

shame. Plaintiffs and defendants are merely a means to an end for the trial lawyers, who get fat off the pain of one group or the hard work of the other.

The time for reform is now, Mr. Speaker, and this week, the House will continue its long-term strategy of taking back America's legal system from the "Lords of the Ambulance Chase."

Today we will take up four bills to rein in lawsuit abuse. We will pass bills specifically protecting interscholastic sports organizations from lawsuits concerning their athletic rules; protecting volunteer firefighters from lawsuits that discourage generous Americans from donating equipment to them; and protecting volunteer pilots who come to the aid of their communities in times of crisis. And more comprehensively, Mr. Speaker, we will take up legislation presented by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act, which will impose mandatory penalties on those who file frivolous lawsuits.

This bill will also prevent clever lawyers from shopping around for favorable judges and venues wholly unrelated to the case, it will remove the "free pass" provisions in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that many lawyers hide behind once their claim is exposed as a farce, and it will better hold lawyers accountable for their behavior during the discovery process.

In short, Mr. Speaker, these bills together will further help take back the judicial system for legitimate plaintiffs, real defendants, principled lawyers who serve the ideals of their honorable profession, our national economic health, and, finally, for justice itself.

PROPOSING A TEMPORARY MEMORIAL IN THE CAPITOL ROTUNDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, last week we passed the 1,000th casualty mark in Iraq. Since then, we have lost another 12 of our fellow citizens in service to their country and its ideals. 1,012 American families are grieving the loss of their loved ones; 1,140 when we count the theater of Afghanistan and its conflict.

Mr. Speaker, we salute our Soldiers, Marines, Airmen, Sailors, Reservists and Guardsmen called to duty. We thank them deeply for their service and their sacrifice and that of their families. We must honor their service and pay tribute to their heroism.

For these reasons, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) and I have written a letter to the Speaker asking that the Capitol Rotunda be used for a temporary memorial to honor the troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

This memorial would display pictures of each fallen soldier, along with bio-

graphical information, and would give visitors to the Capitol Rotunda, the People's House, an opportunity to pay tribute to the troops. They could write notes, letters, anything they want to the families, so they know in this time that they have the thoughts and the prayers of their fellow countrymen.

I have done this outside my office as an individual gesture, as the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES), a colleague of mine from the other party, has done outside his office, so you could write a note, you could write a card, some way to let this family know, whether they are from your State or not, that in this moment of pain and grief they are not alone; they have the thoughts and the prayers of their fellow countrymen.

The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is from the other party. This is not a Democrat or Republican issue, it is not whether you were or were not against the war; it is a way of paying respect.

Throughout our history, the Rotunda has been used for public viewing of our fallen heroes, bestowing upon them one of our Nation's highest honors. After World War I, we saluted fallen soldiers in the Rotunda. For World War II, Korea and Vietnam, we did the same. It is only fitting that we use the Capitol Rotunda to honor those who have fallen in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The war in Iraq is not over, and there will certainly be more lives lost, unfortunately. But this tribute is for all Americans, to show their respect for the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice, as well as to their families.

I do not often agree with President Bush, but I do agree with the sentiment he expressed in his Saturday radio address. "Since September 11, the sacrifices in the War on Terror have fallen most heavily on members of our military and their families. Our Nation is grateful to the brave men and women who are taking risks on our behalf at this hour, and America will never forget the ones who have fallen, men and women last seen doing their duty, whose names we will honor forever."

I agree with the sentiments expressed by President Bush, and I hope that the Speaker and the Republican leadership would take up those sentiments and do a temporary memorial. I am now doing it outside my office. The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES), as I mentioned, is doing it outside his office. I would ask that it no longer be an individual gesture, but it be an institutional gesture of that sentiment that the President expressed Saturday in his radio address.

Mr. Speaker, since this Congress convened, we have found time to name no less than 70 post offices, and we named another one just yesterday. I think we can, indeed, it is our duty and responsibility, find the time to properly honor those who have sacrificed everything in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, this tribute was initiated by an individual Member of the House. We should make an institutional decision today in the People's House to expand it to an institutional gesture for all people who come to the People's House to remind those families that they have our love, our respect, our prayers and our thoughts in this time.

I hope that all this body will join me in saluting their families.

DRUG IMPAIRED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2004

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk briefly about H.R. 3922, the Drug Impaired Driving Enforcement Act of 2004 that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) introduced in this House earlier this year, along with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) and myself.

Mr. Speaker, we often hear about drunk driving, but we have not heard enough about drug-impaired driving. Let me read some of the findings in this bill.

Driving under the influence of or after having used illegal drugs has become a significant problem worldwide. 35 million persons in the United States age 12 or older had used illegal drugs this past year, and almost 11 million of those persons age 12 or older and 31 percent in the past year had driven under the influence of or after having used illegal drugs.

This is a sobering thought when you are driving down the highway. Not only may somebody be high on alcohol, but they may be whacked out on drugs, and they may be combining the drugs, alcohol and illegal drugs to put you and your family at risk.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, illegal drugs are used by approximately 10 to 22 percent of all drivers in motor vehicle crashes. In other words, when we talk about what the problems are on the road, we have to have illegal drugs in that mix.

Across the country, we do not have in many cases the ability to detect or prosecute, because we do not have the detection, the use of illegal drugs in automobile wrecks, particularly in higher incidence most likely of deaths than even other types of automobile wrecks. Too few police officers have been trained, and there is lack of uniformity and consistency in State laws.

What this bill would do is provide grants and money to the different States for model legislation on how to do drug-impaired driving statutes, to ensure drivers in need of drug education or treatment are identified and