

This is a demand of the American people. Sixty-nine percent of the American people, now, today, believe that we should leave Iraq. That is a gradual increase. I believe that Americans are patriots. They never cut and run. They will stand and defend their Nation.

But we have an obligation, as Members of Congress holding the purse strings, to never frivolously send our soldiers into battle. We have an obligation, as the emergency supplemental has done, to provide post-traumatic stress dollars, prosthetics, mental health needs, improving Walter Reed, helping military families, and, yes, helping children have universal access to health care.

We have a crisis in Iraq. It is a crisis made by the continuing failed policies of this administration.

Wake up. We owe a moral commitment to the soldiers on the battlefield.

I am proud to have made that vote. I will make it again. And, frankly, I am concerned that when the olive branch of conciliation has been extended to this administration to come up with a real resolution to solve this war, we get a blank check from them, or at least no response.

And so I ask my colleagues to stay the course on behalf of the American people and the patriots who are on the front line of Iraq. We owe them our duty to provide for them the right kind of road map.

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

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

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF ANDREW BURRIS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to commemorate the life of Andrew Burris, a professional carpenter by trade, who gave his life today in Toledo, Ohio, as he helped place the finishing touches on the largest Federal transportation project in Ohio's history. Burris suffered fatal injury as he worked to complete Interstate 280's new river crossing known as the Veterans Glass City Skyway that spans the Maumee River, the largest river flowing into the Great Lakes.

At approximately 9:15 this morning, 36-year-old Andrew W. Burris, of Curtice, Ohio, fell to his death from a scaffolding on the north side of the bridge. He was a faithful and dedicated member of the Carpenters Union Local 1138. As a carpenter for nearly 10 years, his union brothers said Andrew loved his work and was an excellent carpenter.

The new skyway replaces the last drawbridge left on our Nation's inter-

state system. The cable-stayed bridge will carry three lanes of traffic in each direction over the river extending from I-75 on the north end to Navarre Avenue on the south end. The surface of the roadway will reach about 130 feet above the center of the river.

As our Nation builds forward, brick by brick, steel rod by steel rod, cement block by cement block, wood beam by wood beam, sometimes we forget the danger faced by the men and women skilled in these trades as they craft our monuments to civilization. It takes a tragedy like this to give us pause and say a silent prayer for all workers in their daily arduous labor.

Andrew's death is not the first tragedy to befall the workers on this new highway in the sky. On President's Day, 2004, a crane collapse on the Maumee River Crossing Bridge led to the death of four iron workers. This bridge to the future these men and women have been building is a monument and a testament to their work.

In the RECORD entry I offered following the death of those four iron workers on that fateful February day, I noted the men and women building the bridge had been about great deeds. We watch their incredible feats daily with admiration and, yes, with awe. We witness their minds, their muscles and hands forming of the Earth a new and better future for us all.

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On the hottest summer days, as well as bone-chilling, subzero temperatures of winter in the north, they toiled fearlessly above us creating a majestic expression of who they were and who we are as a people.

We humbly acknowledge and publicly recognize them for their heroic, steadfast, and artful deeds as building tradesmen. The men who lost their lives leave not only their mastery of iron and concrete and steel and the creation of beauty from it as their legacy, but more importantly, they leave cherished lives and families.

The same is true of Andrew Burris. Though his life was cut short, he leaves a legacy in the bridge he helped create and in all that his carpenter's hands produced. Emily Dickinson's poem "In This Short Life" tells us:

"In this short life  
That lasts an hour  
How much—how little—is  
Within our power."

And as we live our lives, all are affected by tragedy, some small and some great. It is the trials and tragedies of life which make us stronger and make the joys of life so much sweeter. I know this lesson of life does not decrease the sadness and pain felt by all those who knew and loved Andrew Burris. Our entire community offers its sympathy to those who called him father, husband, son, brother, friend, colleague. We celebrate him in recalling the words in "A Song of Life" by Ella Wheeler Wilcox:

"In the rapture of life and of living,

I lift up my head and rejoice,  
And I thank the great Giver for giving.  
The soul of my gladness a voice.  
I lift up my eyes to Apollo,  
The god of the beautiful days  
And my spirit soars off like a swallow

And is lost in the light of its rays.  
Come out of the world—come above it—

Up over its crosses and graves,  
Though the green Earth is fair and I love it,

We must love it as masters, not slaves.

Come up where the dust never rises—  
But only the perfume of flowers—

And your life shall be glad with surprises  
Of beautiful hours.

Come up where the rare golden wine is  
Apollo distills in my sight,

And your life shall be happy as mine is,  
And as full of delight."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut). 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.)

#### STATUS OF THE SIX FOR '06 AGENDA: ZERO FOR SIX

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat majority has been in control of this House now for about 4 months, and they made a lot of commitments to the American people during the campaign just passed. And I thought tonight I would give a report on the success of their agenda.

They had six bills that they said they wanted to pass in the first 100 days or first 100 hours to get moving, and I would like to go through those bills one at a time:

H.R. 1, the first bill they introduced, Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act of 2007 is stalled.

The Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 is stalled.

The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007, stalled.

H.R. 4, the Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2007, stalled.

H.R. 5, the College Student Relief Act of 2007, stalled.

And the CLEAN Energy Act of 2007, still stalled.

They have control of both Houses of the Congress, and these bills have not yet reached the President's desk, although they pledged to get these things done as quickly as possible after the election.