

Additionally, Smart Irrigation Month serves to recognize advances in irrigation technology and practices that produce not only more but also higher quality plants with less water. Given that July is a peak month for the use of water irrigation; this designation also stands to encourage the adoption of smart irrigation for substantial water savings. Consequently appropriate irrigation technology combined with efficient practices can significantly reduce water usage and runoff while creating healthy lawns, landscaping, sports turf and increasing agricultural production.

Water is a finite resource that is essential in the advancement of agriculture, and is vital to human life. Smart Irrigation Month will showcase the importance of smart irrigation practices to the health and well being of communities and individuals. I would like to commend the Irrigation Association for its continued promotion and advancement of efficient water and irrigation use and therefore ask that you join me, together with the Irrigation Association, in designating July as Smart Irrigation Month to be recognized annually from July 2006 forward. Water is the lifeblood of resources that gives sustenance to life. We must wisely use this resource for the future of mankind. Therefore, smart irrigation technologies allows us to do just that.

OPPOSING THE REPEAL OF THE
ESTATE TAX

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to repealing the estate tax. It is fiscally irresponsible and would drive higher an already swelling deficit. Repealing the estate tax lacks rigidity that is desperately needed to reduce the national deficit and balance the budget. On the heels of passing consecutive tax cuts for the wealthy, repealing the estate tax would grant further tax relief to the most affluent in our country while the poor and the working class continue to struggle to make ends meet. Contrarily, estate tax repeal would save the estate of Vice President DICK CHENEY between \$13 million and \$61 million. It would save the estate of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld between \$32 million and \$101 million. The estate of retired Exxon Mobil chairman Lee Raymond would save a comfortable \$164 million. Additionally, tax relief for the wealthy does not materialize in gains for the poorest in America.

I urge my colleague in the Senate, JON KYL, to abandon the pursuit of legislation that would permanently repeal the estate tax for the wealthiest Americans. If adopted, Sen. KYL's bill would plunge the government into another trillion dollars into the red during the first decade (2011–2021) that the legislation would be in effect.

As boomers are retiring from the market place, Congress should mount a concerted effort to preserve Social Security and Medicare rather than giving tax cuts to the wealthy who are not demanding them. Health care needs are not being met by employers and a growing number of Americans are without adequate access to vital care. Repealing the estate tax will not bring these services and other needs

to the most disadvantaged in our nation. Repealing the estate tax is misguided public policy. Democrats and Republicans should focus on strengthening education, Social Security, Medicare and restoring discipline to budget spending.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce an op-ed article written by Harold Meyerson, titled "Estate Tax Lunacy" in the Washington Post on May 31, 2006.

[From the Washington Post, May 31, 2006]

ESTATE TAX LUNACY

(By Harold Meyerson)

Spring has given way to summer's full-fur-nace heat in Washington, apparently taking with it any scintilla of sense that Congress may yet possess.

In the House, Republicans who could not even raise an eyebrow at reports that the National Security Agency has been conducting warrantless wiretaps of Americans became instant civil libertarians when the FBI conducted a search of a congressman's office.

The Senate, meanwhile, is scheduled next week to take up legislation by Arizona Republican Jon Kyl that would permanently repeal the estate tax on the wealthiest Americans. If enacted, Kyl's bill would plunge the government another trillion dollars into the red during the first decade (2011–2021) that it would be in effect.

Behind the scenes, the action has been on the Democratic side in the Senate, as the party's leadership has sought to dissuade Montana's Max Baucus, ranking Democrat on the Finance Committee, from forging a halfway-house compromise with Kyl that would deplete revenue by only \$500 billion to \$600 billion during that decade. The Republicans would need Baucus to bring roughly a half-dozen Democrats along with him to reach the magic number of 60 votes required to overcome any filibuster that the vast majority of Democrats would mount to block any such measure.

Even a paltry \$500 billion, of course, is a lot of money to drain from public coffers just when boomers are going onto Social Security and Medicare and the number of employers providing health insurance, if present trends continue, might have dropped to a virtuous handful. To cover those and other needs, Congress will either plunge us deeper into debt or increase some other levies—payroll taxes, say—that will come out of the pockets of the 99 percent of Americans whom the estate tax doesn't touch.

A decades-long campaign by right-wing activists (brilliantly documented by Yale professors Michael Graetz and Ian Shapiro in their book "Death by a Thousand Cuts") has convinced many Americans that the estate tax poses a threat to countless hardworking families. That was always nonsense, and under the estate tax revisions that almost all Democrats support—raising the threshold for eligibility to \$3.5 million for an individual and \$7 million for a couple—it becomes more nonsensical still. Under the \$3.5 million exemption, the number of family-owned small businesses required to pay any taxes in the year 2000 would have been just 94, according to a study by the Congressional Budget Office. The number of family farms that would have had to sell any assets to pay that tax would have been 13.

On the other hand, an estate tax repeal would save the estate of Vice President Cheney between \$13 million and \$61 million, according to the publicly available data on his net worth. It would save the estate of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld between \$32 million and \$101 million. The estate of retired Exxon Mobil chairman Lee Raymond would pocket a cozy \$164 million. As for the

late Sam Walton's kids, whose company already makes taxpayers foot the bill for the medical expenses of thousands of its employees, the cost to the government for not taxing their estates would run into the multiple billions.

The Baucus split-the-difference measure wouldn't repeal the estate tax, but it would still cut the tax rates on the estates of the super-rich by 15 percent. The Montana senator spent much of last week trying to line up a handful of his Senate Democratic colleagues to support his proposal, in the hope of being able to announce an unshakable 60 votes favoring this folly when the debate begins next week.

Why any Democrat would back such a measure, however, is a deep mystery. From the policy standpoint, it would make it vastly more difficult both to shore up programs that Democrats believe need shoring up—better educating the nation's children, for one—and to get the nation's fiscal house in order. Politically, backing the measure is even wackier. The Democrats are running this year as the party of comparative fiscal sanity and greater economic equity and security. Baucus's compromise would undermine all those premises. Republicans might very well attack Democratic senators up for reelection this year for failing to repeal this hideous death tax, as they call it, but any Democratic senator who can't rebut that charge in what is shaping up as a very Democratic year should probably be in another line of work.

Last Friday Baucus's staffers assured the Democratic Senate leadership's staff that their boss would back off his compromise campaign. Still, given Baucus's penchant for mischief (it was largely he who rounded up enough Democratic votes to enact Medicare Part D and its Big Pharma giveaway), those assurances have met with some skepticism on Capitol Hill. The Democrats' capacity to undermine themselves has not vanished with the final days of spring.

MILL RUN ELEMENTARY D.A.R.E.
PROGRAM

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me today to recognize the recent D.A.R.E. graduates from Mill Run Elementary School in Ashburn, Virginia. D.A.R.E.—Drug Abuse Resistance Education—has a long history of providing children with the information and skills they need to live drug-and-violence-free lives and I was pleased to recently visit the fifth graders at Mill Run as they completed this program.

I would like to recognize Mill Run principal, Paul Vickers, and fifth grade teachers, Ms. Garofalo, Ms. Neely, Ms. Page, Ms. Sovereign, Ms. Williams, Ms. Wolff, and Mr. Wolslayer. Special acknowledgment also goes to D.A.R.E. officer, Deputy Lynette Ridgley, who is specially trained to work with students, answer their questions, and establish a positive relationship between students, law enforcement, and the community. The D.A.R.E. program, supported by dedicated school faculty, has helped to address the critical need to educate our youth on the consequences of involvement in drugs, gangs, and violence, and how to avoid risky behavior.

Several students at Mill Run Elementary received special awards for poster and essay

submissions. Poster winners include Krista Sanders-Mason, Manik Dayal, William Kim, Ryan Orr, Rob Kramer, Renato Mazzei, Ellie Ferguson, and Brigitte Ganzer. Essay winners include Rachael Williams, Brandon Greer, Francesca Beller, TJ Soroka, Nick Carroll, Emily Ready, and Colin Ceresa. I have inserted for the record these students' essays because I feel it is important to hear from the students themselves about how much of an impact the D.A.R.E. program has made.

One student, TJ Soroka, says it plain and simple, "The information taught in the D.A.R.E. program has given me the knowledge to make good decisions in my life."

(By T.J. Soroka)

When you go to school, you take many subjects, but this year I took one program unlike any other. That was DARE which stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. It's not taught by any ordinary teacher, in fact, DARE is taught by a Deputy Sheriff who works in Loudoun County. When we started DARE, I thought it would only be about smoking and drugs. But we also learned about inhalants, making good decisions, friendship qualities, being confident, and much more. But I gained the most knowledge in DARE while learning about tobacco and the qualities of a good friend.

Before you smoke a cigarette, think of all the bad things you're doing, such as putting 200 poisons in your body. Also, you aren't just hurting yourself, you're hurting the environment and the people around you. If you're under 18, it's against the law to smoke. I hope you don't smoke a cigarette, now knowing the affects of it.

Do you think your friends have good traits? Do they treat you like a friend? True friends have these qualities. They are loyal to you and you can trust them. Also, they have a bright personality so they can cheer you up. Last, if your friend asks you to smoke, you should have a second thought about them being your friend, after making a bad decision.

The information taught in the DARE program has given me knowledge to make good decisions. DARE also teaches you how to say no to drugs and other substances. Next, DARE has taught me affects of drugs and everything else. DARE has given me the knowledge to make good decisions in my life.

(By Francesca Beller)

What exactly is D.A.R.E.? D.A.R.E. means Drug Abuse Resistance Education. It teaches kids to make smart decisions and teaches them about drugs and alcohol. Our teacher was Deputy Ridgley. She taught us several interesting facts about tobacco, marijuana, peer pressure, and other things that may or may not scare you.

Tobacco, the killer of over 400,000 people a year. It is illegal to anyone under the age of 18, but even though it is, children still do it!

Tobacco affects your body development, so it really affects kids! There are also many diseases that tobacco can cause, such as heart disease, lung cancer, and mouth cancer. So, tobacco is very dangerous to people young and old with its 200 known poisons.

Inhalants, something that can cause sudden death is not what anyone wants. Inhalants have become a big problem now. Teens are using inhalants a lot. They use super glue, paint thinner, and other things. Inhalants can suffocate you and cause diarrhea. They also starve the body of oxygen and force the heart to beat irregularly. Some chronic users may have reduced muscle tone of strength. So if inhalants are so bad, why do it?

Advertisements, they trick people into buying bad products. Some tobacco commer-

cial or advertisements may have you knocking on the wrong door. If tobacco turns your teeth yellow, then why do people in the ads have such white teeth? Beer ads do the same thing. They do not tell you the consequences most of the time. All they care about is you buying the product! Also, a tobacco company gave a ton of money to a charity, then spent more money than what they gave to charity telling people about it! Don't be fooled by advertisements, it may cut your life short.

I think D.A.R.E. has really made an impact on my life. Now I know everything I need to know about things from drugs to alcohol to peer pressure. I really think that everyone should take D.A.R.E. because it will probably lead most people down the right path for their lives. D.A.R.E. is very fun and is just a great program!

(By Brandon Greer)

"Click, click." The teenager was just handcuffed for smoking marijuana in a bathroom. I will never make this decision because of D.A.R.E. D.A.R.E. is a program that teaches you about drugs. The D.A.R.E. decision-making model, advertising, friendship qualities, peer pressure, personal pressure, ways to say no, and being confident. Our D.A.R.E. teacher was Deputy Ridgley. She was truly kind and comical. She told our class interesting stories in relation to her experiences about drugs.

One main drug we talked about was tobacco. Tobacco is found in cigarettes and in chewing tobacco. Tobacco is responsible for more than 400,000 deaths in America each year. Tobacco shoots your body right in the foot because it causes some major health problems. One is you could suffer shortness of breath and dizziness. It also hurts the people around you, because approximately 3,000 nonsmokers die each year from lung cancer. If you want to be beautiful, don't smoke. The 200 known poisons in the cigarette's smoke can affect your appearance. One way smoking affects your appearance is it dries your skin out and causes wrinkles. Smoking also causes yellow teeth and gives you terrible breath. Yuck!

Another major issue we spoke about was being confident. You need to be confident when a friend asks you a question, such as "Do you want to smoke?" Do not speak in a weak voice or have poor posture while you tell your friend you are not interested. Your friend will just keep nagging at you to smoke because he knows that you are unsure. To show your confidence, you must have excellent posture by standing up straight with shoulders back and chin up. Look your friend right in the eye and maintain eye contact. You then must speak clearly and respectfully. Remember to stay calm and say no thank you. If you are confident your friend will stop asking you to smoke. Hopefully, your friend will ask you if you want to do some other activity.

I really loved D.A.R.E. I think that D.A.R.E. will actually help me in the future by knowing how to say no to drugs. I believe that it is extremely important to be drug free. If you take drugs you are basically throwing away your life because you might become addicted and think you must have drugs. I also think it is important that my friends and family do not do drugs. If you are drug free you can enjoy sports like, skiing, soccer, football, basketball, hockey, and other activities. You will also live a longer and have a better life if you don't do drugs. I have truthfully enjoyed learning about drugs and other D.A.R.E. topics. I will always continue to be 100% drug free.

(By Rachael T. Williams)

D.A.R.E. is something everybody can listen to, Drug Abuse Resistance Education.

D.A.R.E. helps kids understand the cautions of drugs and alcohol from the start, and that nothing is real on advertising. Those are only two of the millions of things that D.A.R.E. teaches you!

Alcohol isn't something that helps you grow or something to play with. Alcohol is loss of self-control or even coma and death! Yes, you can drink once you're over twenty-one, but that doesn't give you the right to go party until four in the morning! Alcohol is a very dangerous thing. It is something you should never drink if you're under age, not even if someone calls you chicken. Even if they try to act tougher than you are, they're not. They're not stronger than you are, or cooler, or smarter than you are. It may seem like they're cooler but truly they're not.

You may look into a magazine and flip a few pages and then see an advertisement, and you will see people smoking cigarettes and having a great time. Well guess what, that is not reality. Reality is yellow teeth and sickness and your lungs turning black and failing. Cigarettes or cigars aren't a pool filled with fun. It causes breathing problems or heart disease and even cancer in your lungs, mouth, throat, bladder, and kidney! Smoking is just a big black hole of emptiness! So, don't listen to advertisements.

Peer pressure happens to everybody. It can happen on the bus, at recess, or even walking home from school. Sometimes people will be pressuring you about drugs or sometimes alcohol. They will make it seem fun and make it look like the answer to your prayers. Well, it's not. There are a lot of ways to say no like using humor or standing up for yourself. Those are just two ways to say no. D.A.R.E. will teach you many other ways.

D.A.R.E. is an awesome place to learn about drugs and how they can hurt you. I love going to D.A.R.E. Before D.A.R.E., I didn't even know half of the cautions of drugs and alcohol and how risky it is to drink or smoke. I know now that one day I'm going to be offered a cigarette or some alcohol, and I know exactly what to say: "NO!" I'll walk away and never trust a person like that again. Now I'll remember that no is the way to go.

(By Colin Ceresa)

In fifth grade we take a special class called D.A.R.E. D.A.R.E. stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. My D.A.R.E. teacher, Deputy Ridgley, teaches us the dangers of drugs and alcohol, how to say no, and how to avoid dangerous situations.

Smoking can do horrible things to your body. Did you know smoking can turn your lungs black? Smoking makes it hard to breathe and makes you dizzy. It makes your breath smell, turns your teeth yellow, dries your skin out and causes wrinkles. There are 200 known poisons in cigarette smoke. Smoking is the most common cause of lung cancer. I feel that smoking is very wrong. My Pop-Pop started smoking during the Viet Nam War and then smoked for 40 years. Luckily he quit a few years ago and is doing fine.

If you want to avoid all these bad things you need to be able to say no!!! Saying no can help you avoid many dangerous situations. You can say no in many ways. You could ignore the person offering you drugs. You could give a reason or fact to the person who is offering you drugs and tell them why they are bad for you, or you could walk away from the person who is offering you drugs. Saying no can change your life in so many ways. Saying no could even save your life.

I feel that all of the information that I learned in D.A.R.E. will help me a lot in the future. I know how bad alcohol, drugs and tobacco are for you. I also learned that you

need to be confident and not let your friends pressure you into doing something that is illegal or will hurt you. D.A.R.E. has helped show me the importance of just saying NO!

(By Emily Ready)

“Good afternoon, guys. Today we’re going to talk about...” Every single year, fifth graders in Loudoun County take a class called D.A.R.E. D.A.R.E. stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. A deputy from Loudoun County Sheriff’s office comes and teaches you. Some of my favorite things that we learned about were tobacco, alcohol, and peer pressure.

Coughing, yellow teeth, cancer? These are just some of the things tobacco does to you. Cigarettes contain tobacco, and smoking is the main cause of heart disease. More than 400,000 people die every year from smoking. It can also turn your lungs from natural pink to sickening black. My thoughts on tobacco are tobacco is a horrible thing, and if you use it, you are ruining your life!

Jail, comas, and possible death are only a few of the things too much alcohol can get you. Alcohol is in beer, wine, and liquor. It slows down your brain and your body. In case you’re wondering, most teenagers DON’T drink alcohol. I think if people were more responsible with alcohol, it wouldn’t be a problem.

Peer pressure is when other people, friends or not, try to get you to do something you may or may not wish to do. Some people can be mean about it, or some will be nice and it can be something good for you. If it’s bad, just say NO! I think if it’s mean or bad peer pressure, we don’t need it! It can hurt people’s feelings and make them do something dangerous or awful that can hurt them or other people.

I really enjoyed the D.A.R.E. program this year. It showed me just how dangerous smoking and underage drinking really are. I believe it is important to stay drug-free because you can destroy yourself, your family, and your future. So, I, Emily Ready, promise to stay drug-free and stay a non-tobacco user and a nonunderage drinker.

(By Nick Carroll)

“Lost another one to drugs because of over use of alcohol,” sighed Dr. Smith. That won’t happen to me because I took D.A.R.E. class. D.A.R.E. stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. During D.A.R.E. we learned about alcohol, inhalants, marijuana, and tobacco. We learned about more than just drugs. We learned how to say no and about the D.A.R.E. decision making model. We also learned about how dangerous inhalants can be and the tricks of advertisement.

Inhalants can be used as a type of drug. It can be made using household products concentrated in a certain place (like in a paper bag). They are very dangerous! It can kill you instantly even if you’re doing it for the first time. Inhalants can damage your brain and liver. You might suffer from a loss of smell, depression, and can cause a heart attack! It can also suffocate you. It will starve your body of oxygen and force your heart to beat irregularly and more rapidly. You could get sores in the mouth and nose. Chronic users can have muscle wasting and reduced muscle tone and strength. Inhalants can cause nausea and nosebleeds. Inhalants are one of the things that kill many children each year. Inhalants can cause most of these problems without you knowing it until it’s too late.

Advertising is one of the ways drug companies get people to buy their stuff. One of the ways they do it is to show famous celebrities drinking beer or smoking a cigarette. They also show happy people with beer, wine, or a

cigarette. They put advertisements almost everywhere you could look. They put them on TV commercials, in magazines, billboards, and many other places. They think that by putting them in a lot of places they are getting more customers and it works, people go for the advertisements.

I think D.A.R.E. was an exciting subject. We learned many things from our instructor, Deputy Ridgley. She made it enjoyable to learn about drugs and how to stay drug free. Deputy Ridgley told us many stories, which made it exciting. I think that it is important to stay drug free to keep from getting sick or hurt from different drugs. I will stay drug free to keep from getting sick or hurt by drugs!

INTRODUCTION OF IRAN GAS QUARANTINE RESOLUTION

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today, I am reintroducing a resolution with Congressman ROBERT ANDREWS (D–NJ) which emphasizes that the crisis regarding Iran’s nuclear program should be resolved primarily through diplomatic means. I choose diplomacy over conflict; and I believe the United States and our allies can achieve our ends to the Iranian nuclear program without firing a shot. By focusing on Iran’s reliance on gasoline imports, this concurrent resolution suggests a thoughtful and effective approach to diplomacy with Iran.

The resolution I introduce today states that as part of the diplomatic effort, the United States should consider a gasoline quarantine, organized and enforced by a multilateral coalition of nations. This action would be a strong yet prudent action to dissuade Iran from joining the nuclear club.

Despite its wealth of crude oil, Iran imports nearly 40 percent of its refined gasoline. For years, the Iranian regime has subsidized this imported gasoline by \$3 billion a year to keep prices artificially low in order to maintain economic and political stability. A quarantine, and the resulting spike in prices, would be catastrophic to the regime’s stability.

The Iranian economy is nearly at its breaking point due to crushing unemployment, inflation, and the rush of foreign investors leaving the Islamic Republic. A quarantine would push the government’s ability to spend to the breaking point, forcing them to consider compromise.

Congressman ANDREWS and I introduced a similar resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 177, on June 14, 2005. Since that time, Iran selected an unpredictable and belligerent new leader. Iran has restarted uranium enrichment and paraded missiles through the street with banners saying “Death to America” and “Wipe Israel off the Map.” This resolution reflects the current situation with respect to Iran, and suggests an innovative solution to the nuclear impasse.

I want to thank my good friend Congressman ROBERT ANDREWS for being the lead co-sponsor of this legislation. I look forward to working with him and my other colleagues on this important foreign policy initiative.

SUPPORTING THE MUSLIMS CARE PROGRAM OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD, my heartfelt support for the “Muslims Care” campaign, launched by the Council on American-Islamic Relations, CAIR, to promote volunteerism in the Islamic community. CAIR is asking Muslims across the country to volunteer their time for raising health awareness, helping the needy and supporting activities for youth. Using verses from the Qur’an and Hadith, the “Muslims Care” tool kit (available in www.muslims-care.org) is encouraging local mosques to participate and promote volunteering programs such as blood drives, health awareness, student tutoring, etc.

First of all, the “Muslims Care” program has a community benefits focus, which can potentially bring together people from a multitude of backgrounds and interests. Moreover, it offers an opportunity to weave Muslims and Islamic identity into the American sociocultural fabric, a viable approach to counter the misinformation that is out there about Islam and Muslims. Lastly, a recent survey, conducted by CAIR, showed that the majority of Americans promised to change their views about Islam if Muslims are seen to be concerned about healthcare, education, economy, issues that plague the average American. The “Muslims Care” campaign is an excellent way to overcome this us/them mentality and the prejudices about Islam and Muslims.

I heartily support this undertaking by CAIR, as well as their other programs that promote cross-cultural dialogue to enhance the understanding of Islam.

U.S. MUSLIMS LAUNCH ANNUAL VOLUNTEERISM CAMPAIGN

WASHINGTON, DC., May 25, 2006.—A prominent national Islamic civil rights and advocacy group today called on American Muslims to support its second annual campaign, called “Muslims Care,” designed to promote volunteerism in the Islamic community.

In its summer-long initiative, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) will offer Muslims the resources and information they need to help improve the communities in which they live. This year, CAIR will again ask Muslims across the country to focus on health awareness, helping the needy and activities for youth.

Visitors to CAIR’s campaign website, www.muslims-care.org, will be able to download a toolkit containing information about how to become a volunteer and suggesting volunteer activities such as blood drives, health awareness fairs and student tutoring. CAIR is suggesting that community members visit the website to submit local volunteer opportunities and see what activities are available in their state.

The “Muslims Care” kit also offers advice to Islamic religious leaders about how they can promote volunteerism in local mosques and suggests partnering with established volunteer groups such as the American Cancer Society and Big Brother/Big Sisters.

Local Islamic leaders and imams (prayer leaders) are being encouraged to give Friday sermons on the importance of volunteerism. The “Muslims Care” toolkit has sample verses from the Quran, Islam’s revered text, and hadith (Islamic traditions) to incorporate in the sermons. One tradition quotes