

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, every day we are reminded of the need for the Department of Homeland Security. Recently, the United States Marines were assaulted and several were killed in a terrorist ambush off the coast of Kuwait; deadly terrorist bombs exploded in Bali, Indonesia, killing hundreds; and a sniper is running loose right here in the District of Columbia.

Terrorism, whether international or domestic, is an unfortunate reality. The Department of Homeland Security can help keep Americans safe by ensuring a coordinated and effective response to terrorism.

On July 6, this House passed bipartisan legislation establishing a Department of Homeland Security. The President supports the House bill because it allows him the flexibility to meet any threat.

Now is the time for the Senate to act and pass this vital legislation for the protection of all Americans.

CONGRESS DID NOT AUTHORIZE COLONIZATION OF IRAQ OR SEIZURE OF ITS OIL

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, recent news reports that the administration plans to seize Iraqi oil and use the money to set up a military government in Iraq raise serious questions of the administration's intentions in the region. Congress did not authorize the colonization of Iraq.

Congress did not authorize the seizure of Iraqi oil. These reports released the day after the congressional vote raise serious questions about the administration's intentions for the region, the completeness of their disclosures to Congress, and the role of certain oil companies in U.S. foreign policy.

I believe that had the administration fully disclosed their plans before the congressional vote that they intended not only military occupation but colonization and seizure of oil belonging to the people of Iraq, there may have been a much different outcome in the vote.

The resolution passed by Congress authorizing enforcement of U.N. Security Council resolutions authorized not colonization and not taking things which do not belong to the United States.

HONORING THE LEXINGTON COUNTY MONUMENT FUND

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lexington County Monument Fund

which, on Veterans Day, will dedicate its monument to the veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the home-front.

This monument is one of the first in the Nation to recognize jointly the heroic efforts of the veterans of these three crucial war periods. Very importantly, it is the only one to recognize the sacrifices in support of the people back home who worked the farms, built and furnished equipment and supplies to the military, and kept family members safe.

We are especially honored that Brigadier General Paul W. Tibbets, the pilot of the Enola Gay, will serve as the keynote speaker at the dedication ceremony.

This monument is the result of the tireless efforts of Mr. THOMAS Comerford, chairman of the Monument Committee and Clerk of Court for Lexington County.

I would also like to pay special recognition to Mr. James St. Clair of Gaston, who provided invaluable assistance.

THE ECONOMY

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, while the President and his Republican colleagues continue to focus their attention on foreign policy, they regretfully leave behind a very important issue, one that affects millions of families across the country; that is, the economy. In the past 2 years 1.6 million people have lost their jobs, and 1.4 million more people lost their health care insurance last year alone. Americans have lost over \$4.5 million in the stock market since this President took office.

The massive Republican tax cut passed last year was supposed to help working families. It actually left us in a major recession.

We need to increase the minimum wage. We need to extend unemployment insurance for the hardest-working people in our country that lost their jobs because of this recession. Unemployment is at 5.5, and among Hispanics in our country it is a staggering 7.4 percent. In my district alone it is 10 percent.

This problem is real, and it is serious. We need to get to work on it. I ask Congress and the President to stop ignoring this issue and to come up with an economic stimulus plan for working families.

THE STATE OF THE U.S. ECONOMY

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

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the declining state of our economy. What has hap-

pened to our economy in these past 2 years? It is devastating. Health care costs and prescription drug costs are up. Employees are seeing their hard-earned retirement and 401(k) savings evaporate.

Despite these economic hardships, the Republicans continue to support big corporate interests, ignoring the economic troubles of America's working families. It is time that we call upon this administration and this Republican House to acknowledge, to acknowledge the serious economic difficulties that we now face.

We must stop draining the Social Security Trust Fund, and we must pass a Medicare prescription drug benefit that lowers drug prices and helps all seniors. We must get this economy moving in the right direction, and it is my hope that my colleagues will join me in trying to ease the economic strain facing American families.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken after debate has concluded on the motion to suspend the rules, but not before 2 p.m. today.

HEALTH CARE SAFETY NET AMENDMENTS OF 2002

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1533) to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and strengthen the health centers program and the National Health Service Corps, and to establish the Healthy Communities Access Program, which will help coordinate services for the uninsured and underinsured, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1533

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Health Care Safety Net Amendments of 2002".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—CONSOLIDATED HEALTH CENTER PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Sec. 101. Health centers.

Sec. 102. Telemedicine; incentive grants regarding coordination among States.

TITLE II—RURAL HEALTH

Subtitle A—Rural Health Care Services Outreach, Rural Health Network Development, and Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Grant Programs

Sec. 201. Grant programs.