

this week will be on these two trade agreements, which are frankly more of the same, more NAFTA, more hemorrhaging of jobs, more weakening of environmental and food safety laws, and all of the values we in this country hold dear.

Most of all, these trade agreements with Chile and Singapore are all about jobs. When we look at what has happened with NAFTA in the last 10 years since NAFTA passed this Chamber in November 1993, in these 10 years we have seen a trade surplus with Mexico turn into a huge trade deficit. We have seen job gains with Mexico and Canada turn into huge job losses. We have seen since Congress has passed Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China and Most-favored Nation status temporary renewals every year the last dozen years. We have seen our trade deficit with China go from \$100 million in 1990, to \$100 billion in 2002.

Every billion dollars, according to President Bush, Sr., meant a loss of 18,000 jobs. So with a trade deficit of \$450 billion, all we have to do is do the math to understand why the job picture in this country is so bleak and with passing Chile and Singapore trade agreements and the rest of the President's trade agenda, Central America free trade agreement, Free Trade Act to the Americas to extend NAFTA to the whole hemisphere, we understand why the job picture in the future is even bleaker.

Mr. Speaker, 2 days ago on Sunday I spoke to a rally of Goodyear workers in Akron, Ohio. There are 14 Goodyear plants scattered across the United States. There were rallies held by the Steel Workers, formerly the Rubber Workers, at each of these 14 plants across this great country. Everyone that came up to me before, during, and after the rally talked about job loss, talked about their anxiety, economic insecurity and kept asking why does President Bush want a trade agreement with Singapore, why does President Bush want a trade agreement with Chile, why does President Bush want to extend NAFTA to Central America and why does President Bush want to extend NAFTA to all of Latin America.

Those workers understand that trade is a four-letter word, and it is spelled J-O-B-S. They spell better than President Bush and the leadership in this Congress because they understand that these trade policies with Chile, with Singapore, with a Central America free trade agreement, with the Free Trade Act with the Americas, these trade agreements, in addition to weakening our environmental standards, in addition to undercutting labor standards, in addition to weakening food safety standards, in addition to undercutting what we hold dear in this country, they understand these trade agreements more than anything else are about jobs. They are about the loss of jobs, about the hemorrhaging of jobs, about jobs going overseas year after year after year; and they are not coming

back unless we change our trade policy.

H.R. 693, MILITARY DEATH GRATUITY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Members can see beside me and behind me are photographs of men and women who have died in Operation Freedom; and the reason I come to the floor with these photographs, I do not want us as Members of Congress to ever forget, not that we ever would, the high cost of freedom, because someone has given a life to ensure that the American people as well as the people of Iraq can have the freedom that we in America are guaranteed by our Constitution.

The reason I wanted to come to the floor is because many of my colleagues, as well as people throughout this country, do not realize that each and every family that has a loved one killed in the military receives what is called a death gratuity. It is a small amount of money, I do not think it is enough, but it is a check for \$6,000. What makes it even worse than the amount is a tax on part of the \$6,000.

In the 107th Congress, I introduced legislation to eliminate the tax, and let me say that the House did its job in a bipartisan way and passed the legislation, sent it over to the other body and they failed to act on that legislation. Because of that, Mr. Speaker, families throughout this country, actually 292 military families, had to pay a tax on the death gratuity they received on the death of a loved one serving this Nation and possibly fighting for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, if the other body does not pass this legislation that we have sent over there again this year, meaning 2003, very possibly in 2004 there could be as many as 200 to 300 families in this country that will receive from Uncle Sam a notice that they owe tax on the death gratuity. I think this is unacceptable. I think it is deplorable that any family that would give a loved one to serve this Nation who has given their life to protect freedom would next year receive a tax notice from Uncle Sam.

Mr. Speaker, I think that is unacceptable. I think the other body needs to do its job and pass legislation to ensure that in the year 2004 the families who lose loved ones serving this Nation will not have to pay a tax on a \$6,000 death gratuity. I think we as Congress must ensure that the families who have lost those loved ones will not be asked by Uncle Sam to pay a tax on the small amount of \$6,000 for that loved one who has given their life. I close by encouraging the other body to do its job and

not leave this fall and not have passed this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I close as I always do in my district, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform, I ask God to please bless their families, I ask God to please bless the families who have lost loved ones, I ask God to please bless the House and Senate that we will do what is right in the eyes of God, I ask God to please bless the President of the United States that he will do what is right in the eyes of God, and I ask three times, God please, God please, God please continue to bless America.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, this morning I would like to rise to urge my colleagues to listen a bit about this discussion that I am going to enter into regarding the U.S.-Chile and U.S.-Singapore free trade agreements. And as one of my colleagues said, it is about jobs, J-O-B-S.

Mr. Speaker, understand I am not opposed to free trade. I want to underscore that we want to seek fair trade, and I point out the chart next to me because I want to talk about the high unemployment rates in my country, but also here in my own district. Right now the national percentage for unemployment is 6.4. I have communities in my district that have well above 10.8 percent unemployment. Many of the job losses have stemmed from jobs going abroad, particularly in the garment industry, in light manufacturing and other jobs like that.

I want to point out that if we do move forward with the U.S.-Chile and U.S.-Singapore free trade agreements, we should try to enact legislation that would provide fair treatment of people who enter into this country. One of the questions I have right now is that this trade agreement with Chile and Singapore is not fair. What it would do is allow for a vast influx of foreign temporary workers from low-wage nations that would be competing with our communities, with people who are faced with not having jobs right now, who are well trained, by the way.

I would like to draw Members' attention that last night as I was watching the news on Channel 7, they were doing a depiction of people who had recently lost their jobs, people who had considerable training and background and degrees, people in finance and technology. They are now working at the local hamburger stop, or in marketing positions that pay well below \$9 an hour, or somewhere around minimum wage, \$5.15.

I think it is a disgrace that we are not doing enough to focus in on those individuals who we represent in our communities. I would like to ask this