

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, here is what some of the world's most notorious thugs, dictators and human rights violators have said about President Obama: Moammar Qaddafi, the president of Libya, who gave a hero's welcome to the terrorists who blew up the Pan American airliner, killing over 100 Americans: "We are content and happy if Obama can stay forever as the President."

Fidel Castro: "Everything he (President Obama) affirms is in contradiction with what the United States has done for 150 years."

Hugo Chavez, the dictator and human rights abuser of Venezuela: "Comrade Obama! Fidel, careful or we are going to end up to his right."

Let's hope the President is not known by his admirers. Rather, let's hope that he will stand up to his admirers. Frankly, the world would be a safer place if he did.

HONORING 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MOUNTAINSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker: Remembering the past; Part of the future. This is a theme to be celebrated on October 4 when the borough of Mountainside in my congressional district will commemorate the 75th anniversary of its public library. Since its founding in 1934 in the basement of the municipal building, the Mountainside Public Library has grown into a 10,000-square-foot facility. It provides informational, cultural, educational and recreational services to people of all ages in Mountainside and surrounding communities. Whether encouraging literacy and learning through numerous children's story and craft programs, assisting area senior citizens, or providing residents with a critical link to the digital world, the Mountainside library is providing outstanding community services to its residents. While much has changed at the Mountainside library during its 75 years, what has remained the same is the dedicated community that has generously donated time and resources to enhance the library's resources.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Mountainside Public Library for 75 years of rich and wonderful contributions to the entire community. This library is truly an important part of Mountainside's past, present, and future.

□ 1030

SUPPORT H.R. 3200, COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, even today we have come further than we

ever have before on the path to achieving comprehensive health insurance reform. Now is not the time to take a step back. Now is the time to keep the momentum going.

The American people want access to affordable health insurance when the small business they work for can't provide it for them. The American people want to know they won't lose their health insurance if their company has to make another round of layoffs. The American people want more doctors and nurses in their communities so they know health care is always available.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3200 accomplishes all these goals and more. I urge my colleagues to step up and seize this moment. Support this legislation to bring affordable and quality care to all Americans. Join me in strong support of H.R. 3200.

HONORING BRIAN GRIMM, OKLAHOMA'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR, 2009

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

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary individual from my district, Mr. Brian Grimm.

On Thursday, September 17, Brian Grimm was named Oklahoma's Teacher of the Year. After 13 years in education and with 6 years teaching at Will Rogers High School in my hometown of Tulsa, he was selected for this highly respected, much-deserved honor by a collection of education, business, and civic leaders.

Following his graduation from Sapulpa High School in a suburb of Tulsa, he went on to the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma to pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a teacher. Brian currently teaches English and advanced placement English while pursuing his master's degree from the University of Oklahoma.

Mr. Grimm is the first teacher from Tulsa Public Schools to win this honor in over 45 years and is a true hero for the work he does for Tulsa's youth. The role teachers play in preparing our children for a successful future cannot be understated, and thanks to the highly dedicated educators like Brian Grimm, that future has never looked brighter.

I'm proud to honor him today and congratulate him on his achievement.

TEACHER EQUITY: EFFECTIVE TEACHERS FOR ALL CHILDREN

(Ms. HIRONO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, the Education and Labor Committee is holding a hearing later this morning on teacher equity and ensuring that all children have access to effective teachers.

The most important resource in every classroom is a caring, qualified, and competent teacher; yet highly ef-

fective teachers tend to be more concentrated in affluent communities. Children of the highest poverty and highest minority schools across the country are often taught by less experienced, less qualified teachers. These children are being shortchanged. Closing this "teacher quality gap" is a critical step in closing the achievement gap for these students.

We can do more here in Congress to support the important work teachers do and to help teachers access the professional development and support they need. We can do more to ensure that effective teachers are placed, and encouraged to stay, in the classrooms where they are most needed. By building on the work of this Congress, for example, we required States to provide assurance that they will take steps to address disparities in teacher equity as a condition of receiving Recovery Act funds.

ACORN

(Mr. BROWN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I applaud my colleagues in the House and Senate for recently voting to block ACORN from receiving any additional Federal funding. It is clear that ACORN is unable to use Federal money properly, and as our constituents face financial hardships of their own, the last place hard-earned taxpayers' dollars should be allocated is to an organization known for its blatant abuse of these funds.

Thanks to action by Republicans and Democrats alike, this House has passed legislation preventing this questionable organization from receiving another cent of America's taxpayers' money.

But our efforts must not stop here. There is a complex web of nonprofits that directly fund ACORN and its affiliates.

The American public has a right to know how ACORN is funded. After all, for years we have been the ones footing the bill.

GUANTANAMO BAY: STILL AN IMPORTANT ISSUE

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, when President Obama and Senator McCain pledged to close our legal black hole known as Guantanamo Bay, they reaffirmed to the world that the United States is a Nation governed by the rule of law and defined by our embrace of universal human rights. Yet efforts to close this antithesis of the American justice system have stalled due to the administration's poor handling of the issue, not-in-my-backyard

politics, and the difficulty in finding suitable locations for the 223 detainees remaining at Guantanamo. But the broader facts have not changed.

It's in our national security interest to shut down Guantanamo, to close this ugly chapter in American foreign policy once and for all. By continuing to imprison people without charge, we violate the most basic principle of American justice known as habeas corpus, we undermine our international reputation, and we fuel terrorist recruitment and anti-American sentiment.

I hope our administration has learned from their early mistakes and will begin consulting with Congress on this issue. Keeping the legislative body in the dark on pertinent information related to the detainees and efforts to relocate them is a recipe for policy failure and risks the larger goal of keeping President Obama's promise to close this black hole of American injustice.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S SPEECH TO WALL STREET AND THE G-20 SUMMIT

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

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, in his recent speech before Wall Street, President Obama was right to demand more responsibility from the American financial industrial complex. One year and \$16 trillion of taxpayer liability at risk later, the American people are still shouldering the burden of the reckless behavior of the companies deemed "too big to fail."

I am troubled, however, Mr. Speaker, by the presupposition espoused by international leaders during last week's G-20 summit that greater global consolidation of our financial systems is in our national or in the international community's best interest. Mr. Speaker, it is the global scale of the crisis of credit and confidence that should give us pause to consider that our profound economic connectedness might actually intensify our problems.

Local businesses and local financiers best know the needs of their communities and, in their very essence, are more transparent and accountable. Rather than risk becoming more intertwined in an internationalist financial industrial model, we should focus instead on encouraging the formation of strong local economies, which are the proper models for us to build economic strength in America as well as for the world's developing nations. This should be Wall Street's and the President's guiding principle. They owe it to the American people.

THE RECESSION AND TAKING NEVADA AND THE NATION IN A NEW, MORE PROSPEROUS DIRECTION

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, Nevada's families have been hard hit during this recession. Since coming to Congress, I've made it a priority to address our economic slump, help create jobs, and put families in their homes for keeps.

In the past week alone, the House has taken important steps to help Nevadans during this challenging time. With the Silver State facing record unemployment, we passed legislation to extend unemployment benefits. For some, this can mean the difference between making that mortgage payment and losing their home.

We have also passed legislation that I was proud to introduce to protect seniors from higher Medicare premiums. With the recession taking a toll on retirement savings, many seniors cannot afford to pay higher Medicare costs that eat away at their Social Security benefits. My bill will protect seniors at a time when they are counting on every dollar to get by.

We didn't get into this recession overnight, and it will take some time to climb out, but I will continue working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to take Nevada and this country in a new and more prosperous direction.

THE TIME FOR COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE REFORM IS NOW

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, the time for comprehensive health care reform is now. This picture says it all from the American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association. It shows a young boy in a doctor's waiting room. It says he's not a Democrat or a Republican; he's a patient.

We need to talk about the human face of health care reform like my nephew's son, Tucker Wright, who was 18 months when he was diagnosed with liver cancer. Both of his parents work. They have health insurance. But the enormous cost of the lifetime of health care that Tucker faces is not even close to being covered by his parents' insurance policy. When we have lifetime caps on medical policies and we have an inability to have portability from one job to another, we are not addressing the medical needs of America.

This Monday I met with a young woman, whose name is Hanna Rodriguez, who has a cleft palate, a birth defect. She's ready for the final surgery to repair that birth defect, but it's not covered by insurance, unlike other birth defects such as cystic fibro-

sis, because it's considered cosmetic surgery.

We are not doing the job for the American people when we have these obstacles, and that's why we need health care reform now.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PAS-TOR of Arizona). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 293

In the Senate of the United States, September 29, 2009.

Whereas, Henry Bellmon served as a United States Marine from 1942-1946, where he served as a platoon tank commander in the Pacific theater, and was awarded the Legion of Merit for his service in Saipan and the Silver Star for bravery in action on Iwo Jima;

Whereas, Henry Bellmon served as a Major in the Marine Corps Reserve until 1954;

Whereas, Henry Bellmon served two non-consecutive terms as governor of the State of Oklahoma from 1963-1967, when he was elected as the state's first Republican governor, and from 1987-1991; and

Whereas, Henry Bellmon served the people of Oklahoma with distinction for 12 years in the United States Senate from 1969-1981;

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Henry Bellmon, former member of the United States Senate,

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Henry Bellmon.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed without amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 2131. An act to amend the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 to reauthorize the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy.

H.R. 3593. An act to amend the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 to extend by one year the operation of Radio Free Asia, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that Mr. KIRK and Mr. LEMIEUX be added as conferees, on the part of the Senate, to replace the late Senator Kennedy and recently retired Senator Martinez, on the bill (H.R. 2647) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department