

That is wrong, and we should do something about it.

Let me talk about the law because many people, particularly our friends at the FDA, are hiding behind the law. This is the actual law that they use to keep Americans from importing FDA-approved drugs from FDA-approved facilities, and here is what it says: The Secretary of the Treasury shall deliver to the Secretary of Health and Human Services upon his request samples of food, drugs, devices, and cosmetics which are being imported or offered for import to the United States, giving notice thereof to the owner or consignee who may appear before the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and some more legal goop, but here is what it comes down to. There are three criteria.

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The first is, if it appears from the examination of such samples or otherwise, that one such article has been manufactured, processed or packed under unsanitary conditions. We cannot say that about these drugs.

Or, two, such article is forbidden or restricted in sale in this country in which it was produced or from which it was exported. These are legal drugs in both the United States and in the other countries we are talking about.

Or, three, and this is the last one, such article is adulterated, misbranded or in violation of section 355 of this title. These drugs are legal. We are not talking about bringing in illegal drugs; we are talking about legal drugs from countries that are FDA approved.

It is not shame on them; it is shame on us for letting this situation exist.

Let me just tell you what this amounts to. Our own Congressional Budget Office tells us that, over the next 10 years, seniors in the United States of America will spend \$1.8 trillion on prescription drugs. Simple arithmetic, do the math yourself, we believe, and I think this is being very conservative, if we simply open up markets, as we do with every other product in this country, just open up those markets, we can save a minimum of 35 percent; 35 percent of \$1.8 trillion is \$630 billion. Shame on us.

We are going to be talking here on the House floor in the next several weeks about a prescription drug benefit, maybe under Medicare, maybe under Medicaid. Clearly there are a lot of seniors falling through the cracks. But the issue is not so much coverage; the issue is affordability. We need to do something about it.

I am going to introduce a bill later this week. I hope my colleagues will join me in cosponsoring that bill.

HONORING JOHN P. BROWN, III

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHOCOLA). 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 celebrate a favorite son of Ohio, a husband, father, grandfather, public servant, and State AMVETS President. I am speaking of John P. Brown, III.

Mr. Speaker, John's life story imbues the kind of selflessness and sacrifice that is indicative of so many of our veterans. He served two tours in Vietnam. He was chosen to serve in the elite Honor Guard at the U.S. Naval Station in Philadelphia. John's contributions did not end there, though. He and his wife have raised a wonderful family, including three children, Charlene, Stephanie and Christopher, and seven grandchildren.

For 31 years, John worked for Ameritech and its predecessors. And more recently, he worked as a military liaison for Ohio's 17th Congressional District.

In Ohio, John's name is synonymous with veterans advocacy. He has given, and he continues to give, greatly to many, many veterans causes. He is a former vice commander for Ohio AMVETS. He is the local post commander, the founder and trustee of the Mahoning Veterans Memorial. He has been the host of a veterans radio talk show for 19 years; and for the last year, he served honorably as the commander of Ohio AMVETS.

John's love of country and commitment to military service is shared by his wife, Jan C. Brown, who is retired from the United States Air Force. Together, J.P. and Jan Brown answer in the affirmative the challenge presented by President John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

Obviously, I could talk for quite some time about John's accomplishments and contributions, but I think it is more important for us to recognize what a decent, honorable, and rare man John is as a person.

The truth is that our democracy simply could not function without the sacrifice, dedication, and just plain hard work of people like John Brown. Many veterans are in his debt today, and so are many, many Ohioans.

Mr. Speaker, I go to John for guidance and advice regarding veterans health care and other issues important to our Nation's veterans, and he helps me be a better Congressman.

In recognition of John's many accomplishments, he is being honored at an AMVETS testimonial dinner in Youngstown, Ohio, on Saturday Evening. I cannot be at that event; but today, on this floor of the United States House of Representatives, I salute my friend, John P. Brown, III; and I honor his service to our country.

SNATCHING DEFEAT OUT OF THE JAWS OF VICTORY IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, for approximately 5 years I warned this body about the threat that the Taliban regime posed to the United States and the free world and the threat posed by the al Qaeda terrorist network, which was then operating out of Afghanistan. For years I was a voice in the wilderness; and later it was found, of course, that those warnings should have been heeded.

Tonight, I rise to alert my colleagues that our State Department may well be in the process of snatching defeat out of the jaws of victory in Afghanistan.

First and foremost, let us note that we, the American people, have not done right by the people of Afghanistan. These poor people, in their war-torn land, they again have helped us out, but again we have not stepped forward with the type of commitment to rebuild their country and to help them rebuild what would have been warranted by the sacrifices they have made.

Their bravery and their sacrifice helped defeat, not just helped defeat, it dramatically and specifically defeated the Soviet Army that was occupying their country, and that defeat of the Soviet Army was a major factor in the end of the Cold War. After the Cold War and after the Soviet Army left, we walked a way to leave them amidst land mines and rubble.

However, after we were attacked 10 years later by the Taliban and the al Qaeda, the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan, which are the northern tribes, you might say, of Afghanistan, rallied to our side and were instrumental in eliminating the Taliban regime and defeating al Qaeda. Without their support, we would have lost many hundreds, if not thousands, of troops in Afghanistan. These brave people, however, after they helped us defeat the Soviet Union, then they helped us defeat the Taliban, these brave people are still sleeping in the rubble.

We have not built, as Newt Gingrich noted recently, one new mile of road in Afghanistan. Three weeks ago, I was in Afghanistan and drove across the country on the same roads, the hole-pocked roads and horrible conditions that have existed there for years. Not one mile of new road, not one new energy project has been built, although most all Afghans live in the darkness of a nonelectric world.

We need to offer them a way out of their despair. We need to let them know that America's word counts and that they can count on us because they have helped us. We need to repay our debt to the people of Afghanistan. We need to offer them a way to lay down their rifles and pick up shovels and start rebuilding their country.

Instead, we have not done what is right by the people of Afghanistan, and our State Department seems to be not competent to get that job done, because for a year and a half the job has not been proceeding as it should.