

(Mr. POE of Texas 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 California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

IN MEMORY OF 1ST LT. MICHAEL E. JOHNSON, USMC

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

Mr. NYE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and sacrifice but, most importantly, the life of First Lieutenant Michael E. Johnson of the United States Marine Corps, who gave his life to defend our Nation.

Mike Johnson grew up in the sand and surf of Virginia Beach, along with his twin brother Dan and his younger brother Steve. At Hickory High School in Chesapeake, he was an accomplished athlete and a member of the crew team. From an early age, he always talked of following in his grandfather's footsteps and becoming a marine.

Mike loved the outdoors, and after visiting relatives in Oregon, he decided to attend college at Oregon State. In college, he met his soul mate, Durinda, and in 2007 they were married in her hometown of Keizer, Oregon.

Mike told his friends that, one day, he hoped to become a park ranger, bringing together his love of the outdoors with his commitment to public service; but for Mike, duty came first, and with our country at war, Mike decided that his own dreams would have to wait.

He joined the Marines. After training at Quantico, Mike and Durinda moved to Okinawa, Japan where, First Lieutenant Johnson was assigned to the Seventh Communications Battalion, Third Marine Headquarters Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Two months ago, Mike was deployed to Afghanistan where he was assigned as part of an embedded team that was training the Afghan Army. On September 8, his unit was attacked by insurgent fighters as they approached a village in eastern Afghanistan. In a firefight that lasted over 8 hours, Mike and three other Americans were killed.

As a husband, a son, a brother, and a friend, Mike was a positive influence on everyone around him. He loved his family and his friends, and he cherished every moment he had with them.

Mr. Speaker, across Virginia today, flags are flying at half-staff in honor of Lieutenant Johnson and his memory; but for those lucky enough to have known him, he will always be remembered for the smile that never left his face and by the words he lived by: *carpe diem* and *Semper Fi*.

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

(Mr. JONES 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 Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas 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 Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR 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 Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(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 New York (Mr. MAFFEI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MAFFEI 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 Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WOLF 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.)

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

(Mr. NEUGEBAUER 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 American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA 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 gen-

tleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BISHOP of Utah 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 Georgia (Mr. DEAL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEAL of Georgia 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 Virginia (Mr. FORBES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

TORT REFORM

(Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the President's mention of a tort reform demonstration project in his speech to Congress last week was a red herring. By putting Secretary Sebelius in charge of evaluating a tort reform demonstration project, the President has left tort reform to the former executive director and chief lobbyist for the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association. The President may have well just said, "We need to protect the hen house, so I'm appointing the fox to evaluate security."

Democrats deride the status quo in health care, waving their fingers and blaming special interests, but their rhetoric fails to meet reality. In a moment of extreme candor, Howard Dean, the former DNC chairman, said, The reason why tort reform is not in the bill is because the people who wrote it did not want to take on the trial lawyers, and that is the plain and simple truth.

Talk about beholding the special interests.

Mr. Speaker, if Democrats were serious about reducing costs and about making health care more affordable without bankrupting our country, they would embrace tort reform. The fact is they just aren't.

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, it's a treat to be able to join you, Members of Congress, and those listening in tonight on a topic that has absorbed the attentions of our country, the topic of health care.

This week, the President delivered a major address to the House, to the Senate and to the public about his health