

Short term we could save tens of billions of dollars for American industry, business, consumers, and others, and then long term we need an energy policy in America, something that has not happened in 5 years, even with Dick Cheney's secret meetings at the beginning of his term as Vice President. What we have is more subsidies for the oil, coal, and gas industry instead of a visionary energy policy that will get us new fuels, new technologies for the future, and make us energy-independent and efficient.

□ 1945

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

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

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF CIN-CINNATI, OHIO NATIVE MARINE STAFF SERGEANT RICHARD T. PUMMILL

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

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a brave soldier who died in Iraq nobly defending our freedom and in the service of our country. Staff Sergeant Richard Pummill was killed in action while on combat operations in the Al Anbar Province on Thursday, October 20, 2005.

Rick is remembered as a star athlete who participated in football and wrestling at Anderson High School where he graduated in 1996. His friends and family knew him as a fun-loving, outgoing, and energetic person who loved life and his family. He also loved his community and his country. He was an individual who wanted to do something special with his life. He decided that special purpose was to join the Marines and serve his country.

He truly loved his country, and our Nation is a richer place because of his presence. Devoted to his family, Rick is survived by his wife, Chantal; his son, Donald; his parents, Lynn and Tom; and his loving grandparents.

Visitations are going on this evening in Cincinnati. He will be honored with a full military funeral tomorrow, Thursday, October 27, and buried at the Mt. Moriah Cemetery in Withamsville, Ohio. All of us mourn Rick's loss and are grateful for his brave and valiant service to our country.

I ask my colleagues to join me in praying for his family in their time of grief and need. May Richard Pummill rest in peace.

#### 2,000 DEAD IN IRAQ

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, his name is Staff Sergeant George T. Alexander of Clanton, Alabama. He died on Saturday, 5 days after a bomb exploded near his vehicle about 60 miles north of Baghdad. He was the 2,000th brave American to give his life in the Iraq war.

My deepest sympathies go out to his family, who I hope finds some comfort in the knowledge that Sergeant George Alexander is remembered by all of us as a true national hero. We mourn the loss of Staff Sergeant Alexander just as we continue to mourn all 1,999 who came before him.

In my recent visit to Iraq, nothing made a greater impression on me than the intelligence, decency, and loyalty I saw in our soldiers. They really are the best our country has to offer. It pains me to think that any one of them could become casualty number 2,001; 2,002; 2,050; or 2,060. And it pains me that we clearly do not have civilian leaders worthy of our troops.

It pains me that these soldiers have been betrayed by their superiors who sent them to Iraq on false pretenses, on a poorly defined mission without all of the tools they needed and without a plan to bring them home.

2,000 deaths is 2,000 too many for this mission, a mission which was immorally conceived and has been incompetently managed. The devastating truth is that Americans are not safer because of this war. We are not defeating the insurgency; we are inspiring it. That is not the fault of the men and women wearing the uniform; it is just the nature of this conflict.

Every day that we occupy Iraq breeds more resentment, more vicious and violent anti-Americanism. As one military commander put it, for every insurgent killed, three more are created. How do we win such a war? And let us not forget that the very first casualty in this war was the truth.

The President waxes idealistic about spreading freedom. But we all know that if spreading freedom had been the stated rationale for war back in 2002, there is no way this body would have authorized the use of force.

No, this was about the world's most dangerous weapons in the hands of most dangerous people. Remember, it was about yellow cake and aluminum tubes, mushroom clouds and nuclear winters. They engaged in a campaign of fear based on a lie.

Saddam Hussein had no weapons of mass destruction, a very expensive lie that has cost America 2,000 of its finest patriots. Their campaign of deceit was

absolutely reprehensible. But I think we also have to look forward, as well back; to focus on not just how we got into Iraq, but how we are going to get out.

I held a hearing last month to explore in detail that very question. But the President meanwhile can offer nothing but the emptiest of platitudes: it is hard work. Stay the course. We will be there as long as we need to be there. Terrorism bad, freedom good. That is all well and good, but what is the plan?

He says he is confident of victory. But what exactly constitutes victory? What are the benchmarks of success? What is the plan? What does the end-game look like?

If the President will not lead, then I guess the rest of us will have to do it for him. There are three measures that we can take immediately: first, multinational corporation. The Iraq campaign never was a global coalition. But now we can prevent further loss of life by bringing the U.S. Armed Forces home while simultaneously encouraging the United Nations and the NATO Alliance to establish a multinational interim security force for Iraq.

Second, diplomatic nonmilitary initiatives. The U.S. must lead a diplomatic offensive, making its presence in Iraq a humanitarian partnership, rather than a military occupation.

Third, post-conflict reconciliation. The U.S. should work with the U.N. to designate an international peace commission to oversee Iraq's postwar reconciliation. It is time for the President to admit his mistakes, eat a little crow and shift course.

It is time to return Iraq to the Iraqi people and the troops safely home to their families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. SCHMIDT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

#### HONORING THE AMERICANS FALLEN IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, yesterday we marked a solemn milestone: over 2,000 American military personnel have now given their lives fighting in Iraq. 246 Americans have also fallen in the line of duty in Afghanistan.

We owe these brave men and women and their families a debt of gratitude that can never fully be repaid. In July of this year, I led a bipartisan group of 21 Members of Congress in reading the names of the fallen into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Tonight we continue this tribute by reading the names of some of those who have fallen recently to complete the list.

At that point we had said we would read every American's name as an official part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In the words of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, each of these heroes stands in the unbroken line of patriots who have dared to die that freedom might live and grow and increase in its blessings.

God bless each of them and keep each of the brave Americans whose memory we honor tonight in our hearts: 1st Sergeant Alan Nye Gifford, Specialist David H. Ford IV, Staff Sergeant Regilio E. Nelom, Sergeant 1st Class Lawrence E. Morrison, Specialist William L. Evans, Specialist William V. Fernandez, Sergeant Michael Egan, 1st Lieutenant Mark H. Dooley, Sergeant Pierre A. Raymond, Staff Sergeant William Alvin Allers III, Sergeant Travis M. Arndt, Specialist Scott P. McLaughlin, Specialist Kevin M. Jones, Specialist Mike T. Sonoda Jr., Sergeant Paul C. Neubauer, Sergeant Andrew Joseph Derrick, Sergeant Brian E. Dunlap, Staff Sergeant Daniel R. Schelle, Sergeant Shawn A. Graham, Sergeant Kenneth G. Ross, Sergeant Tane T. Baum, Warrant Officer Adrian B. Stump, Sergeant Patrick D. Stewart, Chief Warrant Officer John M. Flynn, Sergeant 1st Class Casey E. Howe, Master Sergeant Tulsa T. Tulliau, Private Elijah M. Ortega, Sergeant Andrew P. Wallace, Specialist Michael J. Wendling, Sergeant Howard P. Allen, Lance Corporal Steven A. Valdez, Staff Sergeant Robert F. White, Staff Sergeant Jason A. Benford, Private 1st Class Oliver J. Brown, Specialist Lee A. Wiegand, Sergeant Eric W. Slebodnik, Staff Sergeant George A. Pugliese, Staff Sergeant Daniel L. Arnold, Airman 1st Class Elizabeth N. Jacobson, Sergeant Steve Morin Jr., Sergeant 1st Class James J. Stoddard Jr., Staff Sergeant John G. Doles, Staff Sergeant Jens E. Schelbert, Specialist Joshua J. Kynoch, Sergeant Marshall A. Westbrook, Staff Sergeant Timothy J. Roark, Sergeant Larry Wayne Pankey Jr., Private 1st Class Roberto C. Baez, Specialist Jacob T. Vanderbosch, Sergeant Bryan W. Large, Corporal John R. Stalvey, Sergeant Sean B. Berry, Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian K. Joplin, Private 1st Class Andrew D. Bedard, Lance Corporal Carl L. Raines II.

Madam Speaker, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, who wrote to the mother of five fallen soldiers in the Civil War, "I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

I would also like to thank the brave men and women who continue to serve our Nation in Iraq, Afghanistan, and throughout the world, and serve their country with distinction and honor. Our thoughts and prayers and gratitude are with you and your families at this time until you return home.

Madam speaker, in case I mispronounced any names of any of the individuals, I apologize to them and their family. This brings us to little over 2,136 names read out of the 2,246.

#### STEEL TO SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on a program back in Youngstown, Ohio in the Mahoney Valley, the old steel valley, called the Steel to Scholars Program. And this program was initiated by the president of our Chamber of Commerce, Tom Humphries. The intention of the program is to go into schools and school districts to set expectations and to highlight schools that are having success on the test scores that are mandated by the State of Ohio, and other test scores that schools take.

And I want to take this opportunity, Madam Speaker, to thank Tom Humphries for taking the initiative in recognizing the importance of education in our community.

□ 2000

There is a lot that needs to be done in the field of education at a State level and local level and definitely at the Federal level. But I believe that the most important thing that the Steel to Scholars program accomplishes is that it sets goals, and it rewards and highlights positive behavior and positive achievements.

Madam Speaker, we recognize throughout society, whether it is in business or in education, that the level of success that any organization has or any school district has or any team has is directly related to the level of expectations that the community or the coaches provide and the bar that is there for the students to achieve.

Regardless of what we talk about, as far as what needs to be done for education, whether it is through programs, or after-school programs, or exactly what needs to be done, there is nothing more important than telemarketing high levels of expectation, not in any particular school district, but in all school districts, and that is what the Steel to Scholars program is all about.

The competition that we have in the United States of America and around the globe is more pronounced than it has ever been in the history of the United States of America. The competition is fierce. That is why tonight, Madam Speaker, we need to highlight the responsibility and the obligation of all of our citizens. Parents need to make it a personal mission to sit down and do homework with their kids; not some parents, all parents. Teachers and priests and pastors and the Chamber of Commerce and local elected officials all need to be there to raise that bar, to raise that level of expectation so that the kids, the students, will go out and try to achieve those levels.

If we look at what has happened in the past few years, just in the past decade, the local labor pool that used to be the United States is now the globe, and high-tech, high-value workers, are rewarded with high salaries.

I feel that the United States is not making the kind of investment that we need the make. Example: China, last year, graduated 600,000 engineers; India, last year, graduated 350,000 engineers; the United States, 70,000, and half of those graduates are foreign-born.

In high-tech output, total research and development investment, U.S. patent applications, in all three of these areas the Chinese have grown and closed the gap on the United States and are projected to surpass the United States in the upcoming years. The U.S. has lost world share in high-tech exports. If we do not recognize that we need to make investments in research and development, make investments in education, but at the same time demand from local school districts, local teachers, parents, local elected officials, there is no one that cannot be involved in this project. It will lead to the success or the failure of the United States in the next couple of decades. Everyone has a role to play.

Madam Speaker, I believe that the No Child Left Behind plan that passed this Congress needs to be fully funded. We need to make sure that those components of the No Child Left Behind program that allow for tutoring and math and reading that have shown great levels of success, those children who are tutored in math and reading through the No Child Left Behind program have increased their reading scores by 70 percent in some school districts, one teacher to six kids, but the funding needs to be there.

So we have the parents, the local community, the local elected officials, and groups like the Chamber of Commerce, and people like Tom Humphries all coming together to support these kids so that we can have a better economy in the City of Youngstown and in the old steel valley.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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