

being. He was beloved by his family, beloved by his friends and his community and by his State. Meyer Cardin was a great American, a great human being, a great dad, a great grandfather, and he will be missed sorely. But the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) is absolutely correct. His life was a joy and a triumph.

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

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

RENEGOTIATE CAFTA

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 of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am here on the floor again tonight to talk about my opposition to CAFTA, the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

I want to start my comments by quoting Ross Perot who was a candidate for the presidency in October 1992. I quote Mr. Perot, "You implement that NAFTA, the Mexican trade agreement, where they pay people a dollar an hour, have no health care, no retirement, no pollution control, and you are going to hear a giant sucking sound of jobs being pulled out of this country right at a time when we need the tax base to pay the debt."

That is what Mr. Perot said in 1992.

Mr. Speaker, since NAFTA became the law of the land, let me tell you what happened in my State of North Carolina. North Carolina has lost over 200,000 manufacturing jobs. The United States has lost over 2.5 million manufacturing jobs. CAFTA will continue these trends; 85 percent of the language in CAFTA is identical to the language in NAFTA.

Mr. Speaker, let me talk about Trade Promotion Authority, which I did not support. Since Trade Promotion Authority of August of 1992, North Carolina has lost over 52,000 manufacturing jobs; the United States has lost over 600,000 million manufacturing jobs.

Mr. Speaker, CAFTA will do nothing else but to help eliminate jobs in this great Nation. I do not think we as a Nation can afford to continue to see jobs go overseas, whether they be to

Central America, China or other countries.

Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I found an advertisement in a magazine, and it starts out, Are we blind? Can't we see what is happening to us? This is an ad by the Economy in Crisis. It is creating an awareness about our true economic conditions.

Let me take just two aspects of this ad, Losing ownership and control of our country: We are losing ownership and control of our country through unsustainable balances of trade deficits. In the last 10 years, we have lost \$3 trillion through these trade deficits. \$1.3 trillion has been returned and used by foreign companies to buy our best companies like Chrysler, Amoco, Atlantic Richfield Oil, and 8,600 other great companies. For example, key chokepoints, industries like cement is 81 percent foreign owned. The movie industry is over 70 percent foreign owned.

Mr. Speaker, additionally in this ad it says, How well and how long can we live like this? I read just one sentence, How secure can we be if we must live on imports and sell off or dismantle our factories?

Mr. Speaker, that is what this is all about. CAFTA is not good for this country. You will see to my left and to my right, one is a newspaper article that says VF Jeanswear Closes Plant, 445 Jobs Gone By Next Summer. Mr. Speaker, those jobs went down to Honduras.

Mr. Speaker, those jobs went down to Honduras. And just 2 years ago, in North Carolina, it says Pillowtex Goes Bust, Erasing 6,450 Jobs and the subtitle says, Five North Carolina Plants Closing in Largest Single Job Loss in State's History. That was just 2 years ago, Mr. Speaker, in 2003.

I do not know how we as a Congress can pass the CAFTA legislation as it is drawn. I agree with my friends on the other side of the aisle, Democrats and also Republicans who are opposed to CAFTA as it is drawn today. We need to rewrite, redraw this treaty with the Central American countries so that it can work for them as well as it works for the United States.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to show the those in attendance on the floor a candy. It says: Candy decorated fruit snack. And this was made in China.

Mr. Speaker, again, in closing, I hope that we on the House floor will do what is right, and that is to help protect jobs in America and help protect the American people who are working so hard to pay their taxes and meet their obligations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform and please bless America.

SMART SECURITY

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, back in my district this past weekend, I had an extraordinary meeting with a group of veterans, many of them from Alpha Company 579th Engineering Battalion who have recently returned from a tour in Iraq.

During their deployment, this National Guard unit of 88 mostly California soldiers lost 3 comrades; 23 were wounded in action. And they also received 26 Purple Hearts, eight Bronze Stars and one Meritorious Service Medal.

Saturday's town meeting was not about my position on the war or anybody else's. We were there to provide information about the services and benefits available to returning soldiers. We had the VA regional director as well as a local vice chairman from a group called Employment Support for the Guard and Reserve. One of our speakers was the National Managing Director of Helmet to Hardhats, an organization that helps place veterans in construction jobs. The administrator from the largest veterans home in the country in Yountville, California, was there. And we heard from a man who started a nonprofit called Welcome Home Heroes devoted simply to treating an Iraq or Afghanistan veteran to a night out with his or her family at a nice restaurant.

For so many soldiers, the return from the battlefield is just the beginning of their ordeal. There are those who have been wounded or mentally traumatized or both and must learn to cope with a life-altering condition. But even if you come home unscathed, the transition back to civilian life can be rough going. There are jobs to find, educations to complete and loans to pay off. There are cases in which service to the Nation has cost veterans their homes or their small businesses. Some may need family counseling to readjust to domestic life.

We cannot let them down. I was profoundly disappointed a few weeks ago when we learned that the Department of Veterans Affairs found itself a billion dollars short of what was necessary to cover veterans health expenses for the year 2005. But this body did the right thing by quickly passing a supplemental to help fill the gap before we left for the Fourth of July holiday, although the appropriations I believe could have been more generous.

How could we go home to celebrate the birth of American freedom if we were not doing our part to support our troops in the field today?

Every Member of the House who voted that day voted aye, voted for the bill which just goes to show, Mr. Speaker, that there is and there should be little partisanship when it comes to support for our veterans.

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I do not know anyone on either side of the aisle in this Chamber who does not feel the utmost pride in the brave men and women who are on the front