

were 48 years ago when President Johnson signed that measure into law.

The best way to celebrate Medicare's birthday—which, again, has transformed the lives of every American family since it was enacted in 1965—is to make smart changes to the system, to build on the progress of the Affordable Care Act, to make sure that it's going to be there for our children and our grandchildren, just like the people who had the wisdom to vote for that program 48 years ago and signed it into law—again, with the vision and prophesy of Harry S. Truman, who, as a Senator representing the State of Missouri, had proposed Medicare as a law and then saw, before his time on Earth ended, it actually come to fruition.

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Medicare is a wonderful program. It is a program which every family is touched by and has experienced and benefited from. Our best way to celebrate its birthday today is to redouble our efforts to extend its solvency and to make sure that all American families, today and in the future, are able to enjoy its wonderful benefits.

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, last week, as we debated the Defense appropriations bill for the upcoming year, my good friend, JIM MCGOVERN, a Democrat from Massachusetts, joined me in a measure that would guarantee that Congress would vote on funding the Enduring Strategic Partisanship Agreement with Afghanistan. This agreement with Afghanistan is a 10-year agreement that will start after 2014. It has been negotiated and will soon be signed by President Obama and President Karzai.

During the debate, I quoted the former Commandant of the Marine Corps with regard to this agreement. I called him and asked him what he thought about the agreement. He sent me a paragraph back. I used one sentence that I will use again today, Mr. Speaker:

Simply put, I am not in favor of this agreement signed. It basically keeps the United States in Afghanistan to prop up a corrupt regime. It continues to place our troops at risk.

The amendment failed. I want to thank the 76 Republicans who joined me in that vote, along with 100 Democrats, but it failed.

The problem is we really have no oversight in Afghanistan. It is a joke at best. The joke is, though, it is not really a joke because of the young men and women who are dying in Afghanistan, even today. The waste, fraud, and abuse in Afghanistan goes unchecked. We sent inspectors general over there. They do their best, but it is a no-win situation in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, according to a Washington Post-ABC News poll just last week, only 28 percent of the American people believe the war in Afghanistan has been worth fighting. I believe that that number would be even lower if they knew that we are going to sign a 10-year agreement with Afghanistan after 2014. If they were polled on that, I believe that the 28 percent would go down to about 8 percent.

The American people are just finding out that we have this 10-year agreement with Afghanistan where we keep spending billions of dollars per month and have a presence of at least 10,000 to 15,000 military.

During this same week last week, a poll was done of Congress, and 12 percent of the American people approve of Congress. If it gets much lower, we will be right at zero. And I'm not sure the American people will be wrong if they give us a zero, quite frankly, especially when I look at the fact that we continue to spend money in Afghanistan; we continue to cut programs right here in America for our young, our old, and our infrastructure.

The American people are frustrated and fed up because they don't think we in Congress are listening to them. When it comes back to Afghanistan and the fact that we would allow a 10-year agreement to go on with a corrupt leader in Afghanistan, it makes no sense to the American people; it makes no sense to many of us in Congress in both parties.

Mr. Speaker, during that debate, I made the statement on the floor 10 minutes after 11 p.m. that night that probably no one on the floor—and in fairness to that statement, there were only about 10 or 12 people on the floor—that they probably did not realize, but from March 1 until July 1 we had lost 78 of our soldiers and marines in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I brought this poster down today. It is a family. It happens to be the Army. They are prepared to walk behind a caisson, probably at Arlington, to bury an American hero. The sad part about it, Mr. Speaker, is there's a wife, I'm assuming—it looks like probably the wife. She has sunglasses on and a black dress. She's holding the hand of her little girl, who appears to be 6, 7, maybe 8. The little girl is holding her mother's hand and the little girl has her finger in her mouth.

How many more families in this country have to go through a sadness and a tragedy like this family while we sit here in Congress and we never debate the war? We debate the funding that we did last week. It was a 10-minute debate—5 for my amendment and 5 against. Mr. MCGOVERN and I had 5 minutes. Yet we do not debate the policy that continues to send troops, continues to send money, and all we do is continue to let this war go on and on and on.

Mr. Speaker, it's not fair to the families who have loved ones in the mili-

tary. Again, I will continue to come to the floor one time a week and rail about the policy in Afghanistan. It is a failed policy. History has said no nation has ever changed Afghanistan, and we are not going to change Afghanistan no matter how much money we spend or how much blood we spend. It is not fair to our military.

Mr. Speaker, I will close by asking God to please bless our men and women in uniform, to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I will ask God in His loving arms to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I will ask God to bless the House and the Senate, that we will do what is right in the eyes of God for God's people.

I will ask God to please bless the President, that he will do what is right in the eyes of God for God's people today and God's people tomorrow.

And three times I will say, God, please, God, please, God, please, continue to bless America.

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, in the world's poorest countries, nearly 1 billion people struggle with hunger every day. Chronic food insecurity limits a child's ability to grow and to learn.

Across Africa and Asia, hardworking farmers need help producing enough food to feed their families throughout the year. Many of these farmers are women. In fact, it is estimated 80 percent of the agricultural workers are women.

Earlier this year, I traveled to Tanzania and South Sudan where women farmers told me that they needed access to better seeds, tools, and training. With assistance from the United States and with our support, they can grow enough food to feed their families and have extra to sell as produce.

Last week, I introduced the Global Food Security Act, along with Representatives AARON SCHOCK and JIM MCGOVERN. This bill directs the President to develop a strategy to improve global nutrition, food security, and agricultural development. More than 35 NGOs and faith-based groups also support this bill.

This bill will improve food security for millions around the world, which is the right thing to do, but it will also make America more secure and protect our own national interest.

I urge my colleagues to support the Global Food Security Act.

HONORING WALTER DURHAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) for 5 minutes.