

Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.

GUN AMNESTY ON MOTHER'S DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, Members are coming to the floor as we approach Mother's Day. I am coming as well. Many mark Mother's Day in their own ways, very diverse ways. But if we ask the mothers of the Nation what would they most want for Mother's Day, the choice of many would be gun safety legislation to protect their children. The proof, of course, is that 2 years ago on Mother's Day, almost a million mothers and their families used Mother's Day to come to their Nation's capital to work productively for just such legislation. We do not yet have the gun safety legislation for our children these mothers so desperately wanted, but in recognition of Mother's Day this year, I thought that it would behoove me to introduce a realistic piece of gun safety legislation, recognizing that in many ways this issue has been off the radar screen, to find a way to put it back on the national agenda. And so I have introduced the Nationwide Gun Back Act of 2002.

Mr. Speaker, hopefully this is the kind of gun safety legislation everyone can join in, whether pro or anti so-called gun control, because this is simply about how to help people voluntarily get illegal guns out of their own homes, and jurisdictions would, of course, participate only voluntarily.

My bill would provide \$100 million in Federal funds, a real pittance in our budget, to allow cities across the United States, small towns, counties, to do gun buy-backs of the kind that were done so successfully just a few years ago in the District of Columbia and in other parts of the country.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms would evaluate the proposals and distribute the funds. A jurisdiction would have to certify that it was capable of destroying the guns within 30 days of running an amnesty program, and of being fully capable of conducting such a buy-back program.

Let me tell Members why I think all Members would want to be for this. There are throughout this Nation millions of people who know there are illegal guns in their homes who cannot come forward to get rid of them without implicating a relative. They fear if they came forward and said take this gun out of my house before some relative uses it on another relative, or somebody commits suicide, they cannot come forward without implicating a son, a daughter, a grandson, and so they sit there knowing that gun is in the house and unable to get rid of it.

I want to say to those folks who want to get that gun out of the home, a gun

illegally there, a gun for which there is no license, we will buy back the gun, usually for \$50 or \$100 to encourage people to come out.

We did this in the District of Columbia; enormous success. Long lines. More than 6,000 firearms were turned in in three buy-backs. Not only did we do this in the District of Columbia, a number of other cities across the United States did the same thing. We did a kind of pilot program that showed that it could work. The notion that there would be hundreds of people standing in line waiting to give a gun to the cops is, I think, what all of America would like to see when it comes to gun safety for our children.

It is children, as we see, who get hold of these guns, who want these guns, who use these guns because that is a child-like thing to do. We need to get these guns out of our homes. After using almost \$400,000 in forfeiture money, some HUD money, we had to stop collecting the guns because we no longer had funds to buy back the guns, for goodness sake, on Mother's Day.

If we want to do something to keep youngsters from getting hold of guns, going into the classroom and shooting at teachers and students, doing God knows what with guns, let us find a noncontroversial way of reducing gun violence. This, it seems to me, is just that way. It simply says wherever Members stand on guns, they are for guns being only in the hands of those people authorized to carry them. If a mother or father sees a gun brought into their home by a kid, allow that family member to get rid of that gun. This is the way that I would celebrate Mother's Day.

HONORING MOTHER ON MOTHER'S DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to join with my colleagues in celebration of Mother's Day. I particularly want to celebrate my mother. Yesterday was election day in the State of Ohio; and my mother, and she is going to be angry when I do this, who will be 81 years old on April 19, ran for State Central Committee, unopposed, won overwhelmingly.

Mom, here is the campaign literature right here that was sent out on your behalf.

I want to say that I have a wonderful mother and I am so pleased to have the opportunity to celebrate Mother's Day with her this coming weekend. She has been a guiding light and beacon in the lives of me and my family, not only my two sisters, one who lives in California and one who lives in Cleveland, but my husband's family as well.

I want to say to Mary Elizabeth Tubbs, my mom, happy Mother's Day. I am counting on you to stand up on behalf of all of the 21st Senate District as

the Democrat Central Committee woman in the State of Ohio.

After learning all of these wonderful things from my mother, I have to take a moment and say I am pleased to be a mother as well. Yesterday my man child, Mervyn LeRoy Jones, II, 18 years old, and a senior at Shaker Heights High School said, "Mom, I have a great Mother's Day present for you, but it will be early."

I said, "What is it?"

He said, "I am going to take you to school."

I said, "That is good. What are we going to do in school?"

He said, "You and I are going to recite poetry together."

He knew that I liked poetry a whole lot. We go to the class, which is poetry writing, and I have a favorite woman poet whose name is Mona Lake Jones. Mona Lake Jones has written a lot of culturally sensitive poetry, and one piece is called "Being the Mother of a Black Child: It Ain't No Easy Thing."

So my son and I recited this piece of poetry together. It goes on to say being the mother of a black child, it ain't no easy thing, it makes you call on Jesus, and listen to the angels sing.

Mervyn and I alternated these verses together. The topping on my Sunday was at the end Mervyn said to his class, I brought my mother to school today. And he said, "You know, Mom, I am not going to have any money on Sunday, but I knew how much you liked poetry so this is your Mother's Day present; I recited poetry with you in poetry class."

Mr. Speaker, I want to celebrate and trust that other mothers around this country have wonderful opportunities to celebrate Mother's Day this weekend. Those whose mothers have passed on, or whose children have passed on, step back and remember some of the great memories and times you had together, and think about how blessed you are to have been a mother or a daughter or son, or to have someone who cared as much as mothers care for you.

PAYING TRIBUTE ON MOTHER'S DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I too rise on this occasion of Mother's Day weekend to pay tribute to those who bring to life and nurture and educate the children, the families of our communities and our world, and as my dear colleague, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) so eloquently stated in the prior Special Order, when we think about it, mothers have the most important role in the world because they create the love that holds, the center that holds their families together. I think that their idealism helps inspire the world every day, not in big measures always, but in smaller signs of love and affection.

There is no more important person in a child's life than the mother and father. But as this is Mother's Day weekend, I think it is important to point out that for children learning in schools, the most important factor in their success is their mother reading to them at home.

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As we think about education, which is on the minds of all the people in our country, because education is so important to the preservation and the advancement of our democratic way of life, having an enlightened republic, it is important to think about the role of women and education and the role of this Federal Government in helping our families educate their children.

We have heard a lot from this administration about compassionate conservatism. I have really tried to understand what that term means. But in speaking about education, maybe it is important to put on the record, it is important to have individuals going to schools and reading to children. I do it myself. It is important to have mothers reading to children. It is the most important act that they can perform for that child in the home other than feeding them.

But if you look at this Federal Government and this particular Bush administration, though the compassionate side comes out when we see pictures in the paper of the President coming to Michigan, which he just did this week just north of where I live in Ohio, or wherever he might go, and then you look at the bills that come on this floor such as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act this year, it provides no additional assistance for education of our children around the country. In fact, the bill that passed here authorized an expenditure of over \$24 billion for education at the elementary and secondary levels, but 2 weeks later when the President's budget arrived, it was \$4 billion short. In other words, they might be compassionate, but the conservative side actually does not allow them to fulfill their promises.

Broken promises, that is what compassionate conservatism is all about. Frankly, it is all about nothing. Ask any of our college students across this country. They graduate on average today with a debt of nearly \$17,000. Our physicians, when our medical school students graduate from college, on average we force them to have a debt load of over \$100,000. How can a young physician going into practice manage to have a practice that is profitable while he or she has to pay that debt at the same time as they have to buy all this medical liability insurance, pay for the building, pay for all of their instruments and the medicines, and so forth. Think about the burden that we continue to place on the future of this country, on our young people.

So as a woman of our country, as a Congresswoman, as someone who I think has some mothering instincts of

her own, let me just say probably the most important thing I can do is to support the future, and that is to support our young people at the elementary and secondary level and at the college level and to say to the Bush administration, compassion is not enough. Conservatism is not enough. You have to do something with the power you have to help nurture and grow the next generation. And burdening them with debt that they do not get out from under until they are 40 years old is not the way to build this country.

Frankly, we ought to have a program that allows any student, any young adult in this country that has that kind of debt to work it off through national service on the military side or the civilian side at a rate of \$20,000 a year. We ought to get them out from under that debt and take care of some of the needs of this country, whether it is in our nursing homes, whether it is in our forests, whether it is in our inner city schools, whether it is in our medical clinics, wherever it might be, that we take this burden off the next generation so that they can move into this 21st century and new millennium in a way that helps advance America's cause.

Happy Mother's Day.

NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WEEK

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

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor correctional officers and employees of correctional facilities across this country. This past weekend, correctional officers came here to Washington to celebrate National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. Awards were presented to officers whose exceptional service merited special recognition and wreaths were laid in memory of fallen comrades who made the ultimate sacrifice while on duty.

Corrections facilities are a critical component of our criminal justice system. We rely on correctional facilities to do just that, correct the errant behavior of certain members of our society. But a facility comprises more than just a building. It is also made up of correctional officers and other correctional personnel who are all highly trained to work in a challenging and often dangerous environment. I worked for many years as a psychologist at a maximum security prison in Ohio, and the respect that I gained from my co-workers during that time is enormous.

Correctional officers are public servants. Most of the officers I know give back to their communities in countless ways. Most recently I was struck by the sense of community exhibited by correctional officers in New York City. While that city was undergoing untold

turmoil in those first 2 weeks following September 11, correctional officers worked 20-hour days lending their aid in the makeshift morgue and helping to coordinate the massive logistical effort of keeping the lines of communication open in Lower Manhattan. What we saw in New York is typical of all correctional officers, and I would urge all of my colleagues to recognize correctional officers and employees by joining me in cosponsoring H. Con. Res. 390, a bill that was introduced by the cochairmen of the Congressional Correctional Officers Caucus to urge the President to establish a National Correctional Officers and Employees Week so that all Americans can join us in honoring these very worthy individuals who contribute so much to our society.

RESULTS OF CODEL TO ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, this weekend three of my colleagues and I traveled to the State of Israel. We had several purposes for the visit. One was a show of solidarity with the Israeli people in terms of what has been going on. We visited a number of victims of terrorist acts, including American citizens, spent time with some families who had lost loved ones, children, 5-year-olds, 12-year-olds, 15-year-olds, again a number of them American citizens. We met with the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister, terrorism experts, the head of intelligence for the Israeli Army, but I think probably the most dramatic part of our visit was a review of a very small collection of arms that was captured during the recent Israeli incursion.

One thing that American television press has not given, I think, the American people any sense of is the amount and the type of weapons that the Israelis have seized over the last several weeks during their incursion. It is a staggering amount. It was an amount that if it were placed in this Chamber from floor to ceiling would more than fill this Chamber. The weapons are extensive, mortars, sniper rifles, night vision glasses, machine guns, weapons totally outlawed by the Oslo agreements.

But I have a picture here which in some ways is the most disturbing of any of the weapons, if they can be called weapons, that we saw and that have been captured in the incursion. This is a suicide or a murder belt, one of several that we saw and touched and examined. The belt itself is not a makeshift belt. It is a manufactured item. It is clearly manufactured with a certain degree of technology in the sense that it is well-sewn and PVC piping, as you can see, that is stuck inside of a vest. That was one version. There are other versions. But I think the