in God's name was he ever able to get a gun? We really need to think about this. It has nothing to do with Second Amendment rights. It has to do with sensible Second Amendment rights and sensible feelings and thinking about who should be allowed to have a gun. Certainly not a deranged person.

I would ask for a moment of silence for Officer Johns and let his family understand that the United States Congress appreciates his great service to our country. There are many, many more out there like him. We thank God that we have our first defenders and the people who are there to protect all of us.

I would ask for a moment of silence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members will rise for a moment of silence.

## AMERICAN TAX DOLLARS SHOULD NOT BE USED TO FUND ABORTION

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, there are few issues that divide the American conscience like abortion. There are few topics that are fraught with such conviction and emotion.

Last month the President, speaking at Notre Dame, called ''for open hearts, open minds, and fair-minded words'' on abortion as he pled with the country for greater understanding. The actions of his administration and this House belie the hope that the President's words implied. While calling for a constructive dialogue on one hand, on the other, he and many of my colleagues commit tax dollars to fund a practice so many find abhorrent.

This Chamber and the President seem to have forgotten that for many, tax dollars are a deeply personal contribution to our government. They are the product of hard work and often represent dreams and opportunities delayed for yet another year as we give the taxman his due. To take those dollars so patriotically sent to Washington and apply them to abortion in our Nation's Capital and abroad is heartbreaking to many Tennesseans. His administration's policy is not open minded or open hearted. It is, I believe, a cavalier disregard not only for life but for those who defend it.

□ 1900

## HONORING DEPUTY SHAWN WEBB OF THE PLUMAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Shawn Webb of the Plumas County Sheriff's Department.

The entire department, joined by the people of Plumas County, are rallying behind this remarkable young man and his family as he battles a very difficult illness. You don't see this kind of outpouring very often these days. It is a testament to the impact that Deputy Shawn Webb has had on his department and on his community.

Shawn's Commander writes, ''We here in Plumas County are blessed to have a 'Grade A' California-raised, true-blooded American Hero.''

So I rise to salute the bravery and dedication that Deputy Shawn Webb has brought to his professional life in protecting our community, qualities now so conspicuous in his battle in his personal life.

I also want to salute the people of Plumas County who have embraced and supported Shawn and his family in this difficult time.

## SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

## ENERGY TAXES AND TOY CARS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, unveiled today was a new energy plan that would increase production of American-made energy in an environmentally sound manner. The American Energy Act is an all-of-the-above solution that offers more affordable energy, good-paying American jobs and American energy independence, and it is safe for the environment.

However, what the administration and the taxacrats are still proposing is a none-of-the-above approach to energy development. They call it the cap-and-trade bill. Their answer is to tax energy consumption, not actually find more energy.

Their new tax will cost the average American family over $3,000 in additional taxes each year. If you use energy, you are going to be taxed. That will mean all sources of energy will cost all consumers more money. Electricity costs will go up. Natural gas, gasoline, and even the cost of food and consumer goods will rise. Everything is going to cost a whole lot more, because everything Americans buy is produced using the energy the administration is going to tax.

Their plan is to punish Americans who use energy by taxing them, plus there is no real plan for energy that they propose. Their new cap-and-trade national energy tax will financially devastate middle class families across America. It will be especially hard on energy-producing States like Texas that are going to lose thousands of jobs.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office issued their analysis of the energy consumption tax this week. The CBO reports say that the administration cap-and-trade tax imposes $846 billion in new national energy taxes that will affect all of us. Not only that, the CBO told the Senate the new energy consumption tax will have little or no effect on the climate. Now, isn't that lovely?

The none-of-the-above energy plan and tax on business hammers what few manufacturing plants are left in the United States. It is going to send countless American jobs overseas to places like China and India. You see, both of these countries have said they are not going to participate in any scheme to cap-and-tax carbon like America is going to do. Thus, they will make what were American products cheaper in those countries. Also, if all of these factories and plants move overseas, along with the jobs, to so-called polluting nations, how is this going to have any positive effect on our climate?

At the same time, the taxacrats are trying to kill off carbon-based fuel supplies; that is, things like oil and its derivatives, as well as natural gas. There is no transition fuel that exists at this time. That is at least 10 years away. Now we are really in a fix; no new energy, and, literally, we are going to be in the dark and we are going to be taxed back to the stone age.

The strange part of all this is that the taxacrats say natural gas could be that transition fuel, but they are trying to kill the drilling of natural gas, especially offshore. I wonder if they understand that natural gas is a carbon-based fossil fuel that requires drilling to unearth? You cannot grow natural gas like corn.

Those taxacrats also want to force us all into small, little green cars that are death traps. Have you seen these things? These dinky cars are too small for people like me and too small for even groceries or putting children in these toy cars. There is no room, and they are unsafe at any speed.

The Institute for Highway Safety ran three 40-mile-per-hour, car-to-car, front-to-front crash tests each involving one of these little bitty microcars and a midsize car from the same manufacturer. They didn't even use large cars or those SUVs. The results weren't pretty. They found that the weight of just a midsize car was devastating to these micromini toy cars. These green cars simply do not have the weight to protect the passengers, and they are not safe on American highways. So the government is going to force us to drive small, battery-powered, unsafe vehicles, but they will be cute, Mr. Speaker.

And speaking of batteries, if all our vehicles are electric, where are we going to dispose of the millions of larger batteries that will be required to generate these little cars? The other side talks about protecting the environment, but this will create an environmental nightmare when we are trying to dispose of these batteries somewhere in America.

It is just common sense to do everything we can to embrace an all-of-the-above approach that is environmentally friendly as well as affordable for the American people.

The American Energy Act is good for the country. We can drill safely off our shores for oil and natural gas. That will create American jobs and make us less dependent on foreigners.

We need to use more nuclear and hydroenergy, and eventually we will, as an American Nation, develop alternative energy. Meanwhile, we don't need the bureaucrats forcing Americans into a none-of-the-above energy plan, raising taxes and forcing us to drive unsafe cars.

And that's just the way it is.

## THE UNSHAKABLE BOND BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the unshakable bond between the United States and Israel. I believe that support for Israel in this Congress is very strong and it is very bipartisan.

I want to commend President Obama for making that speech in Cairo, where he spoke before an Arab audience in what is the most important Arab capital and said that the bond between the United States and Israel is unbreakable. I think those are very, very important words and courageous words coming from the President of the United States in an arena where nothing has ever been said like that before from the President of the United States in such an arena.

But I want to also focus on some of the other things that have happened, namely the push in some quarters to force Israel to make unilateral concessions, mostly about settlements, but unilateral concessions, in return for nothing.

I believe that the Palestinian-Israeli problem must be settled by negotiations and a two-state solution. But I believe that forcing Israel to make unilateral concessions up front is wrong policy.

The agreement will be made ultimately by Israelis and Palestinians, not by Americans, and if Israel is going to negotiate settlements and other things, as Israel will, then simultaneously the Arab States, the Palestinians, I should say, should also be negotiating and giving up things simultaneously.

People say, well, the roadmap which Israel and the Palestinians signed says as a first step Israel must cease settlement activity. That is true. But it also said simultaneously that the Arabs must stop incitement and have a cessation of violence.

So if those two things are done simultaneously and talked about, that is fine. But this public confrontation against Israel, public demands put upon Israel to halt settlements while the Arabs or the Palestinians have to give nothing in return, is absolutely wrong.

Palestinian President Abbas said the other day, well, he is going to just sit back and let the Israelis make all the concessions. He doesn't have to do anything. Well, that is wrong, and if we pressure the Israelis to make unilateral concessions, we are never going to have peace. Concessions have to be made simultaneously.

I know my good colleague the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) feels as I do, and I would like to yield to her for some of her comments on this matter.

Ms. BERKLEY. Well, Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to be able to share this time with my very dear friend and colleague, ELIOT ENGEL from New York. I think he made very clear how anxious we are to see peace come to the Middle East and how we support a two-state solution that has been America's policy in the Middle East for many years.

But there is another component to that, and that component is that the Palestinians have to show good faith too—and by showing good faith, that means recognizing Israel's right to exist, adhering to prior agreements and doing other things that would demonstrate, including ending the terror and the violence against Israel—that they are serious partners for peace.

ELIOT, when they talk about sitting down at the peace table, you need to have a partner at the peace table, particularly one that recognizes your right to exist. If your peace partner, so-called, doesn't recognize your right to exist, what are you negotiating, for your right to exist for 10 years, 20 years, 30 years?

When the Palestinians show good faith by truly ending the terrorism, recognizing Israel's right to exist, adhering to prior agreements calling for peace and other measures, then the Israelis can have the security they need to sit down and negotiate a two-state solution.

They have made unilateral withdrawals of land over multiple decades, and, as my dear colleague knows, these have been very, very tough choices for Israel. They have made them with very little in return.

Mr. ENGEL. I thank the gentlewoman. Let me say this: It is time for the Arabs to step up and normalize relations now with Israel.

I will have more to say in a little while.

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.)

## THE SERVICE MEMBERS FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER RELIEF ACT

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, earlier this year Congress passed H.R. 1, better known as the economic stimulus package. Included in this package was a provision which modified the first-time homebuyers tax credit language that Congress passed last year. Under the new provision, a first-time homebuyer who purchased a home before December 1, 2009, would get a tax credit of $8,000, which can be fully retained by the homebuyer so long as the homebuyer does not sell the home for 36 months after purchase. If the home is sold prior to 36 months, the credit will have to be repaid.

Mr. Speaker, under this law, it is unlikely that U.S. servicepersons who buy their first homes will be able to use the first-time homebuyer tax credit like other American taxpayers. Because many of our military personnel serve at a duty station for only a few years at a time, those who buy a first home are often transferred and have to sell their first residence before the 36-month holding requirement is met.

I recently introduced legislation that would fix this problem by allowing our military men and women the flexibility they need to benefit from this tax credit. H.R. 2398, the Service Members First-Time Homebuyer Relief Act, would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a member of the United States Armed Forces to retain the first-time homebuyer tax credit if they must sell their home within 36 months of purchase because the servicemember is, one, transferred to a new duty station; two, deployed overseas; or, three, required to reside in government quarters during that period.

□ 1915

I am very pleased that this legislation has received the support of the National Military Families Association. Their letter of support for this bill states, and I quote: ''Thank you for recognizing the mobile lifestyle of servicemembers and their families. H.R. 2398 waives the recapture of the first-time homebuyer's tax credit for servicemembers who are transferred to a different duty station or deployed overseas. Moves and deployments can be stressful for military families and H.R. 2398 helps alleviate a financial concern of military families.''

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I will submit the text of this letter for the RECORD.

NATIONAL MILITARY FAMILY ASSOCIATION,
*May 28, 2009.*

Hon. WALTER B. JONES, Jr.,
*House of Representatives,*
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE JONES: The National Military Family Association has long been an advocate for improving the quality of life of our military family members, who