

States should prevail upon Egypt to help effect a prisoner exchange, stop the rocket attacks on Israeli citizens, and improve the humanitarian conditions for citizens of Gaza.

It's a fortunate coincidence that the Secretary of State is in the region right now, and I am supportive of her taking an active role in resolving this conflict. Beyond resolutions and expressions of sympathy, we need real actions from the Bush administration to solidify and advance the commitments of leaders in the Middle East to a lasting peace through the two-state solution envisioned well before Annapolis. I ask my colleagues here in the House to join me in urging the Secretary of State to highlight the humanitarian needs of ordinary citizens of Gaza alongside the fear and death among ordinary Israelis as she seeks to mediate the situation so tragic for all involved.

Finally, as a Member of Congress, I am concerned about the resolution's references to Iran. Now, I agree that Iran is playing a negative role in the region, but we have seen what the Bush administration has done with past congressional resolutions. I want to repeat that there is nothing in the resolution that should be construed as a justification for military action. I remain opposed to military action against Iran. We need to start a bilateral dialogue. That has been and will continue to be my position. The most effective way to stop Iran's harmful activities is to engage them directly.

Mr. Speaker, though I wholeheartedly condemn the rocket attacks on Israel, I urge my colleagues to consider the suffering of all of the people, including the people of Sderot, Ashkelon, and Gaza.

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

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

#### THE GROWING U.S. NATIONAL DEBT

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, last night I spoke on the floor about my concern that allied countries have only paid \$2.5 billion of the \$15.8 billion they pledged to help rebuild Iraq. While many of Iraq's oil-rich neighbors are not making good on their promises, the United States has already spent \$29 billion to help rebuild Iraq, and Congress has approved an additional \$16.5 billion.

Unlike the United States, which is borrowing money from foreign governments to pay its bills, many of Iraq's neighbors are running record surpluses. While oil is at a record high of nearly

\$104 a barrel, American taxpayers are facing prices of more than \$3 at the pump. Last night on the floor, I heard Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR talk about the possibility of gas going to \$4 a gallon. And Congressman TODD TIAHRT spoke about the Air Force's recent decision to award a multibillion contract for a new tanker aircraft to a foreign firm. He made the point that our government is putting the United States at an economic disadvantage by awarding contracts for a French tanker built by Europeans rather than an American tanker built by an American company with American workers.

Mr. Speaker, all of these issues tie into my concern over America's economic future. Our national debt is growing by \$1.4 billion a day and nearly \$1 million by the minute. The total current debt is more than \$9 trillion, which means almost \$30,000 in debt for each man, woman, child, and infant in the United States. And as our debt climbs, we are borrowing money from foreign governments to pay our bills.

It is obvious that our current fiscal policies are not sustainable. On February 26, 2008, during a hearing of the Financial Services Committee, I had an opportunity to question a panel of top economists about when our country's current financial practices will get beyond a point of no return. Dr. Mark Zandi, chief economist for Moody's Economy.com, responded that this point of no return will come "once we get into the next President's term." He continued to say that if we're not successful in addressing the economic questions currently facing our Nation, "we've got a significant problem."

I've read a lot of history books, and most recently I read Pat Buchanan's book "Day of Reckoning." I agree with his assessment that "no world power has long survived the levels of debt and dependency America is incurring."

If America does not get its priorities straight and get a handle on its spending, we will not be able to survive as a great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, because it is urgent that we turn our economic situation around, I hope that the Congress and the next President will take this issue seriously. Out of fairness to the American taxpayers and future generations, we can no longer delay the need to pay down our debt and work towards sounder economic policies.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will ask God to continue to bless our men and women in uniform and ask God to please bless their families and ask God to please continue to bless America.

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.)

#### SUNSET MEMORIAL

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

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, it is March 5, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand—just today. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that were lost on September 11th, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,826 days since the travesty called Roe v. Wade was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million children. And all of them had at least four things in common.

They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. And each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same.

All the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Mr. Speaker, those noble heroes lying in frozen silence out in Arlington National Cemetery did not die so America could shred her own Constitution, as well as her own children, by the millions. It seems that we are never quite so eloquent as when we condemn the genocidal crimes of past generations, those who allowed their courts to strip the black man and the Jew of their constitutional personhood, and then proceeded to murderously desecrate millions of these, God's own children.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government."

The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Mr. Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is that clarion Declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

And yet another day has passed, Mr. Speaker, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them.