

## TEXAS SHERIFF RICK FLORES

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, this past weekend I traveled to the United States-Mexico border and spent time patrolling the Rio Grande River with Sheriff Rick Flores and his deputies of Webb County, Texas. Sheriff Flores is a determined lawman. He is fighting invasion of illegal immigration and the war against the dangerous, violent drug cartels that are slithering into the United States.

Flores has only 13 deputies to patrol a county bigger than Delaware. In the tense border towns like Laredo, Rio Bravo and El Cenizo, the war between the drug cartels is waging and getting more dangerous every day. These drug outlaws have more money, extra manpower, better electronic equipment, a better intelligence network, and better firepower than the sheriff and his posse.

The sheriff needs Humvees, body armor, off-road vehicles, satellite phones, GPS systems and much more to fight this battle against drug cartels and human smugglers. Madam Speaker, Sheriff Flores has a passion to protect Texas and all of America. Sheriff Flores put it best when he said protecting our borders is not a partisan issue, it is a red, white, and blue issue. Madam Speaker, that is just the way it is.

## CHILDREN AT RISK

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, every day on the floor, we have much spirited debate. Often there is some agreement. But I think there is one thing that every Member of this Chamber can agree, the needless loss to water-borne disease of a child every 15 seconds. Four children will die before I finish my 1-minute here this morning. This sum is a tragedy that we must and should act to avert.

The good news is it is something we can change. We can make water and sanitation a cornerstone of United States foreign aid policy. We have legislation moving through our House International Relations Committee, passed unanimously, that would make this important change. There is legislation on the other body, encouragingly introduced by both the majority leader and the minority leader, that is parallel in nature.

Yesterday, Chairman HYDE and I invited each Member of the House to join over 60 other bipartisan cosponsors to add their names to H.R. 1973, the Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act. This critical bipartisan legislation will enable the United States to fulfill our international obligation and prevent this tragic, unnecessary loss of life around the world.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. JOEL STUBBLEFIELD

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a dedicated educator, Joel Stubblefield, who passed away last week. Mr. Stubblefield assumed the role of chancellor at the University of Arkansas, Fort Smith, in 2002. Without his vision and efforts, that role would have never existed. While he always gave the credit to others, Mr. Stubblefield's initiatives transformed Westark, which was a very successful 2-year community college which he had been president of for many, many years, into a full-fledged 4-year institution that became part of the University of Arkansas system.

Under his stewardship, UAFS blossomed, the faculty ranks doubled, student enrollment nearly doubled and private giving, a measure of the school support, skyrocketed. He worked tirelessly to accomplish these feats. In fact, he worked so hard that at one point the school's trustees had to vote to force him to take a vacation.

Madam Speaker, 2 days ago I joined over 1,000 people at the UAFS campus to say our final good-byes to Joel Stubblefield. While he may no longer be with us, the impact he left on the community of Fort Smith will remain literally for generations to come. He was dedicated in every way to making a difference in the lives of his students, and our communities are a better place because of his efforts.

## TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR PAKISTANI NATIONALS

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am on a mission of mercy today to acquire temporary protected status for Pakistani nationals in this country. Madam Speaker, as we know, Pakistan has been devastated by a 7.6 Richter scale earthquake. Thousands upon thousands are without homes. Thousands upon thousands have died. There is much assistance needed. The Pakistani nationals in the country, Madam Speaker, would be given an opportunity to stay for an additional 12 months, which would give the country an opportunity to try to recover from the devastation that it has suffered.

Madam Speaker, this is a bipartisan effort. I thank all of those on both sides who are supporting H.R. 4073. This is the right thing for us to do. The Pakistani people are suffering. These are our allies in the war on terrorism, and this would give us an opportunity to clearly extend the hand of friendship to those who have been of assistance to us.

## PRIME MINISTER, FREE THE DALITS

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, earlier this month a human rights conference was held on Capitol Hill on the issue of the Dalits of India. We learned that India's caste system was established 3,000 years ago. It allows a powerful few to dominate the many, but not everyone has a caste.

A group once called the Dalits, "the untouchables," have none. They are literally outcast, some 250 to 300 million people. Often the Dalits are treated worse than animals, denied access to water, food, health care, even clothing, because they are deemed unworthy of these things. The vast injustice done to these people is indescribable. The Dalits are attacked not only physically, but various community members, sometimes even the police, attack them.

India is a great friend to America. As the world's largest democracy, it holds limitless potential; but just as slavery and the unequal treatment of African Americans blemished our record for much of our history, so the treatment of Dalits will hold our friend India back.

Countries that protect the rights and freedoms of all people are more stable and more prosperous. Once America came to accept that all citizens were equal and deserved equal opportunity to build a better life, we became a stronger Nation, and our calls for freedom elsewhere carry more credibility, because we grant it to all of our citizens. If they free the Dalits, India's will, too.

## OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in opposition to the proposed Republican budget cuts and the harmful impact that will have on women across the country. The Republican budget slashes Medicaid by \$10 billion, a vital program for the health and welfare of women of all ages. It provides essential care such as family planning, breast and cervical cancer treatment, and care for disabled women to more than 16 million women, including approximately 10 million women of child-bearing age. In California alone, in my State, over 3.7 million women of all ages are enrolled in Medicaid and 1.3 million Medicaid beneficiaries are recipients in Los Angeles County. Medicaid ensures that women receive a full spectrum of maternity coverage, including prenatal, labor, delivery, and postpartum care. Medicaid is one of the largest sources of funding for women over the age of 80 living in nursing homes, covering nursing home costs and long-term care services.

These facts demonstrate that Medicaid is a significant health safety net program for women. The proposed Republican budget cuts billions from Medicaid. I urge my colleagues to reject the Medicaid budget cuts and to provide full funding for women and their children and for the vital safety of children.

□ 1015

#### SLOGANS, NOT SOLUTIONS, FROM DEMOCRATS

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, we are at a financial crossroads. My Republican colleagues and I are committed to fiscal responsibility, while Democrats merely propose slogans and catch phrases to hide behind their tax-and-spend policies.

Over the past 3 years, Democrats have offered amendments totaling tens of billions of dollars of additional spending and \$392 billion in additional taxes. That is more taxes.

A lot of these proposed spending increases were to be financed by raising taxes on small businesses, which means fewer jobs. Earlier this year not a single Democrat House Member supported the lean budget that passed Congress, not one.

Before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, our economy was surging, and deficits were shrinking. Fact: The budget deficit shrank last year from \$412 billion to \$319 billion, a decrease of nearly 25 percent. We had 25 straight months of job growth, falling unemployment, and strong growth in the economy.

Madam Speaker, Americans deserve and expect us to work together. I urge my Democrat colleagues to move from slogans to solutions. We would welcome their productive contributions. The American people are waiting.

#### ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WORK TO UNDERMINE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR'S INVESTIGATION

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

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, it is clear that high-ranking officials in the Bush White House have not leveled with the American people about their involvement in the leaking of CIA agent Valerie Plame's identity to reporters.

When this investigation first began 2 years ago, Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove told ABC News that he was not involved in any way. After a steady stream of questions, White House press secretary Scott McClellan said he personally went and asked Karl Rove and Scooter Libby if they were involved, and they both assured him that they were not. McClellan told reporters at the White House press briefing on October 7, "They are good individuals.

They're important members of our White House team, and that's why I spoke with them, so I could come back to you and say that they were not involved."

Well, like much of what the White House says today, that is simply not true. Both Rove and Libby were involved in the leaking of a covert agent's identity. That means someone in this administration has a lot of explaining to do.

Madam Speaker, this is not the way the American people want their government to be run. It is time for someone to be held accountable at the White House for this outrageous abuse of power. This administration of neoccons turns out to be an administration of just plain cons.

#### REPUBLICANS CALL FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

(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. Madam Speaker, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita delivered disastrous blows to families and communities in the southern part of our country.

As the Federal Government fulfills its commitment on the gulf coast, Congress must make significant sacrifices in other parts of the Federal budget. House Republicans are proposing several commonsense reforms that will decrease the deficit and the size of the Federal Government.

Instead of considering our positive proposals, House Democrats continue to rely upon their tired tax-and-spend plans that ultimately force future generations to pay higher taxes. They have tried to increase Federal spending by billions of dollars at every stage of the legislative process. Earlier this year not a single Democratic House Member supported the lean budget that passed the Congress.

As our Nation continues to recover from these hurricanes, it is time for Democrats to work with Republicans on fresh reforms that will decrease the Federal deficit, strengthen the Federal Government, and help American families.

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

#### FIRE ACT GRANTS

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, we as a Nation can do much better in protecting the American people with our limited homeland security dollars.

Recently I released a report on the status of the FIRE Act program, the only homeland security program specifically for firefighters, and we know it was the firefighters on 9/11 who were the true heroes and heroines. The statistics in this report, which can be

found on my Web site, would be absolutely laughable if the threats to New York City and other areas in America were not so serious.

In 2004, the FIRE Act program was capped at \$750,000 regardless of threat and size; yet we know that the 9/11 Commission report says that all of our homeland dollars should be targeted specifically and only for high threat and risk. In this report, as the Members can see, Montana gets over \$7.84 per person, while high-threat, number one threat city, New York City gets a mere 12 cents per person.

This is unfair. This is wrong. We can do better.

#### BREAST CANCER

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

Mrs. MYRICK. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and as a breast cancer survivor, I am very encouraged by all the research that goes on and continues to find, hopefully, a cure one day.

But I want to encourage everybody to be vigilant because this is a disease that each one of us has to take care of our own bodies to find. I am one of those that was seen by five doctors, and I had three mammograms, and everyone told me I was fine and there was nothing wrong. But I knew something was wrong because I had pain. So I persevered, was able to get an ultrasound, and they found it.

So my message today is preventive medicine is so important, but it is especially important for each one of us as individuals to take care of ourselves. And I encourage everyone during this month, to men and women alike, because men get breast cancer, too, to get mammograms; if they know something is wrong to persevere until they find the answers. And one of these days we will not have to stand here because we will have a cure for this bad disease.

#### CRONYISM IN THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION: APPOINTMENTS BASED ON CONNECTIONS, NOT CREDENTIALS

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, the Bush administration has systematically abused its power by appointing political allies rather than qualified people to positions that have a direct effect on the safety and well-being of the American people.

This dangerous practice became painfully evident in the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Katrina when the incompetence and inexperience of FEMA Director Michael Brown led to a terribly inadequate response to natural disaster. We now know that President Bush appointed Brown as a favor to a friend, not on his ability to do the job.