

Gertrude has received over 200 awards and honors for her dedication to defenseless and vulnerable animals in America. Today, I honor this outstanding woman for a lifetime of selfless service to her community and for her love for animals.

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

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

TARP FUND RECIPIENTS EXERCISE NO RESTRAINT

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, last week, the American people were justifiably outraged by news that American International Group—AIG—would be paying out \$165 million in bonuses. AIG would be rewarding its employees for helping the economy post a record \$62 billion loss—and it would be doling out these bonuses while dipping its hands in the taxpayer till.

When a company is 80 percent owned by U.S. taxpayers and it has accepted \$173 billion in Federal bailout funds, the American people expect more.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, with the start of a new week, the U.S. taxpayer is hit with reports of another “TARP-funded corporation gone wild.”

ABC News reported that JPMorgan Chase, a bank that has received \$25 billion in TARP funds, is moving ahead with a \$138 million plan to buy two brand new, luxury corporate jets. The bank will also build a lavish corporate aircraft hangar to house the new jets. According to JPMorgan Chase architects, the new hangar will even be built with a vegetated roof garden.

Mr. Speaker, why can't these TARP beneficiaries get a clue? Where does it end?

Last fall, I voted against the \$700 billion government bailout because U.S. taxpayers should not have to pick up the tab for the poor business decisions of high-flying Wall Street firms.

Let's not forget—no more than a week after Congress passed this \$700 billion bailout, AIG spent over \$400,000 on a lavish retreat for company executives—after they had accepted \$85 billion in Federal bailout money.

The behavior of these financial institutions shows that taxpayers will certainly get a raw deal when the Federal Government does not demand oversight and accountability. These corporations have resorted to taking taxpayer dollars to stave off failures, yet they are still spending like it's business as usual. All the while, the working people of this country are tightening their wallets and coping with a tough economy.

Our country's outstanding public debt is more than \$11 trillion, and it grows by nearly \$4 billion every day. When will the Federal Government stop digging the American taxpayers into this debt?

Mr. Speaker, it's time for our government to start working for the American taxpayer and not the other way around. The American taxpayer is tired and fed up with business as usual. We have got to change the way we do business and remember that the taxpayers pay the bills and the debt of this government.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will say God continue to bless our men and women in uniform, and God continue to bless America.

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TRIBUTE TO FOUR FALLEN OAKLAND POLICE OFFICERS

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening with a heavy heart on behalf of the residents of my congressional district, the Ninth Congressional District of California, to pay tribute to four fallen heroes from the Bay Area.

This weekend, Sergeant Mark Dunakin, Sergeant Ervin Romans, Sergeant Daniel Sakai and Officer John Hege, all members of the Oakland Police Department, were brutally gunned down while serving in the line of duty.

Oftentimes members of law enforcement go unnoticed. But they provide a critical service to help protect our communities. These men performed their jobs to the fullest every day, knowing that there was a possibility that they would ultimately give their lives in service to their community. Today we honor them and join their families and our community in not only mourning their loss but remembering the sacrifices that they made to protect the people of Oakland, California.

I feel that it is very important that everyone remember that these brave men were not nameless, faceless individuals. They were husbands, they were fathers, they were brothers, they were dear friends to many.

Sergeant Dunakin lived in Tracy, California, and was on the police force for 18 years. He was a graduate of Chabot College in Hayward. He was promoted to sergeant in 1999 and worked homicide cases in the criminal division. Following his transfer to the traffic division, he was active in the Click It or Ticket campaign and took part in multi-agency crackdowns on drunken driving suspects. Captain Ed Tracey described Sergeant Dunakin as “Just a cop's cop. He's OPD to the bone. He is absolutely committed to anything that he leads.” He leaves to mourn his wife, Angela, and his three children.

Sergeant Romans, 43, of Danville, was an Oakland officer since 1996. He was a member of the entry team, and was considered one of the most adept members of the Oakland Police SWAT team by his colleagues. Erv, as he was affectionately known, was promoted to sergeant in 2005 and worked narcotics cases, making a number of high-profile drug busts. He leaves behind three children.

Sergeant Daniel Sakai of Castro Valley was 35 years old. He was considered a rising star on the Oakland Police SWAT team and was recently named a leader of the entry team. Before joining the SWAT team, Sergeant Sakai worked as a K-9 officer responding to calls with his dog, Doc. He loved nature and studied forestry at UC Berkeley, where he also worked as a community service officer escorting students around campus at night. After graduation, he spent a year in Japan teaching English. He leaves his wife, Jennifer, and a young daughter.

Officer John Hege, who was 41 years old, joined the Oakland Police Department 10 years ago after serving as a reserve officer. He graduated from St. Mary's College in Moraga, California, and had taught physical education and oversaw study hall at Tennyson High School in Hayward. He lived with his dog on a small cul-de-sac in Concord, California. While off-duty, he was a high school baseball umpire. Officer Hege also wanted to be a motorcycle cop for many years, and in the last few months he finally got his wish. His colleagues noted that he was always the first to respond on the radio to actually assist other officers or to help on a project.

It is my sincere prayer that, in light of this tragedy, we begin to reexamine how we are addressing the ongoing violence which plagues our country. The events in Oakland this weekend are a prime example of why we must address the gaps that we have in our parole system and also renew our efforts to ban the sale of military style assault weapons in this country. It is hard enough being a police officer without the added pressure of knowing that there could be assault rifles embedded throughout our communities.

We cannot bring back these brave men, but through their deaths we can work and put in place policies that will make our communities safer for the people who live there and also for the police officers who oftentimes have a very dangerous job protecting them. The death of these four officers is really an incomprehensible tragedy that is difficult for all of us to fathom.

I extend my deepest sympathies to the family members of the four officers. This is a very difficult time for members of the Oakland Police Department, the City of Oakland and my entire congressional district, actually, for the entire State of California. My heart goes out to all of those members of the police force who are mourning the loss of their brothers. Our prayers