

There's even a mesh cage that protects the emergency lights on top of the vehicle.

The question is, Why do they have that stuff on their Border Patrol vehicles? Well, you see, when they patrol the border with Mexico, people who wish to come into the United States illegally pelt rocks at our Border Patrol. And so they have to protect themselves and their vehicles by putting this wiring, this cage, around their own vehicle. Now, if somebody threw rocks at a police officer in the United States, normally those people get arrested and go to jail. But it doesn't seem like that is what is occurring, and so they have to protect themselves.

This is just one example of the violence that is occurring. Border Patrol in the Tucson area, assaults against them this year are up 300 percent from last year. That's right, assaults on our agents who are trying to protect the border, protect us. So we have to do more than that. We have to support the Border Patrol, the sheriffs that work along the border; and we have to do what the Governors of some of those States have asked for, and that's send the National Guard down to the border.

We protect the borders of other nations. Why don't we protect our own? We don't know. I think it's politics. It's time that we have the moral will to secure the dignity of the United States. It's about border security. It's about national security. It's not an issue of immigration. It's an issue of whether or not people can come into the United States legally or illegally. We must have the moral will to keep the criminal gangs, the drug cartels, the human smugglers out of the United States. They know our borders are porous. People in other countries know our borders are porous. They go through Mexico and come into the United States.

The Federal Government has been missing in action. It's time that they show up on the border and send the National Guard to support our troops, support the border sheriffs, and support the Border Patrol.

And that's just the way it is.

#### ARIZONA PROTECTS ITS CITIZENS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in a recent editorial praising Arizona for its action to enforce immigration laws, Investor's Business Daily said the following: "There are 460,000 illegal immigrants in Arizona, a number that increases daily, placing an undue burden on the State's schools, hospitals, and law enforcement. Arizona has a window seat to an illegal invasion and on the escalating and violent drug war in Mexico that has put American lives and society at risk.

"President Obama calls Arizona's tough new law 'irresponsible' and 'mis-

guided.' But it wouldn't be necessary if the Federal Government fulfilled its responsibilities to secure the border. We are a Nation of immigrants—legal immigrants—but we are also a Nation of laws that 70 percent of Arizonans and most Americans want to see enforced. The first duty of the Federal Government is to protect the rights, property, and lives of U.S. citizens."

I couldn't agree more.

#### DON'T STOP WITH IMPROVING DEFENSE PROCUREMENT

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, this body took an important step today by passing the IMPROVE Acquisitions Act, which will bring badly needed reforms to the defense procurement process. The Pentagon, of course, is legendary for bureaucratic inefficiency, cost overruns, and even outright corruption in its purchasing practices. Remember the \$640 toilet seat that the Navy bought back in the 1980s? Remember our soldiers in Iraq sifting through scrap heaps for makeshift body armor?

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For too long, Mr. Speaker, the Pentagon has been the irresponsible teenager who gets a ridiculously generous allowance, loses part of it, and then spends the rest on junk food. With this new bill, though, mom and dad will begin to exercise some oversight over that allowance. Given the size of the DOD budget and the nature of its mission, it is about time. It's remarkable that up until now, there's been no effective performance metric system to assure that taxpayers are getting value for their defense dollars.

We're living through a time, Mr. Speaker, when nearly every American family is tightening its belt and making sure that every dollar it spends is on something it truly needs. We owe it to these families to ensure that the government agency charged with keeping them safe is doing the same.

As pleased as I am with the passage of the IMPROVE Act, I can't help but think that we are nibbling around the edges of a much, much larger problem. The issue is not just a managerial one of how the Pentagon goes about its acquisitions. The more significant matter is the Nation's overall defense policy and budget priorities. For example, we continue to spend billions of dollars every year on sacred cow weapons systems that were designed for a bygone era.

Finally, last year, we cut off funding for the F-22 Raptor, designed to neutralize the next generation of Soviet planes. I guess it took almost 20 years to figure out there has been no generation of Soviet plane because there's been no generation of the Soviet Union. But we're still throwing money

at the V-22 Osprey, a plane so wasteful and unnecessary that even former Vice President Cheney was trying to kill it as far back as the late 1980s when he was Secretary of Defense. According to our analysis at the Congressional Progressive Caucus, we can save \$60 billion, at least, a year by eliminating such Cold War relics.

And, Mr. Speaker, then there's the biggest ticket item of all, purportedly keeping us safe but actually spending us into bankruptcy and undermining our national security interests. I'm referring to the ongoing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Every day, at a predicted price tag of around \$1 trillion, we are sending American soldiers to die for a strategy that is a moral outrage and a practical failure. For a fraction of the cost, we could take a smarter approach by expanding poor countries' capacity to provide for their own people. That means more resources for democracy promotion, physical infrastructure, human capital development, et cetera, et cetera. That would be the way to fight terrorism—with compassion, not aggression; using diplomacy, not destruction; by investing, rather than invading.

So let's do more than streamline procurement, because, Mr. Speaker, if we overhaul the way we go about protecting America and we redefine what it means to provide for the common defense as the Constitution instructs us to do, we will do the right thing, and the right thing will be to start by bringing our troops home.

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

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

#### CONGRATULATING ALLISON NOVACK FOR BEING NAMED THE TOP OUTSTANDING SCHOOL YOUTH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a wonderful mission—to recognize a local student, Allison Novack. Allison has recently been named the Top Outstanding School Youth Volunteer of the Year for the Miami-Dade County Public Schools system. Our superintendent of schools, Alberto Carvalho, presented her with this impressive award at Miami's Jungle Island earlier this month.

As a senior at Miami Beach Senior High School, Allison has volunteered in numerous capacities. She has served as the president of the Miami Beach chapter of the Junior State of America. She has served as producer for the non-profit group 1308 Productions. She is