

didn't get around to it as a Nation. It is true, as in this photograph, that this is a memorial for the D.C. veterans of World War I. It is decrepit, cracking, and the sidewalk, itself, is broken where Frank Buckles is sitting in his wheelchair when rain was coming down when this photograph was taken. So the kids raised \$13,000 to build a memorial to the World War I veterans.

I have introduced legislation to expand this D.C. memorial for all veterans of World War I. You see, those veterans don't have high-dollar lobbyists in D.C. who are advocating for a memorial for them. They just have the kids of the Nation, kids like those at Creekwood Middle School, who are doing everything they can to honor another generation, that generation that was the fathers of the greatest generation.

So I commend them for their relentless spirit and for studying American history and about American people like Frank Buckles. Their slogan was "bucks for Buckles, dough for the doughboys" to privately raise funds for this memorial. He is the lone survivor, but his voice will be heard throughout this country because David DeJonge is going to schools throughout the country on this national exhibit that started in a little place called Kingwood, Texas at Creekwood Middle School.

So God bless those kids, and God bless those doughboys who served and who went over there for the rest of us. They went to a land they did not know. They fought for a people that they had never met all because they were asked to do their duty. The American spirit and the American youth of this country should be congratulated.

And that's just the way it is.

INTRODUCTION OF SUPPORT 21 ACT OF 2009

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

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, in 2006, Congress passed the STOP Act to reduce the tragedy of underage drinking in our country.

Today, I rise to introduce the Support 21 Act of 2009, which builds upon that effort. The 2006 STOP Act provided the first Federal community grants to address under age drinking as a public health crisis.

While we are encouraged by reports of localized positive results, alcohol remains a dangerous primary drug of choice among our youth. Just listen to these statistics:

In 2007, about 10.7 million teens, aged 12 to 20, reported drinking alcohol in the past month. Approximately 7.2 million were binge drinkers, and 2.3 million were heavy drinkers. According to the latest Monitoring the Future Survey, slightly over 43 percent of twelfth graders said they had used alcohol in the past 30 days. Clearly, too many children and parents are ignoring the facts or do not fully understand the dangers that under age drinking poses.

Equally alarming is a recent movement by a group of college presidents to lower the minimum drinking age to 18. These college presidents are choosing to ignore research finding that alcohol has a potentially damaging impact on adolescent brain development.

Madam Speaker, the teenage years represent a critical window of opportunity for understanding, preventing and treating alcoholism. We know that people who begin drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence as an adult than those who wait until the age of 21. We know that each additional year of delayed drinking onset reduces the probability of alcohol dependence by 14 percent and that, if drinking is delayed until age 21, a child's risk of serious alcohol-related problems is decreased by 70 percent.

For all of these reasons, I am introducing the Support 21 Act, along with my lead cosponsor, Congresswoman MARY BONO MACK. Support 21 authorizes a new, highly visible media campaign to educate the public about under age drinking laws and to build support for their enforcement. Our bill directs the Institute of Medicine to report to Congress about the influence of drinking alcohol on the development of the adolescent brain.

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The legislation also authorizes grants to pediatric medical organizations in educating providers on best practices and provides supplemental grants to community coalitions to work with pediatric health care providers and parents to reduce underage drinking.

Finally, the bill provides funds for CDC to establish a new focus on underage drinking, surveillance, and prevention.

Madam Speaker, we can no longer afford to address alcohol dependence exclusively as a disease of middle age. Delaying the time when our children begin drinking until age 21 is a critical public health challenge that can offer them a safer and more productive adolescence, as well as a brighter future.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Support 21 Act of 2009.

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

WHAT IF?

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

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I have a few questions for my colleagues.

What if our foreign policy of the past century is deeply flawed and has not served our national security interests?

What if we wake up one day and realize that the terrorist threat is a predictable consequence of our meddling

in the affairs of others and has nothing to do with us being free and prosperous?

What if propping up repressive regimes in the Middle East endangers both the United States and Israel?

What if occupying countries like Iraq and Afghanistan—and bombing Pakistan—is directly related to the hatred directed towards us?

What if some day it dawns on us that losing over 5,000 American military personnel in the Middle East since 9/11 is not a fair trade-off for the loss of nearly 3,000 American citizens—no matter how many Iraqi, Pakistani, and Afghan people are killed or displaced?

What if we finally decide that torture—even if called "enhanced interrogation techniques"—is self-destructive and produces no useful information and that contracting it out to a third world nation is just as evil?

What if it is finally realized that war and military spending is always destructive to the economy?

What if all wartime spending is paid for through the deceitful and evil process of inflating and borrowing?

What if we finally see that wartime conditions always undermine personal liberty?

What if conservatives, who preach small government, wake up and realize that our interventionist foreign policy provides the greatest incentive to expand the government?

What if conservatives understood once again that their only logical position is to reject military intervention and managing an empire throughout the world?

What if the American people woke up and understood the official reasons for going to war are almost always based on lies and promoted by war propaganda in order to serve special interests?

What if we, as a Nation, came to realize that the quest for empire eventually destroys all great nations?

What if Obama has no intention of leaving Iraq?

What if a military draft is being planned for the wars that will spread if our foreign policy is not changed?

What if the American people learn the truth: that our foreign policy has nothing to do with national security and it never changes from one administration to the next?

What if war and preparation for war is a racket serving the special interests?

What if President Obama is completely wrong about Afghanistan and it turns out worse than Iraq and Vietnam put together?

What if Christianity actually teaches peace and not preventive wars of aggression?

What if diplomacy is found to be superior to bombs and bribes in protecting America?

What happens if my concerns are completely unfounded? Nothing.

But what happens if my concerns are justified and ignored? Nothing good.

HONORING OUR WAR DEAD

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to praise President Obama's decision to review President Bush's policy of banning the media from photographing the coffins of our fallen soldiers.

The American people were not allowed to see the flag-draped coffins when they arrived from Iraq and from Afghanistan. It was said that it protected the privacy of the soldiers and their families. There was a group who didn't want the American people to see the terrible human costs of the war because if they did, they would be more likely to oppose it.

Secretary of Defense Gates says he will now review the policy. He said this week that if the needs of the families can be met and the privacy concerns can be addressed, then the more honor we can accord these fallen heroes, the better.

He also said that reviewing the policy "makes all kinds of sense."

President Obama also addressed the issue at his news conference Monday night. He said he will make a decision about the policy after evaluating Secretary Gates' review and after he has an opportunity to understand all of the implications involved.

The President and Secretary Gates are 100 percent right to proceed carefully because this is a very sensitive issue.

Some families may not want pictures taken of their loved ones' coffins, and their privacy should certainly be protected. Other families will want photographs taken.

For example, one father of a fallen soldier was interviewed recently, and he said, "Looking back, I would have wanted to see the reverence and the honors given to him by the receiving military. I would have loved to have had that captured and to be able to hold it."

Madam Speaker, families should be able to decide on a case-by-case basis whether to allow photographs. If that can be done in a practical and respectful way, then I fully support changing the policy. But I also believe that the best way to handle the issue of coffins is to make sure that there are no more coffins in the first place.

That is why I've called for a redeployment of our troops out of Iraq and Afghanistan and for a worldwide ceasefire or a timeout from war.

The Taliban is resurgent in Afghanistan, and the Middle East is still as unstable as ever. It is time for us to use the more effective tools of diplomacy, reconciliation, and humanitarian assistance to build a lasting peace.

President Obama has pledged to use these tools, and he has already talked

about making diplomatic overtures to Iran.

The people of the world love and admire Barack Obama, and I believe they will respond positively to an American President who reaches out to them with an unclenched fist.

Madam Speaker, 4,238 brave American soldiers have died in Iraq, another 640 have died in Afghanistan. Tens of thousands more have been wounded, and their families are also suffering.

We must also remember soldiers of other countries who died as they served alongside our troops. They returned to their countries in flag-draped coffins.

I support the Obama administration's decision to review the coffin policy. But the way to honor the fallen is to make sure that there will be no more coffins.

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

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

THE STEAMROLLER OF SOCIALISM

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

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I stand here today because Americans face a fork in the road. One path leads to socialism, and the other path leads to freedom. This non-stimulus bill is the road to socialism. It will give us a journey that includes bureaucratic controls, high taxes, government intervention, Cuba-style medicine, and economic collapse of America.

This steamroller of socialism is being shoved down our throats, and it will strangle our economy. This porkulous bill has a few decent provisions in it, but it's mostly filled with mystery meat. Rancid meat. Like the millions for plug-in government cars and millions for mouse restoration that will ruin the entire meal. The captivating rhetoric about openness and transparency is providing cover for the rancid meat.

Another tainted bite includes a move towards socialized medicine. As a physician, I'm deeply concerned about the breach of privacy and the abuse of care that is hidden in this stimulus bill, especially for senior citizens. The vague language could potentially deny life-giving care to the elderly.

You see, \$2 billion is allocated in this non-stimulus bill for the new National Coordinator of Health Information—or you can call him "Dr. Doom." Dr. Doom, the government's own human health care calculator, will make his or her own calculations to determine if your needed care is cost efficient.

The vague nature of this language could lead to health care rationing for

elderly people and handcuffing the development of life-saving drugs to fight infections all because Dr. Doom doesn't deem them to be cost efficient. When momma falls and breaks her hip, she will just lie in her bed in pain until she dies with pneumonia because her needed surgery is not cost efficient.

I'm a medical doctor, and I'm certain that the Federal Government can no more determine what type of case is the most cost-effective and appropriate for my patients than they can determine how best to educate our children or spend our hard-earned tax dollars.

This is what happens when Congress considers a bill that costs \$1 trillion. Convenient little billions just slip on in. You'd think \$1 trillion would at least buy time and public scrutiny. Not by this bill.

It's true that our economy needs a significant jolt that requires immediate attention, but there is another direction we can go.

Congress could come together promptly to create jobs, restore faith in markets, and again unleash America's entrepreneurial spirit. The American people have a choice. There's a better alternative that I've cosponsored to provide fast-acting tax relief for hardworking families and small businesses that will create twice the jobs at half the cost of this bill.

We must give small businesses the capital they need to employ workers and to buy inventory. Congress should suspend or eliminate the capital gains tax to provide an inflow of tax into our economy. Next, we must eliminate the death tax so that family businesses can continue to thrive and produce high-paying jobs. And ultimately, let's support tax relief for our hardworking families and save future generations from this 784-pound gorilla that's in this room.

Americans must choose in which direction we will go. It will be disastrous to let politicians make that decision for us. Are we going to have government run our families and our neighborhoods? Are we going to take care of ourselves and help our neighbors? Are we going to make decisions about our own lives, where our children go the school, make our own health care decisions, and how to spend our own hard-earned money; or is government going to do that for us?

Liberals need to stop pretending that the American people can't tell the difference between SPAM and filet mignon. Instead of the wasteful mystery pork that this bill gives us, let's give the American taxpayers and entrepreneurs the red meat that they need to stimulate the American economy: permanent tax relief and job creation incentives.

Madam Speaker, let me be clear. The people in Georgia are hurting. They want action, and they want it now. But nine out of ten of them oppose this bill. They want an alternative. We have alternatives that won't even be considered by leadership.