

my request, to meet with Mrs. Monica Ramos, the wife of Agent Ramos and his father, her father-in-law, Mr. Joe Loya.

I also appreciate that Chairman JOHN CONYERS took time to say hello to Ms. Ramos and her father.

Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged that the House Judiciary Committee is seriously looking at holding hearings to investigate the injustice committed against these border agents. And that is why it is so important, Mr. Speaker, that the House look seriously at what happened to these men, who should be rewarded for trying to protect the American people, not serving time in a Federal prison.

Mr. CONYERS. Will the gentleman from North Carolina yield to me?

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Yes, sir, I'd be delighted to yield to the chairman.

Mr. CONYERS. First of all, I wanted to congratulate the gentleman on the persistence and integrity with which he has followed this matter.

I have had this brought to my attention. I did have an opportunity to meet with some of the family, and I want to assure you that we are coordinating our activities with the Senate Judiciary Committee with those of my House Judiciary Committee; and I promise to keep you fully apprised as this matter moves forward.

I congratulate you, not just for what you have done for these two officers, but what you have done for law enforcement officers across this country. It's important that the kinds of concerns you have raised are known to all of our men and women who carry badges and weapons defending us, not just at borders, but in every State in the Union.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. I thank the chairman. You are very generous, and thank you so much.

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

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

MISSION NOT ACCOMPLISHED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to commemorate an important event in the ongoing occupation of Iraq. On May 1, 2003, 4 years ago today, President Bush, the Commander in Chief, strode across the deck of the USS *Abraham Lincoln* and declared that the United States mission in Iraq was accomplished.

Mission accomplished. Mission accomplished? I don't think so. Let's re-

view what has and what has not happened in Iraq since May 1, 2003.

American troops were not met in the streets with flowers as welcoming liberators. Instead, they've met with sniper attacks and IEDs. 3,351 American servicemen and women have given their lives, and nearly 25,000, probably more, have returned home seriously wounded.

This administration has hidden the caskets of those who have perished, and forced the wounded to rehabilitate in mold-infested, rotting facilities. Are those actions of a grateful Nation? Does this mean mission accomplished?

What about the weapons of mass destruction? Where are they? Nobody knows. Even former head of the CIA, George Tenet, is now backing away from his "slam dunk" comment.

Yellow cake? Aluminum tubes? Al Qaeda ties to Saddam? An ousted CIA agent and a jail term for a senior administration official? It is as if this administration has been living in Alice's world of Wonderland.

The mission is yet to be accomplished. An accomplished mission would have brought peace and democracy to the Iraqi people. Neighborhoods would be free, not walled off, and a bomb would not have been set in the Iraqi Parliament building.

Estimates range upward from 50,000 Iraqis killed and tens of thousands of refugees fleeing to neighboring countries like Syria. This is not how to promote peace and democracy.

Let's see. Thousands, tens of thousands of refugees, and the United States allowed 7 or 8 Iraqi refugees into our country last month. We've made all those refugees happen, and we are doing nothing to help them.

It takes a small protection force to go to the market in Baghdad, and the Secretaries of State and Defense must make surprise visits to Iraq because their security might not be insured otherwise.

So I have to ask, Mr. Speaker, what mission was accomplished? The destruction of the Iraqi infrastructure? The mass exodus of the educated and wealthy from Iraq? The mission of alienating the United States on the global stage? The rise of hatred in countries who might have been our ally?

This is unacceptable, and the American people know it. They sent that message loud. They sent it clear last November, and it echoes unheard in the White House.

What is clear, Mr. Speaker, is that this mission is not accomplished. The ultimate mission to be accomplished is to bring our troops home. Then we can say, "Mission Accomplished."

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHIEF PETTY OFFICER GREG BILLITER

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

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, it's the most solemn duty that I have to honor those who have served our Nation, those who have answered the call of this generation, as us in prior generations have, to answer to that call to be ready to serve and to deploy.

I rise today to honor a great American, Navy Chief Petty Officer Greg Billiter. Greg was a native of Villa Hills, Kentucky, a graduate of Covington Latin, and a true fan of his hometown teams, the Cincinnati Bengals and the Cincinnati Reds.

Greg was tragically killed in action in Northern Iraq during combat operations. He leaves behind his young son, Cooper, a caring wife, loving family and a legacy that will be honored for generations to come.

For Cooper, as you grow into a man, know that your dad loved you. He was a great American. He cared about you and he answered the call of this Nation.

I had the opportunity to visit with his family, and they all conveyed similar sentiments of a brave, dedicated and heroic sailor.

When I asked his wife, April, about Greg she told me that he truly loved what he was doing. April said, "He was extremely patriotic, and felt that it was important for him to be part of the war and to help the other soldiers who were serving there." His bravery and ultimate sacrifice remind us that they were all part of a larger mission.

His parents told a local newspaper that he really felt he was helping to make Iraq a safer place, especially for the children. As an explosive ordnance demolition specialist, he made a tremendous difference in the lives of many, many civilians, military personnel, and especially those children. We wonder today how many will grow up in the future and have a future because of Greg's call and his willingness to answer that call and to go and serve. Indeed, his mother said that he loved what he was doing. He felt that he was doing was right, and he knew that he made a difference.

I stand here today to honor his heroic work in Iraq and in the United States Navy, and to thank him and his family for making that ultimate sacrifice. We've lost a great American in Greg, but his work will live on. Thank you, Greg. Thank you April, Cooper, Pat, and Barry, for sharing your husband, father, and son with our Nation. We are forever indebted to him.

As Jesus spoke in John 15:13, no greater love has a man than this, that he lay down his lives for his friends. Indeed, Greg literally did that every day in his work to protect other service members, to protect civilians, to make a difference.

Greg's reputation as a chief was quite clear. Many of his fellow shipmates came into the funeral and showed a strength of solidarity that was impressive and moving to this old soldier.

I have spent many years in uniform and been with thousands and thousands

of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, and one thing spoke out clearly to me was that Greg epitomized the warrior ethos of the civilian who went into the military, who answered the call of the Nation, who grew in character, and was an exemplar in all that he did, representing the will of the founders of this Nation.

Indeed, it was clear to me, from his sailors, from his family, that he was a leader, that he was a mentor, that he was a friend, that he was a proud son, that he was a loving husband and father. He was the epitome of all that we call dear and great and honorable in this land.

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

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

WALL STREET LEAVES MAIN STREET BEHIND

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, tonight the President of the United States says he will veto funding for our troops, for veterans health care, and even for victims of Hurricane Katrina. He still refuses to work with Congress to do what is necessary to resolve the quagmire in Iraq, and to win the hearts and minds of people across the Arab and Islamic world.

His policies are breeding terrorism. His policies are forcing higher gasoline prices in our country. His policies are forcing the import of a billion more barrels of petroleum every year into our country from the most undemocratic regimes in the world, and his foreign policies are a total failure.

Meanwhile, here at home, our economy seems to be moving in opposite directions at the same time. On Wall Street, things have never been better. The stock market has record to all time records. Last week the Dow Jones Industrial Average surpassed 13,000 points for the first time in history. The Standard & Poors index has climbed at an annualized rate of 13 to 14 percent for the first four months of this year. Everything's coming up roses for the investment class.

But it's a different story on Main Street. Yes, it's a different story in the real world, where our constituents see gasoline prices just challenged the \$3 a gallon mark again.

The stock market might be soaring, but consumer sentiment is in the dumper. The Conference Board reported last week that consumers confidence fell to its lowest level since last August.

Economic growth has slowed. The Gross Domestic Product, we learned

last Friday, increased at a weak 1.3 percent annual rate for the first quarter of this year.

Traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange might be irrationally exuberant, but families in the Midwest are increasingly worried. Chances are, they won't make ends meet this time with a home equity loan.

The National Association of Realtors reported today that sales of existing homes fell unexpectedly in March to their lowest level in 4 years. New construction down sharply in the first quarter of this year, and late payments on subprime mortgages increased by 35 percent in the first quarter of this year.

The foreclosure crisis that has hit Ohio and Michigan very hard threatens to spread to other parts of our economy. So much is clear, the housing bubble has burst.

Paul Krugman, the economist and New York Times columnist wrote about this "economic disconnect" between Wall Street and Main Street in yesterday's edition. He started by quoting Edward Lazear, Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisor who says what's good for corporations is good for America.

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And workers will benefit from this growth in productivity. The problem with that is it's not true. High profits haven't led to high investment. Rising productivity hasn't led to high wages. And I might add free trade agreements haven't led to free trade.

Even the investment banking company, Morgan Stanley, unwittingly acknowledged this brutal fact. In a recent newsletter, Joseph McAlinden, their chief global strategist, bragged with a laughable chart that wages have soared 4 percent at an annual rate. Well, when wages soar at 4 percent, barely keeping pace with inflation, what happens when you discount for prices? I doubt that if stocks were soaring by 4 percent that he would say it is a great thing. I guess it all depends on your perspective. Median workers' earnings adjusted for inflation have been static since this President took office, and the economy feels anything but great to most Americans. They would say, "Show me the money." The fact is, on Main Street, wages have barely kept pace with inflation, and workers, if they are lucky enough to hold on to their benefits, have to pay increasingly larger costs for them. Meanwhile, corporate profits have more than doubled since 2000. And according to Krugman, corporate profits as a share of national income reached their highest levels in American history last year.

That is what happens when productivity increases while wages remain static. Corporate profits soar and stock prices follow but not workers' wages. Wall Street reaches record heights because companies are turning around and reinvesting those profits not in

new machinery and jobs, but in making more money on our outsourced jobs.

It is time that Main Street holds Wall Street accountable.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

SALUTING HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA'S PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK AND RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SAFE KIDS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, public service is among the most noble and demanding of professions, and excellence in the delivery of public service helps to keep the city of Hollywood, Florida, strong and prosperous and a wonderful place in which to live and work.

The effectiveness and efficiency of government depends, in large measure, on public employees whose task it is to provide, on a daily basis, a broad range of services of the quality required and expected by the public. Quite often the importance of the public service that is rendered by public employees and the exemplary manner of their performance are often forgotten or overlooked.

Public employees and volunteers, through their commitment to excellence and diversity of skills, have made great contributions to the City of Hollywood in areas such as public safety; recreational activities; neighborhood revitalization; and the delivery of water, sewer, and solid waste services.

The City of Hollywood recognizes the contributions made by public employees as well as volunteers at all levels of city government and finds it fitting to set aside a special time to honor and thank these dedicated individuals who perform such vital roles.

Public Service Recognition Week is being celebrated from May 7 through May 13, 2007, and salutes approximately 1,700 City of Hollywood employees who devote their time and talents to public service and who "do whatever it takes" to help citizens attain a high quality of life, and the numerous volunteers who contributed approximately 22,632 hours of volunteer service.

To provide even better service to the public, the City of Hollywood has committed to an organizational cultural change to enhance customer service and employee involvement and has initiated this process through the employee-guided strategic plan created by Hollywood City Manager Cameron D. Benson, a wonderful man, I might add.

With that said, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the City of