

Specialist Hauser serves his country as a proud member of the 563rd Military Police Company, of the 91st Military Police Battalion, and of the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York.

Congratulations to Specialist Thomas Hauser on this great accomplishment. You've made all the folks back home in Cincinnati proud.

IN HONOR OF PENN STATE'S FOOTBALL COACH, JOE PATERNO

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I rise today to honor one of the legends of college football, Penn State's football coach, Joe Paterno, who this past weekend scored his 409th victory as head coach. The win took place on a snowy State College afternoon where the Nittany Lions defeated the University of Illinois.

With this past weekend's win, Paterno becomes the winningest coach in Division I football. As if this accomplishment weren't extraordinary by itself, it is important to note that all 409 wins have come under the head coach of one school—Penn State.

Starting his football coaching career at Penn State in 1950 as an assistant coach, Paterno's tenure has spanned over 62 years. His 409-win and 136-loss record is truly unrivaled, passing over legendary coaches Bear Bryant of Alabama, Bobby Bowden of Florida State, and Eddie Robinson of Grambling.

From 1950 to today, Coach Paterno has led his team with humility, class, and integrity. He's truly one of a kind, but words can't describe his tremendous contributions to the Penn State community.

Today, I stand to honor and recognize Coach Paterno, the winningest coach in Division I football history.

Congratulations, Joe Paterno.

□ 1900

PATRIOT AND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT FIRST SERGEANT DAVID MCNERNEY, UNITED STATES ARMY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we near Veterans Day, I want to pay a special tribute to my friend First Sergeant David McNerney. Here is a photograph of him, here to my left. After high school in Houston, David volunteered and enlisted in the United States Navy. He spent two tours of duty in Korea. And after leaving the Navy in 1953, he joined the United States Army. In 1962, McNerney was one of the first 500 soldiers sent to Vietnam. During his third tour of duty in Vietnam, he was stationed near the Cambodian border. And in March of '67,

he and his company were sent to recover a missing reconnaissance team.

Coming under heavy Vietnamese attack, McNerney was wounded by a grenade, and his commander was killed. Nonetheless, McNerney continued the fight, calling in close artillery fire. He destroyed an enemy machine gun, he pulled wounded to safety, he secured a landing zone for medical helicopters, and he refused to be evacuated himself. His actions stopped the enemy advance and saved his own men's lives. His valor earned First Sergeant McNerney the Congressional Medal of Honor, and it was presented to him by President Lyndon Baines Johnson. Then McNerney volunteered yet again for a fourth tour of duty in Vietnam.

After serving in the Army and the Navy, McNerney returned to Crosby, Texas. And last year, my friend First Sergeant McNerney died in Texas, still a patriot. Mr. Speaker, where does America get such men as these, these warriors, this rare breed, these Americans?

And that's just the way it is.

GUILLERMO FARINAS

(Mr. RIVERA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RIVERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform my colleagues of yet more beatings and arrests of opposition leaders by the Castro dictatorship in Cuba. Early this week, Guillermo Farinas, winner of the Sakharov Human Rights Award in 2010, was beaten and arrested by Castro's thugs while visiting another dissident on a hunger strike at a hospital in the Santa Clara province. According to his mother, Farinas was not allowed into the hospital and was arrested. A State security agent then held him in place and beat him.

Farinas is a dissident journalist who has advocated for a free press and against Internet censorship while also participating in various hunger strikes, asking for the release of political prisoners. On Monday, Cuban State security officials also arrested prominent dissidents Jorge Luitiez Perez Garcia "Antunez" and his wife Yris at the same hospital and proceeded to drag them through the street.

While some across the world continue to ignore the brutal reality of repression and human rights abuses in Cuba, even pushing for appeasement of the Castro tyrants, these heroes continue fighting for freedom and democracy. Let us not forget their brave struggle.

HIGH-LEVEL NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLEISCHMANN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, before my freshman colleagues get too con-

cerned, I am only going to go a couple of minutes to talk about why I have been coming to the floor once each week for a whole debate on high-level nuclear waste and a national repository that is defined in law, a law passed in 1982 that that national repository would be at Yucca Mountain. So I have been going through a geography lesson about where we have nuclear waste in this country, comparing it to the site at Yucca Mountain, and then addressing the positions of our colleagues on the Senate side from those affected States.

The House has spoken on Yucca Mountain again this year in a vote in which 297 of my colleagues joined me in ensuring that we had enough money to finish the scientific study to finally bring closure to Yucca Mountain and, if the science is sound, then start moving high-level nuclear waste from all over this country to a single repository. So today I come to the floor to highlight another location.

This is Yucca Mountain. And I want to remind folks that Yucca Mountain has no nuclear waste onsite right now. The waste, once it gets to Yucca Mountain, will be stored 1,000 feet underground. The nuclear waste will be 1,000 feet above the groundwater. And Yucca Mountain is 100 miles from the Colorado River. So it's pretty far. It's in a mountain. It's in a desert. It is pretty far from ever being close to major bodies of water. And what's been interesting is, as we go around geographically, we find that we have high-level nuclear waste right next to major rivers and major lakes throughout the country.

This is one of the most compelling sites in our tour so far. This is a nuclear power plant in California called San Onofre. And if you look at this—yes, this is the ocean. Here is the nuclear power plant. And yes, these are waves that are coming up to the rocky shoreline and a concrete barrier that leads to the nuclear power plant.

Now compare San Onofre with Yucca Mountain. There are 2,300 waste rods—that's nuclear waste rod material—onsite here right next to the Pacific Ocean. There's none at Yucca Mountain in the desert. The waste is stored above the ground and in pools here. The waste will be stored 1,000 feet underground at Yucca Mountain. The waste here is adjacent to the Pacific Ocean. You can see the waves. Yucca Mountain is in a desert, and it's 100 miles from the Colorado River. San Onofre is 45 miles from San Diego. Yucca Mountain is over 100 miles from Las Vegas, Nevada. So if you want to compare and contrast where we should have nuclear waste, would it be next to the Pacific Ocean? Or should it be in a desert underneath a mountain? I would think most Americans and my colleagues on the House floor agree, based upon our 297-vote total, that it should be in a geological repository underneath a mountain in a desert.

So let's look at the surrounding Senators and what are their current positions as far as we can determine. Senator BOXER says that if the Yucca project is constructed, there will be thousands of shipments of high-level nuclear waste transported through California. She voted "no" on Yucca Mountain in 2002. Senator FEINSTEIN, after Fukushima Daiichi, said, "I had always thought we didn't need one. Yesterday"—and that was the day after the damage done because of the tsunami in Japan—"yesterday candidly changed my mind." She voted "no" to Yucca in 2002. I think she might be reconsidering.

Senator MCCAIN voted "yes" in 2002. "I was absolutely opposed to its closure," he said, referring to Yucca Mountain. "It's absolutely ridiculous to not have Yucca Mountain after developing it over a 20-year process." I would agree with Senator MCCAIN. We've already spent \$12.5 billion for Yucca Mountain. I think it's time that we finish the project. Senator KYL is quoted—these are the two Senators from Arizona, next to California—and he used this example of just everyday residential waste. He says, "It is a little like saying since every Wednesday morning, everybody in my area of Phoenix is going to put their garbage out, and because we keep producing garbage, we should not have a dump to where all that garbage is taken. If we produce more garbage and store it on-site, it is, in effect, storing it on the curb. That doesn't argue for the proposition that there should not be a central repository where that material is taken and disposed of in a proper way."

□ 1910

So I come back down to the floor to highlight another location where you have high-level nuclear waste near a major body of water, the Pacific Ocean, not in the desert as defined by law we should.

Other States and locations that I've talked about, I first went to Hanford which is high-level nuclear waste, 23 million gallons in tanks that are leaking a mile from the Columbia River. Then I went to Zion.

Mr. DOLD. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SHIMKUS. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. DOLD. The gentleman raises a great point. In Zion, just a sheer couple of miles from my district, right along the coast of Lake Michigan, next to 95 percent of the fresh drinking water, surface fresh water in the United States, and we're storing just literally yards off the shore of Lake Michigan spent fuel rods. That is obviously not the place to be doing that; and it's my understanding, correct me if I'm wrong, at Yucca Mountain we're talking about 1,000 feet underground, 1,000 feet above the water table, and at least 100 miles away from most of the individuals and inhabitants that are around. A perfect place. And we've spent \$14 billion constructing it. It

seems like common sense that we want this waste not around fresh water, not around some of the urban areas, but in a place specifically designed, as Yucca Mountain is.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Reclaiming my time, as my colleagues know, Senator KIRK is strongly in support of moving high-level nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain. Senator DURBIN said the right things. We just want him now to lead on that issue for the importance of the State of Illinois.

Another week I talked about the Savannah River site, nuclear waste right on the Savannah River, and highlighted the Senators there. And now I end up this week talking about California. This is not the only nuclear power plant that's on the Pacific Ocean. There's one in San Luis Obispo.

I appreciate my colleagues allowing me this time to do my weekly process of talking about high-level nuclear waste. It's the law of the land, and we're going to continue to work hard until we get this done and we move and have a central repository for high-level nuclear waste in Las Vegas, in Nevada at Yucca Mountain.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

GOP FRESHMEN HOUR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) is recognized for the balance of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, tonight I am joined by several of my colleagues from the freshman class to talk about some of the greatest issues facing our country and what we are going to do in this country to get our job creators back on their feet so we can do something to address the unacceptably high levels of unemployment.

For the past 11 months in this Congress, we have been focused on what it would take to get government out of the way and let job creators do what they do best, and that's put people back to work. How can we restore the economic growth of this country? Obviously as part of that, you look at so many of the policies that this country has—whether it's regulations, whether it's overspending, whether it's our tax policy—but it all starts right here in the House of Representatives of what we are going to do, the policies we are going to pass to get this country hiring again.

Over the past several months, this is the 32nd month in a row, actually, where unemployment has exceeded 8 percent. For 32 consecutive months, the unemployment rate has been at or above 8 percent. Remember back when the stimulus was passed, they said if it was passed, the unemployment rate would never exceed 8 percent. But we're in the 32nd month in a row of unemployment over 8 percent. Fourteen million people, the number of Ameri-

cans who are unemployed. The number of net jobs the economy has shed from February 2009 when the stimulus was signed into law, 2.2 million people losing their work. The unemployment rate among job-seekers between the age of 16 and 19 is 24.6 percent.

This country faces a crisis. It's a crisis of jobs, and that's what we have risen to the task to accomplish, to find jobs and to make sure that we are creating policies to get this country back to work. The House of Representatives for the past 11 months has worked hard to pass legislation to find ways to get the private sector moving again.

I would start with a number of bills that we've called the forgotten 15. The forgotten 15 are a number of bills that this House has passed, many with strong bipartisan support, to get job creators going again and to get the private sector invigorated and hiring once again. One bill is Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act. My bill, H.R. 2021, No. 7 on the list, this bill, if signed into law by the President, would create 54,000 jobs around the country, creating opportunities to develop American energy and American energy security. There are actually more bills. This is just the beginning, and we've gotten 15.

The question I hear in town meeting after town meeting is: Where are those jobs? Well, I want to show you another chart that shows where those jobs are. You see the forgotten 15. We did a little Google search and the Google search showed us those jobs are right here in the United States Senate. They are waiting to be passed by the United States Senate. Where are the jobs? The forgotten 15 are piling up in the Senate. The bills that we have passed, bills like the Jobs and Energy Permitting Act that would create jobs—54,000 jobs waiting in the United States Senate; waiting to be acted on; waiting to be moved; waiting to be signed by the President of the United States.

We have got a great conversation tonight, and I hope participation from colleagues around the country will shed light on our efforts.

Mr. DOLD. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GARDNER. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. DOLD. You've talked about the forgotten 15. I'm just wondering if the jobs bills that we passed on the floor just moments ago would add 16 and 17 onto that list.

Mrs. ROBY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GARDNER. Reclaiming my time, I yield to the gentlelady from Alabama.

Mrs. ROBY. It's actually 22. Our work today on the floor put the forgotten 15 to a number of 22. I don't know if you're ready for us to start this discussion, but I would just like to read a couple of words.

We have all been carrying around "Where are the jobs?" Everybody has theirs, I'm sure, in their pocket to remind the people of the United States of America of exactly these bills and what