

provides opportunities for leadership, teamwork and competition. The months of physical and mental training and the teamwork that was required to win this Central Section Division I title will benefit these young men long after their high school graduation.

On behalf of the residents of the 22nd Congressional District, I once again commend the Bakersfield High School Drillers on winning the 2007 Central Section Division I title. I am very proud of the accomplishments of the 2007 Drillers football team, and I know the parents, teachers, neighbors and fans in our community will remember this season for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, on March 11, 2008, I was unavoidably absent from the House due to a family illness.

If I had been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote No. 111, a motion by Mr. GOHMERT of Texas that the House do now adjourn.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this body with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is March 11, 2008 in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand—just today. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that were lost on September 11th, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,832 days since the travesty called *Roe v. Wade* was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of our own children.

Some of them, Madam Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over their vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common.

They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. Each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government."

The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is that clarion Declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

And yet Madam Speaker, another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have been given them.

But perhaps tonight, Madam Speaker, maybe someone new who hears this sunset memorial will finally realize that abortion really does kill little babies, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,832 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that the America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust, is still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their babies than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of the innocent unborn. May that be the day we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is March 11, 2008—12,832 days since *Roe v. Wade* first stained the foundation of this nation with the blood of its own children—this, in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, regarding the H.R. 1424, the Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act, I have previously shared with my colleagues in this body my serious concerns with several provisions in this Act. I

have stated my sincere conviction that this bill, if signed into law, will result in increased overall health care costs, increased mental health costs, and decreased mental health coverage for many Americans. Let me share just a few more problems with this well meaning but misguided legislation.

I am concerned with the use of a 33 percent increase in the Medicaid prescription drug rebate as one of the offsets to pay for this legislation. This represents a significant increase. In fact, it hits the innovator pharmaceutical companies almost double what we might think. While we might have the cost of mental health parity offset by about \$1.7 billion over 5 years, that is \$1.7 billion to the Federal Government. The cost to the research pharmaceutical companies is nearly double that amount because their rebate is split between the Federal Government and the States. This is a double hit to an industry that Americans rely on to find life-saving treatments for cancer, Parkinson's disease, HIV/AIDS and mental illness.

Furthermore, as a physician I have seen first-hand the stifling impact price controls have on innovation and who loses in that equation—patients do. We only have to look to Europe as recently as the 1990s for evidence of the failure of drug price controls. Once the world's leader in research and development for new cures, Europe has been surpassed by the United States who had committed 24 percent more to pharmaceutical R&D by 2002. Therefore, I urge the sponsors of this bill to find a more equitable offset and not one that could have such a negative impact on a single industry.

HONORING KIDS AGAINST HUNGER—FOX VALLEY

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fox Valley Chapter of Kids Against Hunger, located in Roselle, Illinois.

Kids Against Hunger is a non-profit organization with a mission to provide nutritious food to impoverished children around the world.

The Fox Valley chapter of Kids Against Hunger located in my district focuses on providing meals to impoverished families in Nicaragua. As the second poorest nation in its hemisphere, 80 percent of Nicaragua's population lives on less than \$2 a day.

In 2007, 140 youth and adult volunteers at the Fox Valley Chapter of Kids Against Hunger packaged and provided more than 108,440 meals.

Pastor Darrel Malcom, from Poplar Creek Church in Bartlett, Illinois, recently traveled to Nicaragua to observe the food being received. He visited the Casa Bernabe Orphanage, where several hundred of the Kids Against Hunger meals were distributed. Pastor Malcom had an opportunity to see firsthand the incredible impact Kids Against Hunger is having.

In addition to serving the needy in Nicaragua, Kids Against Hunger serves individuals right here in our own communities, including Streamwood, Illinois. More than 110 seniors in DuPage and Kane Counties have received humanitarian services through the Fox Valley Chapter.

Currently, the Kids Against Hunger—Fox Valley Chapter, is looking for volunteers and funds to continue the production of meals. Additionally, they are looking for areas to host “packaging events” so that they can continue to expand their services.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in honoring the Fox Valley Chapter of Kids Against Hunger for their outstanding work to date, and wishing them all the best in their future endeavors.

CONDEMNING THE ONGOING PALESTINIAN ROCKET ATTACKS ON ISRAELI CIVILIANS

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I am unequivocal in my support for the security of Israel and its citizens. I am committed to the right of all people in the Middle East, and the world, to live peacefully. However, because of H. Res. 951’s overt lack of balance and its unreconciliatory approach, I oppose this bill.

The resolution appropriately “expresses condolences to the families of the innocent victims on both sides of the conflict.” However, H. Res. 951 fails to take a balanced approach to the ongoing violence in Gaza by acknowledging only the rocket and mortar attacks fired on Israel while making no mention of Israel’s use of force in the region other than to acknowledge “the sovereign right of the Government of Israel to defend its territory against attacks.”

The resolution states that the “rocket and mortar attacks have murdered over a dozen Israelis, inflicted hundreds of casualties, produced thousands of cases of shock and post-traumatic stress, especially among children, and caused severe disruption of daily life.”

The resolution fails to take into account the 117 Palestinians killed in Gaza over the last week or to mention that half of these victims were civilians and at least 22 were children.

Furthermore, the resolution makes no mention of the ongoing Israeli-imposed blockade on Gaza that has cut off Palestinians from fuel supplies and prevented the delivery of food and medical supplies to the Gaza Strip. According to a recent report by Oxfam and other humanitarian organizations, “the blockade has effectively dismantled the economy and impoverished the population of Gaza. Israel’s policy affects the civilian population of Gaza indiscriminately and constitutes a collective punishment against ordinary men, women and children. The measures taken are illegal under international humanitarian law.”

How can the U.S. be an honest broker for peace if we fail to acknowledge the suffering, as well as the rights, of the people on all sides of this ongoing conflict? To broker a viable peace, we must address the long-standing and structural issues that exacerbate the conflict rather than sweep over them in our condemnation of its symptomatic violence.

The United States must seek to prevent violence and human casualty by setting the stage for productive exchanges which can lead to mutual understanding, security and peace. To achieve this peace it is necessary to integrate an open dialogue with diplomatic negotiations aimed at ending all violence and human suffering. Our involvement in the Middle East should aim to coalesce alienated forces rather than drive them farther apart from one another

and from a viable solution. Israelis and Palestinians share a mutual future. Therefore, we should set the stage for productive exchanges which can lead to mutual understanding, security and peace.

HONORING BRODES H. HARTLEY, JR.

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the work and accomplishments of a distinguished community leader and true humanitarian, Brodes H. Hartley, Jr. For over two decades Mr. Hartley has done an outstanding job maintaining a high level of care to the nearly 40,000 patients of Community Health of South Dade, Inc.

The “Patient Care Comes First” motto he developed, demonstrates that he puts patient’s interests above those of the organization, creating an environment in which those in need receive the best possible care. His willingness to take time for concerned patients, as well as to help shape the next generation in healthcare providers, through mentoring, has established him as a community leader.

Brodes H. Hartley, Jr., has accomplished the goal he set out from the beginning, to deliver safe, compassionate, accessible, and culturally competent quality health care service to the people of South Florida. I am very grateful for his contribution to our community and honored to call him my friend.