

We are introducing this legislation at a critical time for our military. The war in Iraq has put a tremendous strain on our Army, the Reserves and on National Guard units that were never intended for such long deployments, and ought to be used more effectively for homeland security.

There is deepening concern that our current force requirements cannot be sustained in Iraq and Afghanistan without depleting our reserves and diminishing our capacity to meet other global threats.

I am one who believes we have more work to do to thoroughly understand these other global threats and the strategies and tactics necessary to prepare for the kind of conflict we are facing in Iraq. The upcoming Pentagon defense review needs to look at increased troops levels in the context of our long-term security needs as well as the immediate challenges.

But in the meantime, the Bush Administration's lack of foresight in Iraq has left us with an immediate problem that cannot be ignored. Our troops are overstretched—not just in Iraq and Afghanistan but in 117 other countries around the world. Last year, nine of the Army's ten divisions were deployed to, preparing to deploy to, or returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. And we continue to rely too heavily on our Guard and Reserve.

Without this bill, we risk asking too much of our men and women in uniform who have performed so courageously and sacrificed so much in their service to this country. They, future recruits, and the country all need to know that we are committed to providing the resources necessary to keep our Army strong.

Let me emphasize that this is not about increasing troops so that President Bush can plan for more Iraqs; this is about rebuilding the strength of the incredible institution that is the U.S. Army.

Leadership begins with recognizing reality. Although we may wish we had a different starting place, this is the place that we find ourselves after much miscalculation and wishful-thinking by the Bush Administration.

So we ask the Administration today to heed our call and to heed the call of so many in the military community who understand the importance of increasing the Army's end strength. The defense of the United States is and must continue to be the first priority of our government.

IN HONOR OF PETTY OFFICER 2ND
CLASS JAMES SUH

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Petty Officer 2nd Class James Suh, a South Florida resident who served in the Navy for 5 years and was killed in the line of duty on June 28th, 2005, in Afghanistan. During his years at Deerfield Beach High School and the University of Florida, James excelled both athletically and academically finding himself with a rare opportunity to become a Navy Seal shortly after graduation from college.

James was loved by an entire community. His family and friends say he was a young man of exceptional character, intelligence and

athleticism with a wry smile and unflinching dry sense of humor. Those who knew him saw his immense pride in two things: his close knit family and his job as a U.S. Navy Seal.

Roughly two weeks ago James was one of 16 soldiers whose helicopter was hit by an insurgent's rocket-propelled grenade. He was part of an elite American military team that was on a mission to clear anti-governmental forces from Kumar Province in Eastern Afghanistan. Sadly, our country lost 16 heroes that day.

Mr. Speaker, the family and friends of Petty Officer 2nd Class James Suh can be proud of his valiant service and selfless sacrifice in the name of freedom. He will always have the thanks of a grateful Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 358, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO WALTER JOHNSON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise to congratulate a high school in my District, Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda, Maryland, for winning the 2005 Washington Area "It's Academic" television quiz show Superbowl.

Walter Johnson High School is being recognized for its win in the Superbowl match, which featured regional champions Robert E. Lee High School from Central Virginia and Centennial High School from Baltimore.

The school's victory in the "It's Academic" program, which is an extracurricular activity at 81 schools across the region, demonstrates the benefits of academic competition in our schools. The hard work and commitment to academic excellence demonstrated by the students is commendable. In the midst of frequent critiques of our national education system, successes like this one highlight the great achievements of talented, intelligent young people in our schools.

As recognition for this accomplishment, the school's "It's Academic" team received a trophy, which will be displayed for the next year, and academic scholarship money for the school. The Superbowl match featured strong performances by seniors Zach Hommer and James Coan and juniors Alex Price and Adam Newman.

I commend Walter Johnson High School for its championship win and wish the "It's Academic" team continued success in future years.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF J.J. "JAKE"
PICKLE

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to one of the giants of this institution and the State of Texas, a man who recently passed away, former Congressman J.J. "Jake" Pickle. Cancer finally beat him on June 18, 2005 and anyone who knew Congressman Pickle knew he did not quit on anything and fought until the end. His relentless approach to politics and life earned him the respect and admiration of the 10th Congressional District he served so well and his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. First elected in a special election in 1963, Congressman Pickle served 16 terms until stepping down in 1995. During his service in Washington, he chaired the House Subcommittee on Social Security and was instrumental in implementing improvements that ensured the trust fund's long term solvency for decades to come.

Too often, the term public servant is casually used for any person who worked in the public sector, but Congressman Pickle personified every facet of the phrase. Congressman Pickle distinguished himself in a variety of service positions, beginning as the University of Texas student body president, as a member of the National Youth Administration, and as organizational secretary for the State Democratic Executive Committee. After being elected to Congress, he relished returning to his district whenever possible and upon boarding the plane would walk up and down the aisles as if he were working a campaign rally and shake everyone's hand and talk to them. Learned at the knee of President Lyndon Baines Johnson, Congressman Pickle's politics hailed from an era still shaped by the Great Depression and small-town America, a time in which connecting with constituents was a must.

Campaigning was a full contact sport in the best sense of the phrase, and every 2 years, he would outwork much younger campaign aides and sought to meet every voter in his district. For Congressman Pickle, politics was a person-to-person enterprise, and he would talk to his constituents and find out their cares and concerns. Full of stories and a smile for everyone, he would engage every person in his path no matter if he happened upon them in the halls of the Capitol or in the streets of Austin.

Of course, his influence here in Washington greatly benefited Austin and Central Texas as he was crucial in ensuring funding for the University of Texas, his alma mater, and helped it become the world class facility it is today. Congressman Pickle fought to make sure his district and his state received their fair share. The university benefited in the millions of dollars he steered into its research, technological, and educational programs, and this was pivotal in making Austin one of our Nation's centers for high-tech enterprises such as Dell computers.

However, the vote Congressman Pickle was proudest of was the one he cast in favor of the 1964 Civil Rights Bill, which he thought would end his career. As one of six southern