know when we have ever been within the budget guidelines, and we have done better than normal.

But the impression has been given that somehow this was an unprecedented, terrible thing and it was just Republicans and we jammed it. The unfortunate sad truth is if it was just Republicans, this bill would have failed today because we had a bunch of Republicans who did not back the Republican conference report. What we had were 58 Democrats who voted for this bill. Nearly one-third of the Democratic Party backed a bill that was just described as an awful, bipartisan, unprecedented effort, backed, by the way, by one-third of the Democrats. So I think it is really important to make sure in the RECORD that the things that the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) talked about today were, yes, very tough votes in many cases, took us a while to close the Medicare vote, but, in fact, it was an unprecedented year of accomplishment both in the Committee on Appropriations by the authorizers and in most cases, in almost every case, a bipartisan effort in spite of the fact that often the Democratic leadership pleaded with their Members not to make it bipartisan, but they saw the merits of the bill, and today 58 Democrats voted for this conference report.

I have at times been a critic of some of the drug policies of Europe, and I wanted to rise today and recognize and applaud the European Union for agreeing to toughen antidrug laws and urging actions to end drug tourism on the continent.

After more than 2 years of negotiations, EU ministers reached a landmark agreement on November 27 to toughen antidrug laws and to harmonize the continent's laws to make the bloc more efficient in the fight against illegal drugs. The laws cover all types of drug dealing, ranging from local networks to large-scale international operations.

Under the agreed rules, offering, selling, or producing drugs would be sanctioned with maximum jail terms of at least 1 to 3 years. In cases involving large-scale international drug trafficking, sanctions should be at least 5 to 10 years. Member states also agreed on a declaration stressing the importance of fighting drug tourism.

The EU's united stand against drug abuse strengthens global efforts to prevent drug abuse and to put away drug pushers and others including terrorists who financially benefit from destructive drug addiction. It is disappointing that the EU agreement will allow the so-called ''coffee shops'' in the Netherlands where marijuana can be legally abused to remain open. I am, however, encouraged that the Netherlands is investigating possible approaches that would end U.S. drug tourism to Amsterdam.

Dutch Justice Minister Piet Hein Donner has stated that the Netherlands Government is considering rules under which ''coffee shops'' would only be allowed to sell drugs to Dutch residents as part of its obligation to dissuade tourists from going to Amsterdam for drugs. Under his proposal, only Dutch residents with identity cards would be allowed to use the cannabis cafes. This move would protect Americans visiting Amsterdam from the dangers of engaging in drug abuse. Currently, foreign tourists, including Americans, make up about 40 percent of ''coffee shop'' sales in Amsterdam, according to the London Times.

I also hope that this agreement will further our international efforts to control the trafficking of ecstasy and other dangerous synthetic drugs. In recent years, traffickers have set up their illegal manufacturing operations in countries, predominantly the Netherlands, and also to some degree in Belgium, in the hopes of avoiding tough penalties if they are caught. This agreement should send a clear signal to the drug cartels that Europe and the U.S. will continue to work together to break up these international drug rings.

Furthermore, I am encouraged that the Netherlands has also agreed to increase its sanctions for the possession of small quantities of marijuana to a year from 1 month. These are important steps in the Netherlands that I hope will eventually lead to stiffer penalties for all drug abuse.

It is increasingly clear that every nation must play a role in educating the public as to why drug abuse is harmful and in preventing drug addiction. As long as one country tolerates the production, sale, or distribution of any illegal drugs, other nations, communities, and families are vulnerable to the threats caused by drug abuse that is easily transported across borders. The EU's commitment to not tolerate drug abuse and drug tourism protects not only the families and communities of Europe but also the families and communities here and elsewhere in the world.

Again, I applaud this agreement and look forward to working with these and other countries to strengthen international drug laws and to protect children from the dangers of drug abuse and addiction.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. HARRIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. HARRIS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Ms. WATSON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOE SKEEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to submit statements on my special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, this is what is called special orders, and it is an opportunity for Members to come to the floor of the House and talk about a particular topic, and today it is our sad duty to honor a friend and colleague of many in this House. Congressman Joe Skeen passed away last night in Roswell, New Mexico, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease, and this is an opportunity tonight for many of his friends to come to honor him.

Mr. Speaker, Joe Skeen retired in January of this year after 22 years of service in the House, and the 2nd District of New Mexico is now represented by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE), my good friend, and I yield to the gentleman from southern New Mexico.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New Mexico for organizing this tribute.

The Nation has lost a leader, and New Mexico has lost a friend. Joseph Richard Skeen was born in Roswell, Chaves County, New Mexico, June 30, 1927. He was an Aggie. He attended Texas A&M University and graduated with a bachelor of science degree in 1950. He served the country honorably in the United States Navy from 1945 to 1946, and then I do not know what happened. I think he saw the light because