

Buy American Act, which has resulted in billions of taxpayer dollars being sent to overseas companies.

Now, in working with a group of Members who is dedicated to shoring up the rules that require the government to purchase domestically, I've been drafting legislation which will seek to address the growing number of loopholes that allow companies to take taxpayer dollars overseas. My legislation would begin to reorient and to build up our domestic manufacturing and construction base, which has been hit so hard in recent times, by using taxpayer dollars to do it. Taxpayer dollars are already going to buy, too often, overseas products.

We don't seek to interfere with the decisions of private businesses. We do, however, seek to make it clear that the U.S. Government values American-made products and that taxpayer money shouldn't be shipped off to a foreign country to contribute to the bottom line of that foreign company when American businesses can produce the same high-quality goods right here at home.

I believe strongly in international trade, and I accept the necessity of an interdependent global economy. However, what we are discussing here is not just economics, and it is not simply a race to find the lowest price. It is about national security. It is especially about national security with regard to the Department of Defense. A stable supply of domestically manufactured defense products is imperative to this Nation's long-term safety and common defense. We have a real opportunity here to both reinvigorate our domestic capacity for manufacturing while enhancing our national security.

With that in mind, I, along with a group of Members, am crafting legislation which will seek to assist firms that are victims of the loopholes in our current Buy American and Buy America regime. This legislation will target assistance to suppliers that manufacture or that could manufacture products that Federal agencies have deemed nonavailable from domestic sources, which is a misleading designation. Under current law, an agency can determine that an item is nonavailable in sufficient quantity or quality in the United States and then can just waive the Buy American restrictions. Therefore, the assistance in my legislation will target firms that make these nonavailable items right here in the United States but that might not have the capacity right now to meet the agency's needs.

These firms will use this assistance to increase their capacity so that they can be the suppliers to the American Government rather than ceding that ground to foreign firms. It will also assist suppliers that manufacture an item which is currently being bought through the Buy American provisions. If that firm is in danger of going out of business, then let's step up and help it stay in business because the only place

that we are left to go after that firm folds is to a foreign supplier.

Madam Speaker, my colleagues came to this House floor earlier tonight to talk about the major Federal tanker contract which is going to a foreign supplier—Airbus. It is just one example. It is a major example of a growing trend in defense work going overseas. We have had enough. It is time for us as a Congress to deem this unacceptable, to strengthen the Buy American provisions, and to bring our taxpayer dollars back home.

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THE LEANES FAMILY—MILITARY FAMILY OF THE YEAR

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, I have the distinct privilege of representing many of this Nation's wonderful military families. The Third District of North Carolina is home to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

Every year, the National Military Family Association honors the top families from each of the seven uniformed services: Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. One family is chosen from these seven as the National Military Family of the Year.

This year I am very pleased to say that the Leanes family from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, is not only this year's Marine Corps Family of the Year but also the National Military Family of the Year.

Sergeant Dennis Leanes and his wife, Kristy, are dedicated and committed to serving this country as well as their community. The Leanes' six children, Jordan, Syvannah, Bethany, Marissa, Emily and Karianne are following their parents' example in giving back to their community as well.

In 2006, after 8 years of working in a civilian job, Dennis' love for his country led him to re-enlist in the Marine Corps, take a pay cut and uproot his family. The Leanes embraced life in the Camp Lejeune community and incorporated volunteering in their daily lives.

Dennis and Kristy run Scout meetings, coach sports teams, lead family readiness meetings and help their neighbors in any way they can. Kristy also dedicates a major portion of her time to home schooling all six of the Leanes children.

Jordan fixes bicycles and donates them to charity, Syvannah organized a wonderful "Wounded Warrior Thank You" project at church. Bethany volunteers her babysitting services for moms whose husbands are deployed. The three younger children, Marissa,

Emily and Karianne, help out by baking cookies and bread for various projects and are quick to share with their neighbors.

Dennis and Kristy have taught their children by example what it means to be brave and strong. They have taught their children the importance of volunteering and what it means to serve your neighbor and community. Our military families need to know that the Members of Congress and the people of this Nation appreciate them and all they do for our country.

May God continue to bless our troops, their families, and this great Nation.

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

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

FINANCIAL REFORM

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

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I could not resist coming to you and speaking to you about my experience when we passed the financial reform bill last Friday.

You know, Wall Street has provided an unparalleled life-style for Americans. The speculation and the brilliance and genius of futures and credit default swaps and derivatives have provided us with a life-style where every bride can have a diamond ring and every handsome groom can have a gold band. We can have two cars, one a gas-guzzling SUV, lobster dinners, McMansions, Madam Speaker, with six bedrooms, five fireplaces, 4½ baths but, of course, not enough closet space for all the shoes and designer clothes that we have.

Last fall, all of this balloon spending came to a crash. And it was amazing to me, Madam Speaker, that when we tried to rein in Wall Street and some of the speculation, that there was tremendous resistance from both parties with developing a Consumer Financial Protection Agency, putting together an assessment from all of these "too big to fail" companies to pay for an orderly dissolution of the mess that they created. I can tell you, Madam Speaker, it was amazing to me.

This bill that we passed, for those who have asked the question, what is government for, this bill demonstrates better than anything that I have seen what the purpose of government is, and that is to regulate unfettered greed and avarice that can bring our country and, indeed, the world to financial brink.

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

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

CONDEMNING THE ARREST OF JORGE LUIS GARCIA PEREZ "ANTUNEZ" AND YRIS PEREZ AGUILERA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, Senator BOB MENENDEZ gave an important speech last Thursday, December 10, opposing concessions to the dictatorship of Cuba.

In his speech Senator MENENDEZ read out loud an open letter which had been sent by one of Cuba's true heroes—a giant of the resistance to the Cuban tyranny—Jorge Luis Garcia Perez "Antunez," here photographed with his wife, Yris Perez Aguilera, a letter to the titular Cuban dictator, Raul Castro, on Tuesday, December 8.

"Mr. Raul Castro," Antunez wrote, "for months now my wife Yris Tamara Perez Aguilera and I have been kept in extrajudicial house arrest by your political police. Mr. Dictator, let me ask you some questions that may help clarify some doubts for those fellow countrymen of mine who may at some point have had hope your government would reduce the repression or even carry out democratic openings.

"What do you feel when you incite or allow people who call themselves men to beat and drag through the streets women like Damaris Moya Portieles, Maria Diaz Rondon, Ana Alfonso Arteaga, Sara Marta Fonseca, Yris Perez and now more recently the blogger Yoani Sanchez?

"How can you sleep after your subordinates cruelly beat, more than once, Idania Yanez Contreras while she was pregnant?

"How can you and your government talk about the battle of ideas, when ideas constantly face repression with beatings and arrests and years of imprisonment?

"Maybe your followers will not dare respond, but I who am in the long list of those who do not fear you, will answer:

"You act like that because you are a cruel man, insensitive to the pain and suffering of others; because, loyal to your anti-democratic and dictatorial vocation, you are convinced that dictatorships such as yours can only sustain themselves by fear and torture, and that even the most minimal of openings can end the only thing that interests you: staying in power.

"And finally, speaking of my case in particular, I will respond to you without the need to first ask of you the motives for such focused repression against my person."

Antunez, by the way, Madam Speaker, now 45 years old, was a political prisoner for 17 years until 2007.

He continued to write, "Your government and its lackey-repressive forces cannot forgive my two great and only crimes. First, that for almost two decades of torture and cruelties during my unjust and severe imprisonment, you were not able to break my dignity and my position as a political prisoner. Second, because despite all the violence and harassment—and above all the risk of returning to prison—I have decided to not abandon my country, where I will continue fighting for a change I believe to be as necessary as it is inevitable."

Signed, in the City of Placetas, by Jorge Luis Garcia Perez "Antunez", Tuesday, December 8.

On Friday, December 11, Antunez and his wife, Yris Perez Aguilera, she is a heroine, were violently arrested. The doctrine of Fidel Castro's hero Adolf Hitler was again devoutly followed: "The very first essential for success is a perpetually constant and regular employment of violence."

"This is kidnapping," yelled Yris. "Long live human rights," shouted Antunez as they were being beaten and taken away by the Castros' political police on Friday.

I condemn the brutal arrest of these two heroes by the Castros' cowardly thugs. The days of the Castros' racist totalitarian tyranny in Cuba are coming to an end. Those who have collaborated with the violence and brutality of the racist regime will face justice and eternal shame. Antunez, Yris Perez Aguilera, her brother, Mario Perez Aguilera, Oscar Elias Biscet, Darsi Ferrer and many other heroic political prisoners of Cuba will be elected the leaders of free Cuba. That change is as necessary as it is inevitable. Because of heroes like Antunez and Yris Perez Aguilera, the day of freedom in Cuba is approaching.

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

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

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

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MEMORY WALK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the success of the Miami-Dade Memory Walk sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association.

This event called on volunteers of all ages to be champions in the fight against the terrible disease of Alzheimer's, which impacts more than 5 million Americans and their families. Over 2,200 people participated in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk in my home county of Miami-Dade, and their efforts raised over \$130,000 for research into a cure.

I was encouraged by the wonderful outpouring of support and participation from our community in South Florida. I know from countless personal stories, as well as from my own family, just how devastating this disease of Alzheimer's is.

My mom, Amanda Ros, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's over a year ago. While I am blessed to have tremendous family support during this difficult time for her, I recognize how important it is to have organizations, such as the Alzheimer's Association, that can step in and provide families with guidance on how to care for their loved one.

Tony Friguls is another individual who knows this terrible disease all too well. He participated in the Memory Walk in support of his wife of 37 years, Maria, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's 4 years ago at the age of 55. Since that day, her life, Tony's life and the lives of their children, grandchildren and, indeed, their entire family, has never been the same. It has changed forever.

For Tony and his wife, there was no more hope to reach retirement, to travel, to enjoy life. Instead, they were both forced to retire from their jobs in order to cope with the new daily challenges of Alzheimer's. Determined to help his wife, Tony made a decision to help raise community awareness for this disease. His team for the Alzheimer's Memory Walk, Baba's Bunch, included over 400 members. He is also involved in an essay-writing contest in public schools to raise student awareness about Alzheimer's.

Today, Tony's wife is 59 years old. She can hardly speak. She cannot even sign her own name, and she is not who she used to be.

He continues the fight against Alzheimer's in honor of his wife and all of those who suffer and cope with this terrible disease. Unfortunately, as we all know, Alzheimer's has no survivors. It destroys brain cells. It causes memory changes, erratic behaviors and loss of body functions. It slowly and painfully takes away a person's identity, a person's ability to connect with others, to think, to eat, to talk, to walk, to find your way home. There is no treatment, no cure, no way to stop the progression of Alzheimer's disease.

This disease is widespread and growing. Every 70 seconds, Madam Speaker, someone new develops Alzheimer's, and it is not only the person diagnosed that is impacted, but also their family members. One in eight people aged 65 and older has Alzheimer's, an even higher number of those aged 85 and