

RECOGNIZING HELEN HUTT AND HER 75 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Helen Hutt, joining us in our gallery, a distinguished citizen from Ohio. When Helen first began her service to the American Red Cross, Calvin Coolidge was President of the United States, a first-class stamp cost 2 cents, and the first Academy Awards were presented. That was 1928. Since that time, Helen has touched countless lives through her 75 years of service to the American Red Cross.

Helen began her involvement with the Red Cross in 1928 when she became certified to teach swimming lessons. During World War II, she worked in the South Pacific as a "Doughnut Dolly," serving GIs coffee and doughnuts. In the 1950s and 1960s, she organized a "Learn to Swim" program for Port Clinton children and the blind. Helen worked as a local Disaster Relief Volunteer during the 1970s, and then volunteered at Magruder Hospital recruiting blood donors and sharing expertise with the Ottawa County Advisory Board. She is still an active volunteer for the Ottawa County district office of the Red Cross.

Throughout her years of volunteerism, Helen has received numerous honors, including the Volunteer of the Year Award for the Ottawa County District, and the highest local award for the Red Cross that it ever bestows, the Clara Barton Volunteer Leadership Award.

Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that this incredible American now is over 90 years of age and she will be receiving her 75-year volunteer pin at the National Red Cross Headquarters here in Washington, D.C., I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this magnificent American.

Congratulations. We are so very, very proud of you, Helen Hutt.

SIMPLE SAVINGS TAX RELIEF ACT

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the House will soon mark up tax legislation, including the elimination of dividend double taxation. I propose we also provide tax relief for interest earned from savings in bank accounts. I have introduced the Simple Savings Tax Relief Act, H.R. 1163, which would help all savers, including those in lower-income levels who do not earn corporate dividends.

Like dividend recipients, bank and credit union customers report interest as income to the IRS, increasing their tax burden. Let us not punish those who invest for a rainy day. Let us encourage them.

In 1998, the Joint Economic Committee wrote that exemption of interest from taxation is a significant economic step we should take, and "such a proposal would primarily benefit the low- and middle-income taxpayers."

H.R. 1163 would permit a single filer to earn up to \$200, \$400 for a joint filer, in bank account interest tax-free.

It is very simple: let us help those who are primarily low- and middle-income taxpayers today.

HONORING AMERICA'S SERVICEWOMEN

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month, to pay tribute to the dedication and courage of the millions of women who have served in the United States Armed Services.

Since the earliest days of our Nation, women have played an integral part in our military operations, either behind the front lines or in actual combat. As far back as the Revolutionary War, there are stories of women who posed as men so that they could go and fight at the frontline. Others offered their services as nurses. Still others worked to support the war movement by leaving their domestic roles to take on jobs that were necessary to maintain the Nation's economy.

More recently, the role of women in the armed services has greatly expanded. In 1978, women began to be assigned to duty aboard ships; in 1991, women were assigned to aircraft in both the Air Force and the Navy; and by 1994, the ban on women on combat ships was lifted, allowing women greater opportunities in our armed services.

As the war in the Persian Gulf looms ahead, we send our thanks and support to all our members of the armed services. But let us not forget the women and their contributions in this time of need.

ROLE OF THE RURAL EDUCATION CAUCUS

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

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, schools in rural districts face a barrage of problems unheard of in more populous areas. Country schools have continually had to confront the one-size-fits-all mentality of Washington, DC, when it comes to Federal education policy. For rural States like Montana, the sun always seems to set on the Potomac, where policymakers seem to ignore the rest of the map stretching 3,000 miles beyond that river.

In my home State, our schools fight year after year to come up with enough funding to cover the federally man-

dated Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, IDEA. In just 5 years, the estimated Federal shortfall in IDEA funding has cost my State nearly \$93 million, money that larger and wealthier school districts in more populous States can easily afford; but in Montana it is real money that comes out of funds for new teachers, computers, books and Internet access.

Our families in western and rural States deserve the same access to quality education for their children that urban families have. That is why I, along with the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND), the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON), have formed the bipartisan Rural Education Caucus. Together we have come together to devise solutions to the unique problems associated with the business of educating children in rural areas.

INVEST IN CHILDREN, THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have declared this week Children's Week. Their actions, however, speak louder than their words.

Last week they pushed for a budget that fails children and fails families. The Republican budget that barely passed fell \$6.15 billion short for funding title I, the largest source of Federal education aid to disadvantaged youth and the centerpiece of the Bush education reform program. It cut \$81 million from programs to improve State and local teacher quality, which was a stated goal of the President's education reform plan.

We must remember, Mr. Speaker, that the biggest challenge facing American families is how to bridge their responsibilities between work and caring for their children, and the budget that passed last week did nothing to help working parents.

Mr. Speaker, if my colleagues want to support children, they will not shy away from promises for our children in favor of big-money special interests. They will invest in children. Children are 25 percent of our population. They are 100 percent of our future.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL DAVID FRIBLEY

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

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart I stand before you today. Near An Nasiriyah, Iraq, Marine Lance Corporal David K. Fribley, from Atwood, Indiana, and seven of his fellow Marines were killed in the opening march of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Reports of the incident indicate that a

group of Iraqi soldiers approached the Marines under a flag of surrender and proceeded to open fire. It is tragic that Corporal Fribley died. It is outrageous that he was murdered under a white flag.

David grew up in Kosciusko County. There he attended Warsaw Community High School, where he lettered 4 years in football and track and field. A former teacher said of David that he could not think of anyone who worked harder, both on the field and the classroom.

David continued his track career at Indiana State University. After graduating from college in 2001, David moved to Fort Myers, Florida. The tragic events of September 11, 2001, his father said, played a major role in motivating David to join the Marine Corps.

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Lance Corporal David Fribley is survived by his parents, Gary and Linda Fribley, who remain residents of Kosciusko County. I ask that my colleagues join me and my fellow residents of the Third District in offering our most sincere condolences to the Fribley family and all who loved David.

DENIAL OF WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP TO TAIWAN IS UNJUSTIFIED

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, in mid-February the World Health Organization began reporting cases of an atypical pneumonia throughout Asia identified as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. Since then, more than 450 cases, with 17 deaths, have been reported in 13 countries.

As members of the World Health Organization, most of these countries have received assistance in confronting this pandemic, but Taiwan, not a member, has not received any assistance from WHO.

The WHO's refusal to assist Taiwan is unfair not only for the people of Taiwan but for the world at large, given the transnational nature of this outbreak. With a population of 23 million people, Taiwan is larger than 75 percent of the countries that belong to WHO and is prepared to contribute meaningfully to the global health efforts discussed at the World Health Assembly, but without membership or observer status, its delegates cannot even enter the room.

Taiwan has eradicated smallpox and cholera and polio and has achieved infant mortality rates on par with western countries.

Earlier this year, this House passed a bill ordering the State Department to endorse observer status for Taiwan at the World Health Assembly, yet the Bush administration continues to say no. The denial of WHO membership to Taiwan is an unjustifiable violation of its people's basic right to good health.

SUPPORT H. RES. 153, DESIGNATING A NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR OUR TROOPS

(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, we live in extraordinary times. Never in history has the public been able to experience a war so vividly, watching battles unfold on their television screens as the heroes of our military secure freedom and liberty for the people of Iraq and rid the world of the threat of Saddam Hussein and his weapons of mass destruction.

As these battlefield images can fill us with anxiety, it is now more important than ever to take time to pray for God's protection over our valiant soldiers and that he would grant wisdom, guidance, and strength to our Commander in Chief, President George W. Bush, and his team.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the proposal of the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN), House Resolution 153, to designate a national day of prayer and fasting. As it is written in the book of Psalms: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

May God bless our troops and may God continue to bless America.

TRIBUTE TO WORKERS AT MCALESTER AMMUNITION DEPOT

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

Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize almost 1,200 constituents of mine whose job is unknown to most Americans. They go to work every day at a 45,000 acre compound the size of the District of Columbia with a sense of pride and patriotism as they do their part to help this country defend our freedoms and fight the war on terrorism.

Ever since October, 1943, the McAlester Ammunition Depot has led our country in the production of ammunitions. Through World War II, the depot employed 8,000 people and produced 325,000 tons of ammunition. During the Korean and Vietnam Wars, the depot employed more than 3,000 workers. Today, this state-of-the-art maintenance and renovation facility for the weaponry of the United States Armed Forces continues to build vital ammo to defend and protect our great country.

These workers, most all of them civilians, come to work every single day with a very deep understanding about the purpose of their job. As one worker who has passed through those guarded gates for the last 14 years stated, "I have always felt a lot of pride having a job here. But now, when I come through that front gate, I just feel so good knowing that what we do supports

the people who are out there really taking care of this country."

Mr. Speaker, I will close by saying that I am proud and honored that I can call these 1,200 workers my constituents; and at a time when our Nation is at war, let us not forget those men and women in and out of uniform who dedicate their lives so that we can all live in peace and freedom.

LIBERATION FOR IRAQ COMING SOON

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, many have questioned whether or not a war with Iraq is just and if the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein is a threat to the world. Well, certainly the events of the last few days have shown just how brutal and how uncaring of human life Saddam and his gang of thugs actually are.

The Geneva Convention requires that prisoners of war be treated with dignity and protected at all times from torture and public humiliation. Just as Saddam has not followed the mandates imposed upon his regime by the ceasefire agreement of 1991 and the United Nations Security Council resolutions, he has now disregarded the Geneva Convention.

The need for our intervention in Iraq is now clearer than ever. If Saddam would so brutally violate international protocol with regard to prisoners of war, just think how badly he has repressed his own people.

This dictator, like countless others before him, will earn his fate.

Now there are reports of a popular uprising of the Iraqi people in Basra against Saddam's tyrannical regime.

I say to the people of Iraq, rise up and join our coalition fighting to secure your freedom. Rise up and embrace your liberation.

Liberation Day is coming soon to the Iraqi people.

TOWN HALL MEETING ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, March 28, at 1 o'clock, I shall join the Chicago Urban League, several Chicago land chapters of the NAACP, the National Association of Health Service Executives, the National Alliance of Black School Educators, and others in a town hall meeting to address the need for the continuation of affirmative action as a way of helping to level the playing field for all races and gender groups in employment, education, and upward mobility.

There has been tremendous progress in these areas, but not nearly enough. Therefore, we must continue to move