

This team of dedicated humanitarian aid workers was led by my constituent, Dr. Thomas Little. Tom and his wife, Libby, lived and worked in Afghanistan for more than 30 years. They raised three daughters there, Katie, Molly, and Nellika, and ran an organization that has long provided the majority of eye care services in Afghanistan. Though I am proud to call them constituents, Afghanistan has been their home.

Like so many parts of America, New York's 21st Congressional District has witnessed far too many deaths overseas this year, a fact no less true across the districts of Afghanistan where Tom Little worked with sight and lived with vision. Tom and his team were heroes, and I am honored to recognize their service and sacrifice to America, Afghanistan, and the ideals that unite us all.

HONORING AMIR ABO-SHAEER

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride this morning to congratulate Amir Abo-Shaeer from Goleta, California. Mr. Abo-Shaeer was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship Grant for his tremendous work at Dos Pueblos High School as an engineering and physics teacher. He also established and leads the Dos Pueblos Engineering Academy, which competes annually in the Robotics World Championship, entitled FIRST.

For the last 2 years, the Dos Pueblos High School team, half of which are young women, has been awarded the Motorola Award for the best designed robot at the competition. Mr. Abo-Shaeer is the first public school teacher to win this prestigious award and a powerful testament to the importance of science and math education in our schools. His innovative, challenging, and outside-the-box teaching style is exactly what we need to create and inspire the next generation of American engineers, scientists, and innovators.

On behalf of the entire Santa Barbara community, I want to send the heartiest congratulations to this dedicated public servant.

□ 1030

AMERICA IS NOT FOR SALE

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have a plan for America; not their so-called pledge, just a garbled rehash of the failed policies of the Bush era that put us in this mess.

The real plan, step one, try to block every Democratic initiative, even those that could aid our economic recovery, put people back to work. They would harm people for their own polit-

ical ends. And if something passes, lie about it. Remember death panels?

Now, step two, aided and abetted by a right-wing activist Supreme Court overturning 100 years of precedent. New independent groups, independent groups every day, one a day, are filing with the Federal Elections Commission. They can raise and spend unlimited amounts of money anonymously, no disclosure necessary to try to buy the election for their Republican lap dog buddies.

Well, I have got news for you over on that side of the aisle: America is not for sale.

EXTENDING TAX CUTS

(Mr. OWENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, Democrats are committed to extending tax cuts for the middle class working families. Unfortunately, our friends on the other side of the aisle have been unwilling to compromise so far on tax cuts for the wealthy, which would add \$700 billion to the national debt over the next 10 years.

I was proud to join several of my colleagues, led by Mr. PASCARELL and Mr. CAPUANO, in sending a letter to Speaker PELOSI and Leader BOEHNER advocating for a compromise on this issue. Our idea involves a 1-year extension of the higher tax rates for individuals and joint filers making under \$500,000 annually, a 5-year extension of the middle class tax cuts for individuals making less than \$200,000 and joint filers making less than \$250,000 annually, and a 5-year extension of the current tax rates on long-term capital gains and qualified dividends.

I hope we come together to address this issue quickly when Congress returns. And I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to focus on working out a compromise.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BISHOP KENNETH H. MOALES

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, a week ago the City of Bridgeport lost a friend, spiritual leader and powerful force for good in the community.

Bishop Kenneth H. Moales, whose humble origins in Father Panik Village public housing foreshadowed little of his lifelong leadership, dedicated his life to shepherding the souls and improving the worldly conditions of some of the least fortunate people in Fairfield County.

I worshipped in his church just 3 weeks ago, and the ministries of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit and his presence among his flock reminded me of the saying of St. Francis of Assisi when he said, "Always preach the gospel. Sometimes use words."

The bishop was an accomplished musician, and his choirs enriched those who heard them and those who sang in them.

At one time or another, the bishop was contributing to just about every civic institution in Bridgeport, from the police to the YMCA.

Mr. Speaker, we will miss Bishop Moales, but we celebrate a life well lived. And we take confidence in the fact that, as of last week, the music in heaven got a whole lot better.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CORPORAL PHILIP CHARTE

(Mr. MURPHY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with the very sad duty of reporting the tragic loss of U.S. Marine Corps Corporal Philip Charte. He had just turned 22 years old. Charte was killed in action in Afghanistan on Monday, September 6, 2010.

Corporal Charte, a rifleman, joined the Marines in June 2007, the same day he graduated high school. Last year he served in Iraq; and after being promoted to Corporal little more than a few months ago, he was deployed once again, this time to Afghanistan.

Corporal Charte was willing to give his life in service to all of us and to the country he loved. Our gratitude cannot simply be expressed nor our sorrow properly conveyed.

Charte will be remembered as many things: a prankster, a dedicated athlete, a competitor and a teammate. But above all else, he was a soldier, serving his country and community with honor.

While Philip lived in New Hampshire, he grew up and his family still lives in Washington County in New York. My heart goes out to Philip's father, also named Philip, and his sister, Alicia.

His father perhaps said it best: "Philip served his country with courage, honor and distinction. He was a great son, brother, nephew, uncle and friend. He will be missed sorely."

On behalf of a grateful Nation, our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Charte family during this incredibly difficult time.

NASA REAUTHORIZATION BILL

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, thank you so very much for the opportunity to address this House on an important issue that will be confronting this Congress today, and that is the recommitment of the American people to a dream and a challenge of John F. Kennedy. Today we will reauthorize the NASA reauthorization bill, if you will, or the authorization bill, to be able to commit America's future to science and technology.

Although I would have advocated stronger for the work of the House and