspected price gouging, these five major oil companies are on target to pocket over \$100 billion more, nearly \$40 billion more than Congress has appropriated so far to rebuild the entirety of our devastated gulf coast, think about that, which has taken generations to build. That is how much money just those companies are taking in.