other fallen Americans. We do not yet know if Sergeant Buggs was killed in an ambush or later suffered torture. Yet we do know that Sergeant Buggs did not die in vain. He gave his life so that we could remain safe from Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction and so that the citizens of Iraq could be free from oppression.

Our prayers go out to the family and friends of Sergeant Buggs, especially his 12-year-old son, and we ask for God to bless our troops still fighting to protect our freedom.

ON YESTERDAY'S COMMENTS BY THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the comments yesterday from the Democratic Party's leader in the House should not surprise us. In case Members missed it, she said about Operation Iraqi Freedom, ''We could probably have brought down that statue for a lot less.''

It seems that the Democrats' political philosophy has been reduced to a collection of publicity gimmicks. Why should we expect their Washington leader to understand the deeper meaning of Operation Iraqi Freedom? The American people seem to understand what the Democratic leader apparently does not. This was not about a statue. To trivialize the suffering of our troops and the joyous liberation of our friends, the Iraqi people, is a sickening offense.

Politicians in Washington can have a tendency to be cynical, I suppose, but I would have thought the joy in the faces of the men and the women and the children of Iraq as they trampled on the image of their tormentor would cut through the most pessimistic cynic.

Mr. Speaker, the minority leader's comments were shocking and truly appalling.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 189 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 6.

□ 1015

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 6) to enhance energy conservation and research and development, to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes, with Mr. LAHOOD (Chairman pro tempore) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. When the Committee of the Whole rose on the legislative day of Thursday, April 10, 2003, amendment No. 17 printed in House Report 108–69 by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) had been disposed of.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 18 printed in House Report 108–69.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MRS. CAPPS

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 18 offered by Mrs. CAPPS: Strike section 30220.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 189, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) and a Member opposed each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I understand that Chairman Pombo has agreed to accept this amendment. I want to express my gratitude for his support. I will be brief and submit my full statement for the RECORD, but I do want to explain the purpose of this amendment to the House. This amendment would strike the bill's language requiring the Secretary of the Interior to inventory the oil and gas resources of the entire Outer Continental Shelf, including those areas now off-limits to new drilling. This would undermine current protections for sensitive coastal areas. President George H.W. Bush initiated, and President Clinton extended, moratorium protections for these coastal waters. And, of course, Congress has had a moratorium on new drilling in these areas for 20 years.

This section of H.R. 6 pushes to open these fragile coastal waters to the possibility of new drilling. There is widespread bipartisan support both nationally and locally against new drilling in these areas. Those of us who represent vibrant coastal communities like the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DAVIS), cosponsors of my amendment, know that our coastlines are too economically viable to risk more drilling. I want to thank my colleagues from Florida who have worked for years in a bipartisan manner on this issue. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), and other members of the Florida delegation have been extremely helpful with this amendment.

Finally, I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) for his support of this bipartisan amendment and the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) for helping get my amendment made in order.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I am offering this bipartisan amendment, with Mr. MILLER and Mr. DAVIS of Florida, to strike Section 30220 from the bill.

This section contains provisions that would seriously undermine current protections for sensitive coastal areas.

Section 30220 would circumvent the longstanding, bipartisan moratoria on new oil and gas drilling in particular areas of the Outer Continental Shelf.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed an executive moratorium ending new drilling off the entire U.S. West Coast, East Coast, Southwestern Florida, and Alaska's Bristol Bay.

This action was met with acclaim by the coastal communities it encompassed and, indeed, all of America.

In 1998, President Clinton extended President Bush's executive memorandum protections to 2012.

And, of course, Congress has had a moratorium on new drilling in these areas for twenty years. President George W. Bush endorsed the Congressional moratoria in his FY04 budget.

State officials—including Florida Governor Jeb Bush, California Governor Gray Davis and former New Jersey Governor Christine Whitman—have endorsed the moratoria.

The bill, however, lays the groundwork to reverse this broad bipartisan consensus by promoting activities—including exploratory drilling and seismic studies—in the OCS, including the areas that have been off limits to new oil and gas drilling for years.

Supporters of Section 30220 argue that it only calls for taking inventories and studying available resources on the OCS.

But I must ask . . . what is the purpose of this provision if not to open up the OCS areas to new oil and gas drilling in the future?

What is it we would do with this taxpayer funded ''information gathering,'' if not use it to pursue new drilling?

In fact, the bill requires the Secretary of Interior to make, and I quote, ''recommendations . . . that would lead to additional OCS leasing and development . . .''.

Mr. Chairman, we already know that large reserves of oil and gas are located in federal waters of the central and western Gulf of Mexico, which are currently open to oil and gas leasing.

According to the Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service, this area contains between 60 and 80 percent of the nation's economically recoverable oil and gas available in the entire OCS off the United States.

So, the protection of sensitive coastal areas through the longstanding moratoria still leaves the vast majority of the nation's oil and gas located on the OCS available to industry.

Section 30220 would also examine how laws, regulations, or programs might ''restrict or impede'' development of resources identified in the study.

In addition to determining how the OCS moratoria protections constrain development, this bill would erode the legitimate rights of coastal states and local governments to have a say in offshore and onshore development as embodied in the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA).

The CZMA is a critically important law that allows the state to weigh in on projects that may effect the state's coastal zone. Oil drilling is just such an activity.

The CZMA is the very law that the State of California recently used to halt the development of 36 undeveloped leases off my district in Central California.