

the number one issue facing American agriculture.

Diesel and fertilizer are just two of the petroleum-based products a farmer uses each day. And as the costs of these products rise, their livelihoods continue to be jeopardized.

One beef farmer told me as of right now, he is preparing to lose money on his cattle when they go to slaughter later this year because of the rising cost of oil. He added that he wasn't even sure he would even have a herd next year. All of the farmers agreed that two ways to lower energy prices and reduce our dependence on Middle East oil would be to drill in ANWR and also off the Outer Continental Shelf.

Unless something is done soon, more and more farmers will be forced to make the hard choice of whether or not to continue their livelihood of feeding Americans and the rest of the world.

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#### HONORING JEROME KOHLBERG, JR.

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

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a great American. Jerome Kohlberg, Jr., was born on July 10, 1925. Although he is from New York, his mother was born in Portland, Oregon, and Jerome Kohlberg has always maintained close ties to my State.

Few Americans have been as successful as Jerome Kohlberg, Jr. As a founder of Kohlberg, Kravis & Roberts, one of the world's largest private equity firms, Jerome Kohlberg has been one of this Nation's preeminent financiers for more than four decades.

After service as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, Jerome Kohlberg earned three college degrees under the original GI bill. This past year, Jerome Kohlberg became deeply involved in the fight for a new GI bill for this generation of veterans. He established the Fund For Veterans' Education, a program to provide college funding for returning veterans from all 50 States. His idea—and with the recent passage of the new GI bill, it proved to be a brilliant idea—was to establish a model for what could be done for today's veterans.

He is a role model for all citizens young and old. I am pleased and proud to note the accomplishment of this great American, Jerome Kohlberg, Jr.

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#### HEROES' HOMECOMING ACT

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, yesterday I introduced H.R. 6446, the Heroes' Homecoming Act, which requires U.S. carriers to do what Congress has asked them to do twice: offer the lowest

available airfare for active duty military trying to return home to their loved ones.

Sometimes active duty servicemembers don't have the luxury of knowing far in advance of when they will be able to leave, oftentimes having less than 24-hours' notice. And purchasing an airline ticket to get home can cost a family a fortune. Our troops deserve better, and Congress has twice asked airlines to give more flexibility for lower airfares for active servicemen and women. I have heard this over and over from soldiers that the airlines are not doing this.

When airlines have come to Congress asking for help with massive bailouts, we helped. Now it's time for airlines to help our most deserving brave men and women who protect our Nation and our Nation's skies.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting our troops and our families by cosponsoring the Heroes' Homecoming Act and help our soldiers get better fares when they're returning home.

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#### THE ROLE IMMIGRANTS HAVE SERVED IN SERVING OUR ARMED FORCES

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, immigrants have served in our Armed Forces with courage and dignity since the Revolutionary War. Even today, they continue to defend our country's freedom. They've even earned the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Nation's highest military decoration. For example, Alfred Rascon, an undocumented immigrant during his service in the Vietnam War received the Medal of Honor for his courage and dedication to America.

Immigrants have also reached the highest ranks in the U.S. military. General John Shalikashvili, an immigrant from Poland who came to the United States after World War II, was a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

From 2002 to 2005, over 15,000 immigrants have served in our armed services and later completed their naturalization process. There are thousands of other success stories that we should honor. We cannot ignore these positive contributions and the unique and valuable functions that immigrants perform.

I urge my colleagues to support a comprehensive immigration reform on behalf of those servicemen and women and their families.

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#### CONGRESS NEEDS TO PUT ALL ENERGY OPTIONS ON THE TABLE

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

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, this past weekend I met a single mother in

my South Central Michigan district who drives an hour each way to the hospital where she works. Because of high gas prices, this woman recently requested and received permission to begin working back-to-back 8-hour shifts 2 days per week so she doesn't have to make the hour-long commute each day. Unfortunately, situations like these are becoming more and more common as gas prices continue to rise and congressional leadership continues to resist action.

High gas prices demand action from Congress, and we need to put all energy options on the table. We need more production of American energy, more energy from alternative fuel sources, and increases in innovative solutions like coal-to-liquids technology. Just as with the Manhattan Project or the race to the Moon, breaking our dependence on foreign oil should be a national priority. Unfortunately, House leadership will not even let this House vote on an energy plan that increases American energy production. Important bills like the No More Executions Energy Act are ready to help American families. And my constituents, Madam Speaker, call for a vote on these bills now.

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#### DEMOCRATS ARE URGING THE RELEASE OF OIL FROM THE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE TO LOWER GAS PRICES

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, with record-high gas prices filling oil companies' wallets with record profits and pinching the wallets of American consumers, why isn't President Bush taking action to bring down prices at the pump now?

Democrats in Congress are urging the President to release oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve which will increase the supply of oil in the market, send a strong message to speculators, and most importantly, reduce gas prices today. This administration has used the Petroleum Reserve in the past, as have the administrations of both President Clinton and President Bush I. The reserve is currently 97 percent full, the highest level ever, with enough oil to meet our national security needs and provide relief at the pump.

So why, when Americans continue to feel the squeeze of devastatingly high gas prices, does the President not take action? Madam Speaker, President Bush continues to talk about new drilling. But his own administration says it can't be done for at least another decade.

Let's provide relief at the pump today by opening up America's Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

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#### GAS PRICES

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address