

nation of Iraq, his tenure has been marked with great accomplishments in the global war on terrorism. American families are safer because of his service.

Last week, President Bush described General Myers as a kind and humble man who believes in serving a cause greater than himself. As a member of the National Guard during his term and a father of three sons currently serving in the military, I have had the unique opportunity to personally witness General Myers' commitment to promoting freedom. I am very grateful for his service and his sincere dedication to our troops and the American people. As he begins the next phase of his life, I am honored to congratulate him for a job well done.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

RESTORING NEW ORLEANS

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the tragedy that was Hurricane Katrina is also an unprecedented opportunity for us to help those damaged areas in a thoughtful, comprehensive fashion. A small example is the St. Charles street car. The oldest street car line in America, located in New Orleans, dates back to 1834, when it was a horse-drawn street car. It is not just a historic landmark championed by former Representative Lindy Boggs, but this is something that could be the center of a revitalized New Orleans. For a relatively modest amount of money, it could quickly guide and inspire new investments throughout New Orleans in a way that would be an example of a cost-effective, well-planned vision for the future.

I urge my colleagues to join in an effort to support a vision of New Orleans that deals with its history, thoughtful planning, and careful economic development: Restore and expand the historic St. Charles Street street cars.

RECOGNIZING HAROLD CHAPPELL

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday marks the beginning of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, a time dedicated to honoring those who paid the ultimate sacrifice while in the line of duty.

□ 1015

Over the weekend, thousands of Americans will gather to remember America's bravest heroes and support their families. On this occasion, I rise to honor the life of one such hero, Volunteer Firefighter Harold Dean Chappell of Jonesville, North Carolina.

As a member of Arlington Fire and Rescue, Firefighter Chappell centered his life around serving his community

and was always willing to help neighbors, friends and strangers. Tragically, in July 2004, Jonesville lost one of its finest citizens as Firefighter Chappell passed away from complications he sustained after responding to a motor vehicle fire.

Firefighter Chappell was a wonderful man. He was a public servant his entire life. He was also a loving father and husband. According to his son Larry, "If you needed something, you could call him, and he would be right there to help you. He will be thought of forever as a well-known family man and one who was known by many. May he rest in peace and watch over us all."

Mr. Speaker, may we all honor Firefighter Chappell and his family and the hundreds of first responders who watch over us every day.

PRAISE FOR PRESIDENT'S CALL FOR BUDGET CUTS

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, President Bush laid out a bold vision for answering the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina with generosity and fiscal discipline, saying as he did in the Rose Garden, "We here in Washington have got a vital role to play in the recovery and reconstruction efforts on the gulf coast." The President said, "I've made that clear." He went on to say, "I've also made it clear we must do it in a fiscally responsible way. Congress needs to pay for as much of the hurricane relief as possible by cutting spending." The President added, "I'll work with Members of Congress to identify offsets to free up money for the reconstruction efforts," and closed with the statement, "The heart of America is big enough to be generous and responsible at the same time."

Mr. Speaker, I agree. Let us heed the President's call for fiscal discipline and generosity. It is accurate to state that the President's call for reducing spending and finding offsets is of incalculable value to those of us fighting to respond to the needs of this disaster without raising taxes or adding to the national debt. Let us heed the President's call. Let us make the tough choices. Let us pay for the cost of Katrina by reducing the size and scope of government.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG REFORM

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, over our recent break, I visited with various groups of seniors in my district, and we provided information and education about the biggest change to Medicare in the 40-year history of the program.

Beginning this January, for the first time, prescription drugs will be covered under Medicare, and over 40 million senior Americans will have the opportunity to receive their needed medications through a new program designed to assist them with payment. This is an exciting and hopeful time for these citizens.

As a physician, I understand the importance of providing appropriate medications and the imperative of preserving the physician-patient relationship and being certain that decisions about which medications are needed be made by patients and their doctors, not decisions made by Washington bureaucrats.

This new program holds great promise but also has potential difficulties. I urge my colleagues to assist in educating all seniors about the upcoming Medicare reforms. Their familiarity and knowledge about these changes are imperative if we are to have a successful program, one that follows the medical model of first doing no harm.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 4, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on October 4, 2005, at 3:40 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits a report consistent with section 7422(c)(2) of title 10, United States Code on the continued production of the Naval Petroleum Reserves beyond April 5, 2006.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH,
Clerk of the House.

CONTINUED PRODUCTION OF NAVAL PETROLEUM RESERVES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-59)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Armed Services and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 7422(c)(2) of title 10, United States Code, I am informing you of my decision to extend the period of production of the Naval Petroleum Reserves for a period of 3 years from April 5, 2006, the expiration date of the currently authorized period of production.