

While it is intuitive that our reliance on the international market for our oil and gas supply has an effect on the stability of our economy and our national security, we do not have up-to-date intelligence information on what this dependence means to our national and global security. The legislation before us today would require a National Intelligence Estimate, NEI, of the long-term and short-term outlook for oil and gas prices, supply, and demand as well as an assessment of how our dependence on foreign fuels affects both our short-term and long-term national security. I would like to commend my colleague from Louisiana, Representative DON CAZAYOUX, for introducing H.R. 6545. This legislation would provide us with the information that we need in order to make informed decisions about the relationship between crude oil and natural gas prices and our national security.

The National Energy Security Intelligence Act would also study the national security implications of potential use of energy resources as leverage against the United States by Venezuela, Iran, or other potential adversaries as a result of increased energy prices. One of the most damaging ways Iran could leverage oil prices higher would be to disrupt or even cut off the flow of oil from the Persian Gulf. As chairman of the House Select Intelligence Oversight Panel, I believe it is essential that this NIE address Iran's ability to attack shipping and oil production infrastructure in the Persian Gulf region. Twenty years ago, Iran's efforts to disrupt shipping in the gulf led directly to a military confrontation between our countries. Published reports indicate that Iran has greatly expanded its sea mine stocks, its ballistic missile force, and other assets that could be used to disrupt oil production and shipment through the gulf. The NIE must address these issues if we are to have a full picture of Iran's potential to drive oil prices higher through military action. I support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do likewise.

HONORING WALTER GLENN KELM

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Walter Glenn Kelm, who was recognized this week by Florida Governor Charlie Crist with the Points of Light Award for his outstanding volunteerism. Glenn has committed countless hours and tireless efforts for the past 16 years to provide healthy meals for those less fortunate.

Glenn began his volunteer mission in 1992 when he established the Shephard's Cupboard. Each day after work Glenn would collect food from local grocery stores and donate it for those who otherwise could not afford a nutritious meal. Then, in 1997, he left the Shephard's Cupboard to help start the Volunteer Way Food Bank. Glenn has served many roles at the Volunteer Way, including volunteer board member and later treasurer, but has always stepped up with a smile to do whatever needed to be done. Because of Glenn's active involvement, the Volunteer Way quickly expanded their outreach. Last year they distributed over 5,000,000 pounds of food all over central Florida to those who most need it.

Madam Speaker, Glenn's devoted volunteer efforts have helped provide so many Floridians with healthy meals. I am very much honored to recognize a man whose work has greatly improved the lives of those less fortunate, and will undoubtedly continue to do so. I congratulate him for deservedly receiving the Points of Light Award and believe all American can learn from his commitment and passion.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF EAST CENTRAL ALABAMA UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay special recognition to the work of East Central Alabama United Cerebral Palsy. For the last 50 years, this admirable organization has pursued its mission of providing personalized educational and therapeutic services to children with a wide range of developmental disabilities.

In January of 1972, ECAUCP opened Calhoun County's first cerebral palsy center. Just 6 years later the center expanded to provide a full range of treatment for children in need. Today, ECAUCP and the State Department of Mental Health spearhead Alabama's Early Intervention Program which benefits developmentally delayed children and their families.

I am pleased to help recognize the fine work of East Central Alabama United Cerebral Palsy, and wish them the very best in their next 50 years of service to our communities.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL GEAR UP DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1311, supporting the designation of July 22, 2008 as National GEAR UP Day. Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) serves to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Through the hard work of program staff, students, families, and educators, GEAR UP has proven to be an incredibly successful program, providing services at high-poverty middle and high schools. This year marks the 10th Anniversary since Congress established the GEAR UP program, exemplifying our commitment towards providing a quality education to the disadvantaged youth of America.

In a society that depends on, and rewards, those who have a strong educational background, lagging behind can have severe consequences. In this day and age, when our country has transitioned from a post-industrial economy into a knowledge based economy, investing in education is more important than ever, and a high school degree is seen as one

of the first steps towards achieving that quality education. Research has shown that having a high school degree significantly increases an individual's annual earnings and labor force participation rates, and that these rates increase with greater educational attainment.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 8.9 percent of 15–24 year-old students from low-income families dropped out during grades 10–12 in 2005, compared to 3.8 percent from middle-income and 1.5 percent from high-income families. In the same year, 53.5 percent of high school graduates from low-income families enrolled in college immediately after high school, compared to 65.1 percent of middle-income students and 81.2 percent of high-income students.

GEAR UP is currently focused on three objectives to reduce the disadvantages low-income students face compared to their middle-income and high-income peers: increasing academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education, increasing high school graduation and post-secondary enrollment rates, and increasing students' and their families' knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation, and financing. These efforts are working—in 2006, 85.5 percent of the second cohort of GEAR UP students graduated from high school. This remarkable graduation rate is well above those of other low-income students who did not participate in GEAR UP (64 percent) and all students nationally (73.9 percent).

While the effects of GEAR UP are evident, there are currently many low-income students who are unable to participate in the program and many areas in which the program can improve. We need to raise awareness and bolster discussions about how to tailor GEAR UP for all of our low-income students. Recognizing July 22nd, 2008 as National GEAR UP Day could provide the opportunity for conversation about the challenges and opportunities faced by lower income students and will recognize the success of so many who have defied expectations. Funding is also vital towards the successful implementation and expansion of GEAR UP, and as a Member of the Appropriations Committee, I will work to ensure improved funding for GEAR UP and other critical Federal programs focused on improving educational opportunities, supporting the work of teachers and schools, and increasing access to higher education.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is July 23, 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. That's just today, Madam Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,966 days since the tragedy called Roe v. Wade was first handed down. Since then, the very foundation

of this Nation been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Madam Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common. First, 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 one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves 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." Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and

their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the 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. Madam Speaker, it is who we are.

And yet today another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We have 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.

So Madam Speaker, let me conclude this Sunset Memorial in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard it tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies; that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express; and that 12,966 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that it is time that we stood up together again, and remembered that we are the same America that rejected

human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust; and we are still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

Madam Speaker, as we consider the plight of unborn America tonight, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each one of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of innocent unborn children. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny, little American brothers and sisters from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is July 23, 2008, 12,966 days since Roe versus Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children; this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 24, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 25

9:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Investigations Subcommittee

To continue hearings to examine financial institutions located in offshore tax havens, focusing on ways to strengthen United States domestic and international tax enforcement efforts.

SD-342

JULY 29

9:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Investigations Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the magnitude of outstanding payroll tax debt, focusing on the policies and procedures that are used to collect unpaid payroll taxes.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the state of the insurance industry, focusing on the current regulatory and oversight structure.

SD-538

Environment and Public Works

Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR), focusing on a recent court decision and its implications.

SD-406

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Employment and Workplace Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), focusing on protecting workers from dangerous dust at the workplace.

SD-430

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the future of United States trade policy, focusing on perspectives from former United States trade representatives.

SD-215

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine music and radio in the 21st century, focusing on assuring fair rates and rules across the platforms.

SD-226

11 a.m.

Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee

To hold joint hearings to examine food marketing to children, focusing on ways to make it safer.

SD-192

2:15 p.m.

Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

S-116, Capitol

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters.

SH-219

JULY 30

9 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine hiring at the Department of Justice.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine ways to improve consumer protection in the prepaid calling card market.

SR-253

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the White House and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), focusing on impeding congressional oversight.

SD-226

12 noon

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Disaster Recovery Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine planning for post-catastrophe housing needs, focusing on if the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has developed an effective strategy for housing large numbers of citizens displaced by a disaster.

SD-562

1 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine S. J.Res. 45, expressing the consent and approval of Congress to an inter-state compact regarding water resources in the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1816, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a commemorative trail in connection with the Women's Rights National Historical Park to link prop-

erties that are historically and thematically associated with the struggle for women's suffrage, S. 2093, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers in the State of Vermont for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 2535, to revise the boundary of the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, S. 2561, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a theme study to identify sites and resources to commemorate and interpret the Cold War, S. 3011, to amend the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site Act of 1991 to expand the boundaries of the historic site, S. 3113, to reinstate the Interim Management Strategy governing off-road vehicle use in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, North Carolina, pending the issuance of a final rule for off-road vehicle use by the National Park Service, S. 3148, to modify the boundary of the Oregon Caves National Monument, S. 3158, to extend the authority for the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission, S. 3226, to rename the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site in the State of Kentucky as the "Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park", S. 3247, to provide for the designation of the River Raisin National Battlefield Park in the State of Michigan, and H.R. 5137, to ensure that hunting remains a purpose of the New River Gorge National River.

SD-366

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

JULY 31

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian health service management, focusing on lost property, wasteful spending and document fabrication.

SD-562

1 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Disaster Recovery Subcommittee

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness to examine ways to ensure the delivery of donated goods to survivors of catastrophes.

311, Cannon Building

2 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine reliance on smart power, focusing on reforming the foreign assistance bureaucracy.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219