

dealing with the language of partial-birth abortion. We are asked to suspend our knowledge of pain pathways and assume that a scalpel laceration, skull fracture, dural tear, and brain laceration will pass unnoticed by the child, as long as his or her head is still in the birth canal.

By any measure, intact dilatation and extraction performed in the last trimester of pregnancy is never the only option for concluding a pregnancy when the mother's health is compromised. Induction of labor or Cesarean section may both be used to complete a pregnancy when the mother's health is threatened.

The only theoretic advantage of a partial-birth abortion is this: It guarantees that the baby will be dead upon delivery.

BEWARE OF BUSH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS BEARING MEDICARE BENEFITS

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, when the House voted on the Medicare bill, we and the American people were told its cost was \$400 billion. Later, we found out that the Bush administration and congressional leaders knew all along it would cost actually \$550 billion. What is a mere \$150 billion among friends?

Not a single benefit has gone to a senior citizen, and the taxpayers are stuck with an additional \$150 billion on top of the misappropriated \$400 billion. Beware of Bush administration officials bearing Medicare benefits.

Prescription drug costs have skyrocketed over the last several years, six times the rate of inflation. It is like a sale at Nieman Marcus: Prices are jacked up by 50 percent before the discount of 25 percent.

In 2001, drug costs increased by 16 percent; in 2002, 18 percent; in 2003, 19.5 percent. The prescription drug benefit will do nothing to protect senior citizens from skyrocketing cost increases.

Instead of depending on a flawed Medicare law that punishes taxpayers and does little to help our senior citizens, we need to lower drug prices here in the United States by allowing competition and choice to exist in the market and allow people to buy their drugs in Canada and Europe where they are 50 percent cheaper than here in the United States.

RECOGNITION OF UPCOMING ELECTIONS IN BELARUS

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the upcoming elections in Belarus.

While most of the former Eastern Bloc countries have demonstrated

varying degrees of democratic progress since the Soviet collapse, Belarus has slipped back into a Soviet Union-style dictatorship. Belarus's current President, Alyaksandr Lukashenka, was elected in July, 1994. The country's political and economic repression intensified in 1996 when President Lukashenka orchestrated passage of a constitutional referendum that provided him control over all of the branches of government and society as a whole. The President then disbanded the parliament, and only those members loyal to him chose to serve in the new legislature. He extended his term of office to 2001, and the 2001 election lacked transparency and democratic administration.

In response to the repressive political environment, we need to focus our efforts on helping to promote an institutional survival of the country's democratic political organizations and helping their leaders and activists prepare for political and public policy roles in a future democratic Belarus.

The important thing for the current regime in Belarus to understand is that Washington and the world are watching.

MOURNING THE DEATHS IN FALLUJAH

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

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, if we wanted to understand the line that divides good versus evil, it was drawn in Fallujah yesterday.

Four people were providing security to deliver food to the people of Fallujah, and some of the people that they were seeking to feed killed them, mutilated them, massacred them.

Mr. Speaker, today's Wall Street Journal said this of the situation in Iraq: "It is not a good sign that Iraqis feel free to mutilate the bodies of dead Americans in front of the world's TV cameras." Then it goes on to say, "A year without justice has also been a year without enough deterrence, and Fallujans now have more reasons to fear the consequences of working with the Americans than the consequences of killing them."

Today we mourn the deaths of four people who believed in a better world.

In the White House, the Pentagon, and the State Department, we must redouble efforts to ensure that the perpetrators of these crimes are punished. Justice will lead to security, security will lead to stability, stability will lead to democracy, and democracy will bring again justice and liberty for all.

HONORING THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS OF INDIAN ORIGIN

(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 highlight the important work of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, or AAPI, which includes 35,000 physicians and 10,000 medical students and residents throughout America.

Indian-American physicians have been pioneers in medicine and health care for centuries, and by working together through AAPI, they have made important contributions to the American medical profession. In South Carolina, Indian-American doctors such as Dr. Kaushal Sinha are especially meaningful, giving service in rural communities.

Also, an Indian-American, Dr. Seshadri Raju, performed a life-saving double-lung transplant on my predecessor and mentor, the late Congressman Floyd Spence. Congressman Spence incredibly lived an additional 13 years thanks to Dr. Raju and then was able to serve his country as chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking AAPI for their visionary leadership in health care, particularly President Dr. Sharad Lakhnarpal, as well as Dr. Rakesh Shreedhar, Dr. Sampat Shivangi, and Dr. Raghavendra Vijayanagar.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

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PRESIDENT BUSH SHOULD TAKE HIS OWN ADVICE TO HEART

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

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration refuses to jawbone or pressure OPEC to increase oil production while the American consumer at the gas pump is being tipped upside down and money is being shaken out of their pockets every single day. This is wrong. The President should jawbone OPEC to increase oil production, not to lower the production of oil.

Here is what the President said to Bill Clinton 4 years ago. He said, "What I think President Clinton ought to do is to get on the phone with OPEC and to say we expect you to open your spigots. One reason why the price is so high is because the price of crude oil has been driven up. OPEC has gotten its supply act together and is driving up the price like it did in the past. And the President of the United States must jawbone OPEC members to lower the price." That is the advice George Bush as candidate gave to Bill Clinton.

Now that he is President, he says he cannot jawbone OPEC, that it would be wrong; but the price is being paid by the consumer at the gas pump every single day.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MORTON SALT PLANT

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

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of the Morton Salt plant, a company from Wayne County in Rittman, Ohio. I am confident that you will recognize this company by the Morton umbrella girl, a familiar sight on the Morton products, and by the slogan "When It Rains It Pours." What you may not know is the long history of safety that the Rittman plant has experienced.

Today, I rise to recognize the dedicated employees of the Morton plant in Rittman, Ohio, for the recent achievement of 5 million work hours without a lost-time incident. This is a record within the Morton Salt Company as well as the entire North American salt industry.

Since 1848, the Morton Salt Company has been North America's leading producer and marketer of salt for home, water conditioning, industrial, agriculture, and highway use. Morton's Rittman's facility employees process thousands of tons of household salt each day.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, mining and manufacturing can be high-risk professions. This plant employs approximately 285 employees. And since June of 1995, injury accidents have not forced any worker to take time off from work. This milestone shows the dedication to health and safety of these people. I congratulate all of them for their outstanding achievement.

RECOGNIZING JACK DANIEL'S DISTILLERY ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL AT THE 1904 ST. LOUIS WORLD'S FAIR

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

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, as the current Member of Congress representing Jack Daniel's and its employees, it is my honor to pay tribute to this Tennessee treasure.

Since 1863, in the spirit of George Washington, the father of the American distillery industry, the Jack Daniel's distillery, has produced the most popular Tennessee whiskey. Jack Daniel's has produced and responsibly brought a part of Tennessee heritage to millions of adult consumers in 135 countries around the world. Jack Daniel's Tennessee whiskey is the United States' number one exported distilled spirit.

Jack Daniel's, located in Moore County in the 4th Congressional District of Tennessee, has a long tradition of bringing friends and neighbors together. Furthermore, it has been a

major source for employment and tourism revenue in Moore County and Lynchburg, Tennessee.

I would like to express the U.S. House of Representatives' heartfelt congratulations on the 100th anniversary of Jack Daniel's 1904 World's Fair Gold Medal.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT CARDS

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

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, 2 months from today, American senior citizens will begin to realize discounts on their pharmaceutical medications. June 1 is when Medicare-approved prescription drug discount cards hit the streets, and savings between 10 and 25 percent on their life-saving drugs take effect.

This is a much-needed first step for seniors seeking relief on their monthly bills. These Medicare-approved discount cards are part of the new Medicare law that Congress passed and the President signed. It includes coverage of pharmaceutical costs, some new preventative care benefits, like free physical exams and better care for seniors with chronic illnesses.

To learn more, I am urging my constituents in northern Illinois to call 1-800-MEDICARE, that is, 1-800-MEDICARE, or log on to WWW.MEDICARE.gov. These two informative sources run by the Department of Health and Human Services will provide unfiltered, unfettered news seniors can use about their new drug benefits.

MEDICARE PROVIDES EMPLOYERS INCENTIVE TO KEEP PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE FOR RETIREES

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to set the record straight on the Medicare prescription drug plan. Since the mid-1980s, the number of employers offering prescription drug coverage to their retirees has been declining steadily. In 1988, 66 percent of employers provided these benefits to retirees. In the year 2000, it was only 34 percent.

To address this alarming trend, the Medicare prescription drug bill provides employers an incentive to keep their coverage. They are going to get 28 cents for every dollar that they spend on prescription drug benefits for their retirees. This applies to all employer-sponsored prescription drug coverage and those of corporations, unions, and government entities.

Because of these incentives, AARP and the American Medical Association endorse the bill that we passed last

year. It is unfortunate that Democrats continue to twist the truth and distort the facts by scaring seniors into believing that this bill would cause them to lose benefits. That is the furthest thing from the truth. What the Democrats do not tell seniors is that for the first time Congress has acted to slow this trend.

THE NEW HIGHWAY BILL

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, since the days of the Roman Empire, nations have understood the connection between roads and prosperity and national security. And today Congress will deliberate on a new highway bill, which I will support only if it can be fiscally responsible and fair to so-called donor States like Indiana.

But I rise at the outset of this debate to congratulate the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the membership of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for resisting the temptation to raise gasoline taxes. With the news this morning that OPEC will be cutting production and raising the cost of crude, that gasoline is at \$3 a gallon on the West Coast, I am personally grateful to the chairman of the transportation committee and all of its membership for saying with regard to this highway bill, no new taxes.

LET US SOLVE THE INEQUITIES IN THE TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, as we debate the transportation reauthorization bill today, I think we need to abide by one simple principle: solutions for transportation safety, congestion, and pollution and transit should not be determined by which Members face difficult campaigns or which Members sit on influential committees. These kinds of determinations are being made in H.R. 3550 unless we make some changes to it.

This approach to funding is inconsistent, especially with the stated objectives of the bill, and it results in inequitable distribution of funding between the States.

As we debate the reauthorization, we need to consider solutions that give States discretion and flexibility in the use of funding, financed by their own citizens and highway users.

I have an amendment before the House today that would neither strike nor prevent Members from securing earmarks for their district. What it would do, however, is prevent those States that benefit disproportionately from earmarks from drawing funding away from States that, in spite of a few earmarks, end up faring much worse.