

It is important that we join together to protect and enhance the natural, cultural and historical resources which are integral to the identity of America.

#### HONORING SAM HOGLE

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of my constituents, Sam Hogle from Marietta, Georgia, for achieving the highest honor for a Boy Scout, the rank of Eagle Scout.

As a Boy Scout myself, I know that achieving this rank is a significant moment in the life of any young man. However, in Sam's case, the accomplishment is even more inspiring because Sam was born blind. This circumstance could have added a significant obstacle to his goal of becoming an Eagle Scout. However, Sam would not let it get in his way, calling his blindness an inconvenience, but not a disability that could keep him from achieving his dream.

Armed with this positive attitude and incredible determination, Sam has become an excellent student, an Eagle Scout, and an asset to his community.

Sam's Eagle Scout project shows exactly what kind of young man he is. For his project, Sam planned, raised the funds, and led a campout for visually impaired boys. He wanted these boys to learn that they could also enjoy the outdoors and experience the same kind of fun and learning that he has by being a Boy Scout.

For many of these middle school boys, it is their first campout. Sam's campout was extremely successful. The boys had a wonderful, wonderful time. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sam Hogle on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

#### HONORING GEORGE W. "BOB" GILL

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of George W. "Bob" Gill, an extraordinary resident of my congressional district who helped build Fort Lauderdale into the world-renowned tourism destination it is today.

Tourism is the economic engine of south Florida, and Mr. Gill was a pioneer in the field. After opening six area hotels over 60 years, he even earned the nickname "the Dean of Fort Lauderdale tourism." Mr. Gill had a knack for marketing and a sharp business sense. His ideas helped to bring vacationing northerners to enjoy Fort Lauderdale's beautiful beaches. He created some of the most iconic hotels in south Florida, including the Yankee Clipper and the Jolly Roger, the first hotels in the area to offer air-conditioning way back in 1952.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Gill lived a long and rich life, passing away last week at

the age of 93. Our thoughts and prayers are with his daughter Linda and all the friends and family that Mr. Gill left behind. He left an enduring legacy on south Florida, and Mr. Gill will be missed.

#### SALVADORAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

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

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, the Salvadoran presidential elections will be held on March 15. If the FMLN wins the election, it would be devastating for the people of El Salvador as well as for the relationship between our two countries.

FMLN party leadership is expected to follow the anti-U.S. agenda of Venezuela's radical president, Hugo Chavez, and join Cuba in a pro-Chavez, pro-Cuba, pro-Iran axis.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, the FMLN is a pro-terrorist party with direct ties to sponsors of terror. After the 9/11 attacks, they marched in their capital city to celebrate the attack by al Qaeda, and they burned the American flag. The leader of that march was Salvador Sanchez Ceren, who is now the FMLN's candidate for vice president.

Mr. Speaker, should the pro-terrorist FMLN party replace the current government in El Salvador, the United States, in the interest of national security, would be required to re-evaluate our policy toward El Salvador, including cash remittance and immigration policies, to compensate for the fact there will no longer be a reliable counterpart in the Salvadoran government.

It is my hope that the El Salvadoran people continue the history of a positive relationship between our two countries and ensure that they elect pro-freedom, pro-peace, life-loving officials to their government.

#### PROBLEMS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I would like to follow up on what my colleague said. There is a real problem down in Central America. We have a communist government in Nicaragua controlled by the Ortigas. We have in Venezuela Mr. Chavez. And we also have other countries down there, like Bolivia with Mr. Morales that are moving to the left. If El Salvador moves to the left like that, I think it is going to be very bad for not only that part of the world but the entire hemisphere.

But I would like to point out one thing. If I were talking to the people of El Salvador, they get \$4 billion a year in money coming from the United States into their country to help the people who live down there. That money, in my opinion, will be cut dramatically if they elect a leftist government. Those moneys coming from here

to there I am confident will be cut, and I hope that the people of El Salvador are aware of that because it will have a tremendous impact on individuals and their economy.

□ 1545

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, men, women and children came together to celebrate International Women's Day. Since 1909, government civic groups and local communities have taken time to reflect on the role of women and the unique challenges that we face.

This year, the women of Iraq find themselves still facing hard odds, great odds, even with the decline in violence. Many women still are displaced from their homes, from their employment, and their communities. Their children still lack the basic necessities of clean water, electricity, health care, and access to education. Every day is an act of heroism for those women.

All too often, the role of women is ignored or undervalued. Fortunately, our new Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton, has placed a high priority on women's participation at all levels of decision-making. The Secretary has selected eight outstanding women to be honored as recipients of the International Women of Courage Award. This is the only award within the Department of State that pays tribute to outstanding women leaders worldwide. It recognizes the courage and leadership shown as they struggle for social justice and for human rights.

One of these women is an exceptional Iraqi woman, Suaad Allami. Ms. Allami is a prominent lawyer who fights against the erosion of women's rights and defends the most disadvantaged. She founded the NGO Women for Progress and the Sadr City Women's Center, which offers free medical care, literacy education, vocational training, and legislative advocacy. Few of us, Mr. Speaker, can imagine the indescribable challenges of women in her position.

U.S. diplomatic and military officials have lauded her for many things, including her bravery. And they always point to her work outside the Green Zone. The State Department actually pointed to one shining example of her work: When Ms. Allami learned about the extent of alleged human rights abuses at Kadhamiya Women's Prison, she boldly conducted an unannounced

inspection, CNN crew in tow, without regard for the potential for backlash against herself. The Minister for Human Rights shut the prison down 2 months later.

I am pleased that the State Department and Secretary Clinton singled out Ms. Allami for her work. My only wish is that more women, whose bravery occurs every single day, hour by hour, through their acts of courage and just living in Iraq, would receive the same recognition.

The women of Iraq have shown amazing strength and courage. I hope that with the redeployment of our troops and military contractors, all Iraqis will have the hope and security of a prosperous new future.

#### BORDER WAR CONTINUES

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I bring you news from the second front; that is, the border between the United States and Mexico.

This past weekend, I was the guest of two of our border sheriffs in Texas, Sheriff Oscar Carrillo from Culberson County, Texas, and Sheriff Arvin West from Hudspeith County, Texas. These two massive counties are the size of the States of Connecticut and Rhode Island put together. They are the two counties just east of El Paso County.

I was there to see the situation on the Texas-Mexico border firsthand by the people who help protect the border, and that is the border sheriffs, along with the Border Patrol. Smugglers that are coming across from Mexico, bringing in drugs, are relentless in their endeavor to bring narcotics into the United States.

The cross-border travelers that are captured in these two counties, most of the people in the county jails, are these foreign nationals bringing drugs or committing other crimes. Let me make this clear: Most of the people in these two county jails are foreigners that have committed felonies or misdemeanors in the United States. In fact, Arvin West told me that if he didn't have cross-border travelers in his county jail, he wouldn't need a jail, except one cell for one person. There are over 500 people in the county jails that are foreign nationals. So that's how bad the problem is continuing to be.

The drug cartel are smugglers, Mr. Speaker. They smuggle into the United States not only drugs, but people. It is all intertwined. And all because of money, they are bringing those individuals and those drugs into the country. But also, they smuggle back to Mexico two commodities, and the two commodities they smuggle are guns and money. They are in the smuggling business. They are very well organized.

Sara Carter, from the Washington Times, reports that the drug cartels

have in their employment over 100,000 foot soldiers; that's just a little bit less than the entire Mexican Army. They have better vehicles, they have better weaponry, and they have a whole lot more money than our border protectors do on this side. They have gotten so sophisticated now that they don't let any drugs come into the United States unless they're tracked by GPS devices.

The drug runners are committed—it's almost a religion to them—to bring drugs into the United States. Let me give you an example of that.

I understand now, after being down on the border, the sheriffs were telling me that the drug runners pray to a narco saint—that's right—Jesus Malverde. He was an individual that died in 1909. He was supposed to be a Mexican national that helped the poor, et cetera. But now there are shrines in different parts of Mexico where these drug runners in the drug cartels pray to this individual for safety in crossing the border into the United States so they can bring drugs. He's supposed to be the patron saint of travelers—I thought it was St. Christopher. But be that as it may, it shows how relentless these people are. Now, just to clarify, the Catholic Church says Jesus Malverde is not a saint, has never been, and never will be. But it shows you that it is a religion to these people to bring drugs and other people into the country.

But there is also good news from the border. The border county sheriffs, the 20 county sheriffs in Texas, have put up cameras along the border, and those cameras are tied to the Internet. And so a person can log on to a Web site called blueservo.net, and they can actually see these cameras and they can track people coming into the United States. They have had over 43,000 people log in just since this thing started a few weeks ago, and they are as far away as Australia. An Australian was watching it, and he sent an e-mail to the head of this association and said, hey mate, we've been watching your border from Australia and trying to help out you guys.

So, what is occurring is, if somebody sees traffic—drug smugglers, illegals, whatever—coming into the United States, they have a Web site, an e-mail, and they can e-mail the border sheriff in that county, and either the sheriffs or the Border Patrol goes out and arrests the bad guys coming into the country. Just as this has started, four major drug busts have occurred, and 30 incidents where illegal crossers were coming in were repelled and they went back across the border. Of course the cynics in the open-border crowd are against this; they're against anything that seems to work.

I want to commend the Border Sheriffs Coalition, the 20 of them, especially Oscar Carrillo, Arvin West and Sigi Gonzalez, because they are doing a job that is a thankless job, but it is important to protect the integrity of the United States.

And what we need to do is to help them by putting more people, more boots on the ground, more Border Patrol, more sheriff's deputies, and even the National Guard, if necessary, to help them.

I would like to insert into the RECORD the 20 border sheriffs in Texas that are protecting the border.

And that's just the way it is.

#### TEXAS BORDER SHERIFFS COALITION

Brewster County—Ronny Dodson  
Cameron County—Omar Lucio  
Culberson County—Oscar Carrillo  
Dimmit County—Joel Gonzales  
El Paso County—Richard Wiles  
Hidalgo County—Guadalupe Trevino  
Hudspeth County—Arvin West  
Jeff Davis County—Thomas Roberts  
Kinney County—Leland Burgess  
Maverick County—Thomas Herrera  
Pecos County—Cliff Harris  
Presidio County—Danny Dominguez  
Starr County—Rene Fuentes  
Terrell County—Clint McDonald  
Val Verde County—Joe Martinez  
Webb County—Martin Cuellar  
Zapata County—Sigifredo Gonzalez  
Zavala County—Eusebio Salinas  
Willacy County—Larry Spence  
Jim Hogg County—Erasmus Alarcon

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

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

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.)

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

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### WHERE IS THE TARP MONEY GOING?

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the people of this country last year saw us appropriate \$700 billion for what they called TARP. And that money was supposed to be used to help out financial institutions that were in difficult trouble. It was also supposed to help out with the home problem, the houses that were being foreclosed on. And those of us in Congress that didn't support it said we didn't support it because there was no plan. We didn't know where the money was going to be spent.

So today we had a hearing on this. And during that hearing we asked