

American who is deceased? This is immoral. It shouldn't be.

Then, finally, the alternative minimum tax, we should zero out the alternative minimum tax, which is putting a second tax burden on already over-taxed middle-class Americans.

Also, Sarbanes-Oxley, Sarbanes-Oxley has actually chased capital out of New York City over to London. We need to get that investment capital back in the United States.

That's a pretty simple plan. If we would stay here for the rest of the day, and if we would stay here tomorrow, as Members of Congress, we could very quickly and simply pass this common-sense legislation that has worked time and time again.

Don't just take my word for it, a woman from Minnesota—take a look at Harvard. Harvard did a study back in 2002 that examined 18 different world economies, and they showed the same thing. They said, what do you do to make economies work, and what do you do that makes economies not work?

Here is what you do, you lower the wages of government employees, you lower transfer payments, welfare payments, and you lower the tax rates. That's what you do, the study concluded, to make economies revive.

What you don't do is increase government spending. What you don't do is increase taxes.

What we have seen in the last 60 days is what you do to make an economy not work or bring more uncertainty into our economy.

The American people deserve a positive solution, and we have got one. Let's get to work, let's stay here, let's make it happen. Instead, what are we seeing happen? We are seeing more spending and higher taxes.

And what did the Federal Reserve try to do this week? They announced that they are going to do another \$1 trillion in purchases. And they just announced today another \$300 billion in buying up long-term Treasury securities. They have already lowered the interest rates to zero, so now they want to flood more money into the money supply, but this reduces the value of dollar.

There is so much we can do to change the economy. Let's get busy.

HONOR THE WISH ACT

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today is the sixth anniversary of the Iraq war. We Americans need to remember all those who have made sacrifices because of this war, the 4,259 service men and service women who have given their lives in this conflict.

One of the soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice was Specialist Christopher Fox of Memphis, a constituent of mine, who was based in Fort Carson, Colorado.

Only 21 years old, he was on a second tour in Iraq, was due to be discharged from the Army in July of this year. He was looking forward to attending the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, possibly to play football and to study criminal justice. He hoped to be a police officer so his military training would not have gone to waste after he left the service.

But Specialist Fox did not make it home alive. He died in Iraq on September 29, 2008, of wounds sustained when he encountered small-arms fire while on patrol. On this anniversary of the war, we need to remember these sacrifices and do what we can to honor the memory and the wishes of the soldier who has given the ultimate sacrifice.

Specialist Fox wanted his mother figure, not his mother, who was deceased, but his mother figure, a woman who was awarded temporary custody when he was 17, to oversee his burial arrangements, as soldiers are asked to designate someone. Her name was listed on the form that he filled out to direct the disposition of his remains. However, because of current Federal law, it is prohibited that servicemembers designate nonrelatives to make those arrangements.

It is a travesty, Mr. Speaker, that our laws do not allow a soldier's wishes to be honored, especially for something as final, as simple, and as appropriate and meaningful as the disposition of their remains.

Someone who puts their life on the line in defense of their country should be allowed to have whomever they wish to make arrangements for their memorial service. I attended his memorial service in West Memphis, Arkansas. There were few people there. There were no other public officials.

It was unfortunate that even his mother figure wasn't able to make it, she was in Knoxville. But if she would have had the opportunity to make the arrangements, I think we would have seen something different.

It is with this experience that I, along with Congressman JOHN DUNCAN of Tennessee, where his mother figure lived and where he otherwise might have been buried, and DANA ROHR-ABACHER of California, Congresswoman WATSON and Congresswoman GWEN MOORE are filing the Honor the Written Intent of Our Soldier Heroes Act today, or Honor the WISH Act.

This bill will allow service men and women to designate whomever they want to direct the disposition of their remains. I hope my fellow Congress people will join me in sponsoring this act and help move it forward for passage. It seems only appropriate and fitting that we honor the wishes of our soldiers.

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

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

ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I bring a serious economic concern from my district today. In the northwest corner of my district in beautiful rural Pennsylvania lies the Allegheny National Forest, established 86 years ago when the Federal Government purchased 513,000 acres that it encompasses.

By agreement in 1923, the subsurface mineral rights in the forest did not convey with the purchase, and oil and natural gas have been harvested ever since. Because of the value of timber harvested and the oil and natural gas produced, the ANF serves as the economic engine of the region, providing good-paying, family-sustaining jobs for many in the oil, natural gas, timber and forest products industry.

In addition, the ANF is not taxable, since it is owned by the Federal Government, making the municipal governments even more reliable on the development of oil, natural gas and the timber in it. Mr. Speaker, what's important to note here is that the Federal Government entered into an agreement with the owners of these subsurface minerals, an agreement which has been honored for 86 years.

Unfortunately, that process has come to a halt. In reacting to lawsuits brought by environmental groups, Forest Service and Justice Department lawyers, who most likely have never stepped foot in the Pennsylvania ANF, are now managing the forest, instead of dedicated ANF Forest Service professionals, who despite many challenges over 8 decades, have carried out their duties admirably.

So when the Forest Service does not issue new permits to proceed with harvesting oil and natural gas, people lose their jobs and the local economy suffers. To demonstrate that this is much more than a legal battle between the Forest Service and environmental groups, I will read a part of one of my many communications I have received from constituents.

"With local drilling being slowed to a virtual halt, we have seen the 'ripple effect' significantly decrease our business. The timber industry is in the worst shape that we have ever seen, and now loggers are not even needed to clear right-of-ways for roads, locations and pipelines.

"For the first time in 30 years we have had to reduce our workforce and contribute to the nearly double-digit unemployment rate."

I find it to be the height of hypocrisy that the Secretary of Energy recently asked OPEC not to decrease its oil production, while at the same time our