

ABC will not devote time to an opposing viewpoint and refused to air ads critical of the administration's health care plan.

I joined with dozens of other Members of Congress to send a letter to ABC News protesting this one-sided coverage. It is contrary to the journalistic code of ethics, which states that a journalist's duty is to seek truth and provide a fair and comprehensive account of events and issues.

ABC should adhere to this code of ethics and abandon its plans to broadcast unfair and biased coverage of the health care debate.

TRIBUTE TO BILL BANKS

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

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Bill Banks, a person that really made a difference in the lives of so many.

Bill Banks passed 4 days ago, and, of course, he's going to be really, really missed. So at this time I would like to say to his wife and to his daughter and to all of those family members that, in spite of the fact that we've lost Bill, we can think in terms of the contribution that he has made and all the lives that he's touched.

I will say that I'm just so happy that I knew him, had an opportunity to work with him, and to live during his lifetime. He was really a person that reached out to the people of Brooklyn. And, of course, a lot of people are where they are today politically because of his involvement. He was truly a great political strategist.

Bill, we will miss you, but your work is something that will live on and on and on.

CALLING FOR THE PRESIDENT TO RESCIND THE JULY 4 CELEBRATION INVITATION TO IRANIAN DIPLOMATS

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, the 4th of July is a holiday that we hold very near and dear because it deals with our independence and our desire for freedom and liberty, and we celebrate that with a great deal of awe.

What bothers me right now is that this administration, in my opinion, is violating the sanctity of that day by inviting Iranian diplomats to our embassies around the world to help us celebrate the 4th of July. Let's just look at what Iran's doing.

Iran is still pursuing nuclear weapons; Ahmadinejad is still calling for the destruction of Israel; Iran is still pursuing long-range missiles; Iran is working to destabilize Iraq and killing American soldiers; Iran is still a state

sponsor of terror; Iran continues to supply Hezbollah and Hamas, terrorist organizations. Now the Iranian regime has turned on its own citizens and killed many of them in the streets.

It is unthinkable, at a time when we are celebrating freedom and independence in this country, the 4th of July, that we're going to invite into our embassies people who support this kind of terrorism. It makes no sense. And if I were talking to the President, I would say, Mr. President, rescind that invitation. Rescind that invitation.

ADVOCATING FREEDOM FOR IRAN

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is evident by my colleague's remarks that Iran and the dilemma and complexity of its situation has grabbed hold of the hearts and minds of Americans and freedom-loving people around the world.

What struck me was the expression and the tragic incident that caused Neda, who is now known around the world as a symbol of the Iranian movement, to claim democracy in a free election. A 16-year-old who was shot through the heart, who lay bleeding in the street as her father feverishly tried to save her life.

No, Americans are not trying to tell the Iranian people whom they should vote for or whether the election was, in fact, a true election, a fair election. But we as freedom-loving people, who love democracy, who believe in our own country that we should have fair elections, we are standing with them as they petition their government to stand for the right side of the issue, which is to ask for a new election or a recount.

We also ask that lives are preserved and violence ends. We ask that the opposition be allowed to be heard. And we certainly ask for the ending of the interception of cell phones and the Internet where freedom-loving people would like to be able to speak to each other.

No, we are not advocating violence. We're not advocating intrusion. We are only advocating freedom for Iran.

CAP-AND-TRADE

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

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, word has it that the infamous cap-and-trade, or cap-and-tax, bill will be up for a vote this week.

Cap-and-trade, or what has been more appropriately named cap-and-tax, would create \$640 billion in new taxes on American businesses and raise electric bills by \$3,100 per household per year on average. The revenue from the new tax will be used to pay for various social programs this administration plans to enact such as the government takeover of our health care.

Simply put, cap-and-tax will cap our growth and trade our jobs. Companies looking to invest in our economy will simply move overseas to escape this enormous tax increase.

If you need a tangible example of why this doesn't work, look at Spain, which has been on this plan for 10 years. The result: utility prices have skyrocketed, and the unemployment rate today is 17½ percent. This is our view of the future.

Experts tell us that cap-and-tax will do nothing to cap greenhouse gases, but it will put the United States at a global economic disadvantage because China and India have no reason to enact or follow this policy. We will put Americans out of work but create jobs for developing countries.

We need a smart energy policy that will put Americans to work, not further squeeze the pocketbooks of this country's families.

THE WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, tonight the House passed five bills, four of which dealt with important veterans issues, veterans compensation, the Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act, the Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act, and another that directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to include on their Web site certain information, one on education.

I was a sponsor of the fifth bill that was on the calendar, the Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act, with the prime sponsor being Representative Sandlin. I was inadvertently out of the room at the time of that vote. I would have voted "yes" for that bill. It's an important bill. And that's why I'm a prime sponsor of it and regret the fact that I missed that vote. But I think what we did tonight for veterans was very important.

U.S. OPEN CHAMPION LUCAS GLOVER

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

Mr. INGLIS. Madam Speaker, the upstate of South Carolina is the home to many champions and many successes. Yesterday we crowned a new one. That new one is the 29-year-old Greenville, South Carolina, native Lucas Glover, who conquered the field yesterday in New York to win the 109th U.S. Open Golf Championship.

With people from around the upstate glued to the action, the soft-spoken Wade Hampton High School graduate and three-time All-American from Clemson University rallied from one shot down to break into the big time in the world of golf, winning his first major championship since joining the PGA tour in 2004.