

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

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

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

HONORING OUR BORDER PATROL AGENTS

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

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, on the 23rd of this month, Rosalie Rosas watched her husband go off to work. She stayed at home with Robert, her son, 2, and Alesa, an 11-month-old baby, thinking that the next morning her husband, Agent Rosas, would be back at home with the family. Sadly, that wasn't to be.

Agent Rosas was in the Campo area of southern California serving a nation that he looked forward to serving for so long; a young man who had grown up in the Imperial Valley area, had served as a reservist, always looked forward to being a Border Patrol agent. While alone, he detected individuals crossing the border. Somewhere in the process of confronting the illegals crossing the border, Agent Rosas was murdered by those illegals.

Mr. Speaker, Agent Rosas' situation, and more importantly, the situation of Rosalie and the two children, is something that all Americans should remember, that there are Americans every day that are not only defending this country far, far away, but there are agents every day and every night that stand on the border, stand in ports of entry or throughout this country, standing up and defending this country from incursions from across the border and from foreign lands.

Agent Rosas died in the service of this country, was murdered in the service of this country, and Rosalie and the two kids will never be the same, and neither should this country.

Mr. Speaker, there are Border Patrol agents today that are in the sweltering heat of Yuma, Arizona, across the Texas frontier, that confront smugglers every day from New Mexico to San Diego. And they do not know which one of the individuals they are confronting, if it's just an innocent illegal who happens to not realize that you can't come into this country illegally anymore, somebody that may not mean harm but is being brought in by vicious, terrible smugglers who not only smuggle illegals, but smuggle drugs. That agent doesn't know if the person they're confronting is going to surrender or draw a firearm and kill him immediately.

Agent Rosas was shot in the head and killed. But he was able to wound one of his assailants, and the assailant later was detected as far up as northern California, and he was arrested there. With the cooperation of Mexican officials, we were able to apprehend individuals in Mexico.

But I think that more important than talking about the crime that was committed at our border—something that I think all Americans should have known was coming when we've seen the violence that has occurred on the other side of the border for far too long—Americans should have known this violence was going to cross over, while we continued to turn a blind eye to the illegal activity along our border, because it just wasn't politically proper to raise the issue that crime and violence is occurring along our frontier.

No, the thing that I would like to remember tonight is that Agent Rosas is just one of many that are out there in the terrible heat of the summer, the terrible cold of the winter, through rain and sleet and snow and whatever it takes to do their duty, and doing it in a nation that tends not to recognize their true service.

Mr. Speaker, we use the word "hero" a lot of times in this country and, sadly, we use it too often instead of using the word victim. But there is a big difference, Mr. Speaker, between a victim and a hero. A victim is someone who is at the wrong place at the wrong time and suffers for it. But a hero is someone who willfully puts themselves in harm's way at the wrong time and suffers for it. And I do not think we should, as a society, ever forget the difference between a victim and a hero.

Agent Rosas is a true hero, somebody who served this country. And we should all remember, as his services are held this week, that his services are in recognition of not only his sacrifice and his family's sacrifice, but of the sacrifice of men and women around this country that defend us along our borders.

I think it goes without saying that all of us in Congress want to send out our heartfelt sympathies to Rosalie and Rob and Alesa for their great loss and their great contribution by losing their father. I hope we all remember that there are fathers and mothers around this country that we ought to appreciate while they're alive and not just honor them when we lose them.

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

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

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

(Ms. ROSLEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) is recognized for 5 minutes. (Mrs. BACHMANN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

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.)

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

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

HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your recognizing us on a very interesting and important topic, something that I believe that anybody who pays much attention to what is happening in Washington, D.C., is quite aware of. That is the subject of health care, something that impacts every single American in our country, affects our budget, and affects our family members, and is something of great interest.

I would like to start tonight by just backing up, though, about 4 weeks or so to this very Chamber that we are meeting in, that we are talking in today. It was here, during a day that we were debating a bill that was called cap-and-tax, and it was the largest tax increase in the history of our country.

Now, what happened right before that was of interest because at 3 o'clock in the morning a 300-page amendment was passed to an 1,100-page bill. And as we were debating this bill on the floor, because of the speed with which the Democrats moved we didn't even have a copy of the bill on the floor. You are supposed to have a copy at least so in case somebody wants to check a fine point, they could read it.

Of course no one had read the 1,100-page bill. And certainly what was happening right behind me at the dais, we had good staff people hurriedly trying to put those 300 pages of amendments