

Last weekend, the Reverend Billy Graham held what could be his last crusade. The crusade in New York marked the culmination of a life dedicated to preaching faith, equality, and love to people the world over.

As a young man growing up in rural Kansas, I remember gathering in front of the television set with my mom and dad to hear this man speak. With integrity and truth he spoke of God's love for all people and our need to know this love in our own hearts. Even at that young age, I sensed that there was something special about this man; and, as I grew older, his words were a source of strength to my faith.

In times of trouble and disaster, we turn to God for strength and comfort. Three days after September 11, 2001, as our Nation grieved the loss of life, America needed to have its faith restored. Our sense of peace that we had felt in our neighborhoods and our towns and our country had been severely shaken, and our belief in the goodness of man had been severely challenged.

Billy Graham, showing the effects of Parkinson's disease and age, slowly climbed the steps to the pulpit at the National Cathedral during a service to reflect upon these events. Although physically frail, the strength of his spirit projected confidence. With the assurance of his faith, he helped us understand that despite the evil that we had seen, God's love remains, God's love never fails and, with that love as our foundation, we could prevail. Reverend Graham's words gave meaning to the lives lost and restored faith to a mourning Nation.

In 1957, Billy Graham held his first of seven crusades in New York City. Although his crusade in 1957 occurred at a time in our Nation's history when race divided all, Reverend Graham refused to preach in segregated audiences.

To begin one night of the crusade in 1957, Reverend Graham invited Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to give an opening prayer. Another night of the crusade, the event was presented in Spanish. Reverend Graham and his team went to great lengths to ensure that the crusade meetings were accessible to those with disabilities. Although he had intended the crusade to last only 6 weeks, he stayed 16, in order to meet the needs of the people of New York.

By refusing to restrict his message to one audience, Billy Graham affirmed the equality of all people and God's equal love for all. Returning last weekend to New York City, Reverend Graham continued sharing his message of faith, equality, and love for all people.

Billy Graham has been a spiritual adviser to every President since my fellow Kansan, Dwight D. Eisenhower. He has written 24 books. His radio program "Hour of Decision" has been broadcast on Sundays around the world for more than 50 years. Reverend

Graham has even been rated 47 times by the American people as one of the "Ten Most Admired Men in the World." However, it is his ability to reach people with the message of God's love that makes Billy Graham truly a special man.

Throughout his ministry, Billy Graham has preached to over 210 million people in more than 185 countries and territories. Yet, it is his personal impact on my life and the encouraging words that he has left with our Nation that I am most grateful for and will always cherish.

Marking the occasion of his last crusade, I rise tonight to honor and thank Reverend Billy Graham for his influence on my life, on our Nation, and the world.

IN SUPPORT OF FULLY FUNDING THE NEEDS OF OUR VETERANS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, for 2 years, the Democrats in the House have been saying that the veterans budget is underfunded. It has been denied by the Bush administration. Last year we were joined by the Republican chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) who knew that the veterans budget was underfunded. For supporting us in the effort to increase veterans spending to help meet the promises and the obligations of our government and the American people to those who have served our country in its time of need, he was removed from the committee chairmanship. He was torn out of that position because he had the temerity to say there was not enough money to meet the obligations to America's veterans.

As recently as yesterday, the Republican leadership resisted a Democratic amendment on a party-line vote to increase funding for veterans benefits because they said there was no problem.

Now, today they are scrambling to find \$2.6 billion that they admit the budget is underfunded, and they say, well, no, we blame the actuaries. The political hack that Bush appointed to be head of the Veterans Administration, the former Republican National Committee chair, said they did not realize there was a war in Iraq or Afghanistan. The estimates were made in 2002, and he had not read the paper since. So he did not know there were any veterans coming home who had lost their limbs, who were grievously injured. So they did not revise those things until just yesterday, when they realized they are \$1 billion short for this year and \$2.6 billion short for next year.

Come on. Do you think the American people believe that the Bush administration does not read the papers, does not realize we are at war in Iraq and Afghanistan, when there are tens of thousands of Americans coming home

who are only asking one thing: you made me a promise when I signed up and put my life on the line. You promised you would take care of me if I was wounded, and you promised you would take care of my family if I died. That is a pretty simple promise. We have made that to every person who signed up in an all-volunteer military, and this administration has broken that promise.

I have veterans who have been waiting 6 months for an initial appointment, veterans in pain who cannot get operations, and they say, come back in 2 years, 2 years. This has been going on for years now. Two years this has been going on with this administration as they slash the veterans budget, and they deny there is a problem and suddenly they say, it was their actuaries who were wrong because they made a prediction in 2002 and the Bush administration did not notice that we were at war since then and that we had a whole lot more veterans.

This is extraordinary. An administration that wants to wrap itself in the flag and talk about supporting the troops who is not willing to put up the money to deliver on the solemn promises that we have made to these veterans and to their dependents and to their families. This is outrageous. And just yesterday, they defeated, on a party-line vote, an amendment just to put \$1 billion back in and take that money from the millionaires and billionaires in America, to reduce their tax cuts from \$141,000 to \$129,000 a year. Most Americans do not even earn that, but the Republicans could not even vote to reduce the millionaires' tax cuts that much to fully fund for this year, not next year, veterans benefits. We are going to need a lot more money next year for veterans who are going to need services. It is going to be very expensive to meet our promises and our obligations.

It is time that this administration and this Republican-led Congress acted in good faith to fully fund those benefits. No more denial of medical services and benefits to veterans because we say we do not have enough money. We have the money if we can restrict the permanent tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires to give to our Nation's veterans, those who have given so much in service to our country.

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

(Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HOPE IN THE DARKNESS

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

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I stand on the floor of this House tonight with great hope in my heart for

the future of this country, because even a cursory survey of America's history should impart hope to all of us.

By the time the 1860s had come to America, the world had marked 7,000 years of powerful societies enslaving their fellow human beings. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, this was also true of America. However, this country was never truly at peace in her heart with the hellish institution of slavery.

So it was that slaves began to earnestly pray in America for God to intervene. Mr. Speaker, it seems that God sent them Abraham Lincoln, a man who understood the true meaning of those magnificent words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, and among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Mr. Speaker, our Founding Fathers wrote those words down for us because they did not want us to forget their true meaning or to otherwise fall prey to those who would deliberately destroy it. This has always been the preeminent reason why we write down documents or agreements or declarations or, Mr. Speaker, constitutions in the first place, to preserve their original meaning and intent.

When the smoke of a horrible Civil War finally drifted from the air, 7,000 years of the world accepting the unrequited toil and misery of human slavery was over. The prayer of slaves had been answered, and the United States of America began to emerge as the true flagship of human freedom in the world.

But only 100 years later, we began to stray from that path. We began to think only of ourselves; and in 1973, *Roe v. Wade* was handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court and brought wholesale abortion-on-demand to the land of the free, and a veil of darkness fell upon America.

In that darkness we heard, but disregarded, the mortal cry of one little baby in the womb, and then another, and even another was heard, until that sound had become the soul-wrenching cry of tens of millions. And we found ourselves and our national conscience disoriented and awash in the blood of our own children. Millions of prayers called out for yet another leader to remind us of those forever words that speak the divine message of human dignity: all men, all men are created equal.

Mr. Speaker, from the time we are conceived, all human beings are created equal. We do not become equal when we reach a certain age or status. This is America's creed. This is our foundation. And how grateful we should all be that our Founding Fathers wrote those words down, and how desperate our commitment should be to remember what they mean.

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And now that test has come upon us, for there is soon an opportunity for the

President of the United States to nominate individuals to the Supreme Court who understand that all men are created equal. And Mr. Speaker, I believe in my soul that this President truly understands those words. Indeed, it is his commitment to their meaning that has given him the courage to stand resolutely against terrorists to protect innocent human life. But this president and each one of us must never forget that *Roe vs. Wade* has taken more than 15,000 times the number of lives lost on that tragic day on September 11. And we now live in a time when there is a glimmer of light breaking on the road before us. But the curve just ahead, Mr. Speaker, is sharp, and to miss it may be to forever plunge into that darkness. And the voice of destiny calls to this president, to our president and to all of us in these decisive days to steel our hearts and to ask anew, is it still true in America that all men are created equal?

Mr. Speaker, our legacy to future generations and the survival of human freedom in the world will depend upon our answer.

May God bless America and may God bless President George W. Bush.

CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last week, finally, and mercifully, the national basketball season drew to a close. But the debate on the Central American Free Trade Agreement goes on and on and on. Last year, during 2004, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the most powerful Republican Member of the House, promised that we would vote by the end of the year, by December 31, 2004; promised we would vote on the Central American Free Trade Agreement. They clearly did not have enough votes to pass it, so he did not bring it up.

The gentleman from Texas then promised a vote on the Central American Free Trade Agreement by Memorial Day. Again, the votes were not there. He did not bring it up. Now the gentleman from Texas promised there would be a vote on CAFTA by July 4. We leave town tomorrow or Friday. Clearly, it will not come up for a vote. Again, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) did not have the votes in order to pass it. The reason that the Central American Free Trade Agreement has not been voted on by this House is the majority of Members, dozens of Republicans and dozens of Democrats, workers in small businesses, farmers and ranchers, environmentalists and food safety advocates, the religious leaders in Latin America, person after person after person has said to this Congress: Renegotiate CAFTA. We do not want

this agreement. And the reason that people say renegotiate CAFTA and do not vote on this CAFTA or defeat this CAFTA is because our trade policy simply is not working.

If you look at this chart, 1992, the year I ran for Congress, we had a trade deficit in this country of \$38 billion. That means we exported \$38 billion less than we imported. A dozen years later in 2004, last year, our trade deficit was \$618 billion. From \$38 billion to \$618 billion. Clearly, our trade policy in this country is not working. Now maybe these are just numbers. These are just trade deficit numbers.

But Mr. Speaker, if you really look at what that means, that kind of trade deficit, it means we are outsourcing, we are losing all kinds of manufacturing jobs in our country. This chart of the 50 States shows the States, the States in red are States that have lost 20 percent of their manufacturing. Those in blue have lost 15 to 20 percent of their manufacturing. Ohio, my home State has lost 216,000 manufacturing jobs in only 5 years. Pennsylvania, 200,000; New York 222,000; Michigan, 210,000; Illinois, 214,000. Then you look at Mississippi and Alabama, have lost 130,000. The Carolinas, over 300,000. California, 353,000; Texas, 2001,000. These are manufacturing jobs that have simply disappeared, in large part jobs that have been shipped overseas because of failed U.S. trade policies, yet President Bush wants to continue this same sort of trade policy that our country has followed.

And when you look at 216,600 jobs in Ohio, that is just a number, too. But think what that means to a community. York Manufacturing in Elyria, Ohio, about 5 miles from where I live in Lorain, Ohio, York manufacturing shut down, moved a lot of their production to Mexico; 700 people lost their jobs. That is 700 bread winners did not have jobs. If they had jobs at all, they had jobs that paid much less than they were making. It hurt the school system in Elyria. It hurt the city, police and fire protection in Elyria because the city lost money, lost revenue, lost tax dollars. That is what it does to families, what it does to communities, what it does to our schools, what it does to our States. It clearly is not in the national interest to continue this kind of trade policy where we have huge trade deficits getting worse every year, and then we have this kind of manufacturing job loss.

Mr. Speaker, every year, every time there is a trade agreement, the President says and he promises that we will have more jobs, more manufacturing that will export products overseas and bring up the standard of living in those countries. Every time the President promises that, every time we pass a trade agreement, the opposite happens.

Mr. Speaker, Ben Franklin said the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and over and expecting a different result. Yet the President wants to continue this kind