

out yet—the very fact that we were able to provide unemployment benefits, extension of unemployment benefits and expansion, so that Nevada families that find themselves unemployed for the first time ever are going to be able to use this as a bridge to get from where they are now to where we need to be.

Health care. So many of my constituents, the very poorest of us, depend on Medicaid money. The State of Nevada had no Medicaid money. The Federal Government came in and helped the State of Nevada so that we can continue to provide health care for the poorest among us.

Education. We all talk about the importance of education and how it is the most important thing that we can provide children for their future and for the future of this country. Well, Nevada was broke. The State legislature couldn't figure out where we were going to get the money, and the Federal Government came to our rescue; \$400 million in fiscal stabilization funds.

What is that? That means that we are going to prevent teacher layoffs and other education cuts. We were restoring the money that was slashed by the Nevada Legislature, \$70 million in special education, \$70 million in disadvantaged student funding. These were so important for the people of Nevada, so important for our school-children.

And when things get tough and people are laid off, the first thing they are going to need is food stamps in order to feed their families.

I know that my time is almost up, but there are three things that are so important. A \$250 one-time payment to all Social Security beneficiaries. That is 100,000 people in Nevada that will benefit from that. Veterans, a \$250 one-time payment to disabled veterans. 18,000 veterans in Nevada will benefit from that. And infrastructure funding as well. \$200 million will be spent in Nevada on infrastructure. \$33 million are for flood control projects, and the rest is going to go to the Regional Transportation Commission to continue to improve our infrastructure, all very important.

The people of the State of Nevada need to know this, and I appreciate the fact that this body passed that legislation.

AFGHANISTAN AND THE LESSONS OF VIETNAM

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. Madam Speaker, last week on the House floor I mentioned a column that appeared July 19th, 2009, in the Raleigh News and Observer entitled, "From Vietnam 1959 to Afghanistan 2009." The column was written by Joseph Galloway, a military journalist and coauthor of a book on Vietnam

called "We Were Soldiers Once . . . and Young."

In his column, Galloway uses the history lessons of Vietnam as a cautionary tale to President Obama as he oversees America's military involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Galloway describes a time during the war in Vietnam in 1965 when Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara presented Lyndon Baines Johnson, President, with a top secret memo. It indicated that the United States had reached a decision point, with two available options. The first option was to arrange diplomatic cover and pull out of South Vietnam. The second option was to increase the number of American troops by 200,000, bringing the total to more than 500,000 Americans on the ground.

Regarding this second option, McNamara stated, "All we can possibly achieve is a military stalemate at a much higher level of violence." A couple of weeks later, Johnson assembled what he called the "wise men" for a brainstorming session on Vietnam; yet those who participated said there was no real decision of McNamara's option one.

From that time, when Johnson chose to escalate and continue the war until its conclusion 10 years later, Americans suffered 56,000 more casualties.

Madam Speaker, President Obama's administration has reached a similar decision point concerning Afghanistan. With regard to the Obama administration's escalation of troops in Afghanistan, Galloway states, "Some smart veterans of both Iraq and Afghanistan, on the ground now or just back, say that at this rate we will inevitably lose the war in Afghanistan; that the situation on the ground now is far worse than Iraq was at its lowest point in 2006 and early 2007. They talk of a costly effort both in lives and national treasure that will stretch out past the Obama administration and maybe the two administrations after that."

In his column, Galloway advises: "Obama needs to call in the 'wise men and women' for a fish-or-cut-bait meeting. Let's hope that this time around, there's an absence of the arrogance and certainty of previous generations of advisers. Let's hope, too, that they will weigh very carefully all the costs of another decade or two of the war in Afghanistan."

Madam Speaker, after nearly 8 years of U.S. military operations in Afghanistan, the President needs to outline a clear strategy for victory. I have spoken to many in the Army and Marine Corps who say our Nation needs an end point to its war strategy.

While America's military personnel faithfully conduct their missions abroad, elected officials here in Washington should take seriously their responsibility to develop a viable long-term strategy for these operations.

Many of these servicemembers have gone to Iraq and Afghanistan more than once, and their desire to serve this Nation is greater than ever. But

the stress placed on our all-volunteer force and their families cannot continue forever.

While the United States continues to devote its blood and treasure in Afghanistan, the Afghan Government has yet to purge itself of many who funnel support for the Taliban.

Our men and women in uniform deserve to have the President work with his military commanders and the Congress to develop the best strategy for achieving our goals and wrapping up our military commitment in Afghanistan.

Madam Speaker, as I do every night that I have the opportunity and privilege to speak on the floor of the House, my heart aches. I have signed over 8,000 letters to families who have lost loved ones in Afghanistan and Iraq because I regret that I voted to give the President the authority to go into Iraq.

Madam Speaker, because of that, I want to close this way. I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God in His loving arms to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

And three times, Madam Speaker, because America needs the love of God, I close this way: God please, God please, God please continue to bless America.

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BORDER PROTECTORS

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. Madam Speaker, America lost a great lawman last Thursday near Campo, California. United States Border Patrol Agent Robert Rosas was brutally murdered on July 23 by thugs illegally crossing into the United States. Agent Rosas was shot and killed at approximately 9:15 p.m. while following a group of people who had crossed the border illegally. Agent Rosas was by himself, like a lot of our agents nowadays. He radioed for backup. The group Agent Rosas was following split up before backup agents arrived to help him.

Agent Rosas was following one of the groups; but when fellow officers arrived, they found Agent Rosas outside his Border Patrol vehicle. He had been shot several times in the head and other places in the body. Agent Rosas had served with the Border Patrol for 3 years. He was only 30 years of age. He was married and had a 2-year-old son and an 11-month-old daughter. A suspect, Ernesto Parra-Valenzuela, is in Federal custody in Baja, California. He had a standard Border Patrol-issued 9 millimeter pistol tucked in his clothes when he was arrested. Four other Mexican nationals were also arrested. They were part of a violent smuggling ring, and one of the other men arrested is