

count to 42 Americans who have been killed in Afghanistan while working with the Afghans to train them to be police and soldiers. When you factor in how many coalition troops have been killed, along with the Americans, it's about 70. It is a totally impossible situation, as well as the fact that we continue to spend \$10 billion a month there.

I have beside me, Madam Speaker, a poster from the Greensboro News-Record in Greensboro, North Carolina. The headline is "Get Out," and there is an honor guard bringing a transfer case off the plane. The sad thing is that the day is on a Sunday in February 2011, and we're now in March of 2012. We continue to spend money that we cannot even account for. We send auditors to Afghanistan to try to account for the \$10 billion a month that is being given to Mr. Karzai so he can lead Afghanistan—buy some new roads and camps, I guess—while our troops are losing their legs, their arms, and their lives in a war that should be ended now, not later. We will, during the debate on the DOD bill in May, continue to try to bring amendments to the floor to bring some sanity to this involvement in Afghanistan.

As I mentioned many times, a former marine commandant has been my adviser on Afghanistan, and he continues to talk about the fact that we are wearing out our military, the equipment, our manpower. Yet, there is a threat growing in the Pacific that we seem not to pay any attention to.

Recently, JIM MCGOVERN and I and JOHN GARAMENDI and some others met with Lieutenant Colonel Danny Davis. He is an active duty reservist who has been to Afghanistan. He returned just a couple of months ago, and had been over there for almost 10 months. He has written articles saying that the Congress in these hearings with the military leadership is not getting the straight talk that we need to hear. Too many times they use the words: Well, the training of the Afghans is going pretty well, but it's fragile, it's real fragile.

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Well, I'd like to say it's real fragile. No, it's even worse than that. You cannot predict what is going to happen in the country of Afghanistan. We had two marines from my district, Camp Lejeune, the Marine base in the Third District that I represent, that were over there.

About 3 months ago, Sergeant Baldus and Colonel Palmer—Colonel Palmer being from Cherry Point Marine Air Station and Sergeant Baldus from Camp Lejeune, also, like these two Army officers—were training in Afghanistan. They were having dinner with the Afghan trainees, and that night one of the trainees stood up and shot and killed both of them.

This is not fair to the American soldier, marine, sailor, airman, Navy, whatever, to continue to be in Afghani-

stan 11 years after it started. The money that we're going to cut here in America of the senior citizens and the children who need programs to have a better quality of life, we are going to cut their programs, but we are going to keep spending \$10 billion a month in Afghanistan. It makes no sense.

Madam Speaker, before I close, I would like to encourage every Member of Congress—who has the authority, should they want to implement that authority—to read the National Intelligence Estimate on Afghanistan that was published in 2011. It is classified, but every Member of Congress can take 1 hour—it's about 55 pages, I've read it—and read it. You need to read it, and then maybe you can help us make better decisions here on the floor about what in the world are we doing in Afghanistan spending Uncle Sam's money that he doesn't even have. He has to borrow his money from the Chinese to pay Karzai.

Where does that make any sense? The American people do not think it makes any sense.

We did a teletown hall about a month ago, and 66 percent of thousands of people that were on that call said bring our troops home now. Now, I realize that's the Third District of North Carolina, the home of Camp Lejeune, Cherry Point Marine Air Station and New River.

Madam Speaker, I do want to close by asking God to please bless our men and women in uniform and ask God to continue to bless America.

#### HONORING JOHN OLIVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to John Oliver, an outstanding American citizen who has shown commitment and service to his hometown of Plymouth, Indiana, our State, and our country.

A native of Newcastle in the United Kingdom, 50 years ago this month, John immigrated to the United States on March 19, 1962, when he was only 19. In 1975, he officially became a United States citizen. He is a dear friend, not only to me, but to people all around the country and around the world.

He began his journey in the manufacturing industry as a laborer for a small research and development firm. He moved to Plymouth, Indiana, to work for that company, ultimately becoming its president in 1977. Nine years later, John purchased the company and renamed it U.S. Granules, which today produces 50 percent of the world's granulated aluminum. With his leadership, U.S. Granules remains a leader in technology and in quality, and they have established customers on five different continents.

John's heart and soul, though, is with his family, his friends, and his service to his community. He has been

a pillar of support for the children of Plymouth. Quietly, and without recognition, John endowed a fund to benefit the Plymouth High School speech team, a State leader in debate competition.

To further advance the strength of local schools, John has made donation after donation to help with the purchase of books for school libraries, leadership seminars for students, and the expansion of scholarship and other award programs. In addition, John maintains an intern program at U.S. Granules, and it provides work experience and scholarship assistance and a chance for our children to succeed and for their dreams to come true.

John has also been a supporter of youth baseball, in particular, American Legion Post 27, and he has also extended his support to the Indiana Baseball Hall of Fame. When he was inducted into the Indiana Baseball Hall of Fame in 2009, he humbly, as he always did, reminded everyone that his contributions were dedicated to his community's youth and to their future and that it was not about him.

John has also been an active board member of the Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, where his work has helped provide vital health care for an entire region. He is a former director of the Indiana Manufacturing Association, the Marshall County Industrial Association, and the Plymouth Industrial Development Company. He has served as fundraising drive chairman for the Marshall County United Way and the Plymouth emergency vehicle fund.

John has also served in the United States Army Reserves. He exemplifies the promise and the spirit of America, that with hard work, determination, and love of country you can accomplish anything.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana's Second District, I would like to salute John's character, his personal achievements, and his contributions to our community.

We are very lucky to have been touched by you, John, and for our lives to have been changed by you. Happy 50th anniversary as an American citizen. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

#### GAS PRICES AND PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ENERGY AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, today, right now in America, around the dining room tables at home, there are two topics of discussion that I have to think are most pressing during that dinner conversation, and that is unemployment and price at the pumps; and, frankly, they're both related, very closely.

Madam Speaker, before being appointed to office, President Obama's