

also provide targeted tax credits to stay-at-home parents. We can do all of this at once by doing the right thing and standing for our children.

AIR FORCE JUNIOR ROTC PROGRAM AT ROME HIGH

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it seems as if every day we are reading or hearing a new story about the difficulty our military forces are having recruiting and retaining top-notch personnel. Our military is being stretched thinner and thinner by missions of some dubious value around the world, and we are paying the price with the loss of key personnel and lower retention.

I am pleased today to announce that at least one program in Georgia's 7th District is taking steps to reverse this trend. That program is the Air Force Junior ROTC Program at Rome High School. The Air Force Junior ROTC Program at Rome High School official is only 4 years old, yet it is already having a major positive impact. It offers students a variety of challenges and learning experiences in airplanes and on flight simulators as well as in classrooms that help prepare them for a career in military aviation. Additionally, it helps teach students the kind of work ethic and values that will enable them to succeed as leaders no matter where their future takes them.

This program and programs like it deserve our support. I am proud to honor today the Rome High School Junior ROTC Program.

HONORING MARK BROWN, ONE OF OUR NATION'S FALLEN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge adoption of House Resolution 31 in honor of fallen police officers and, more personally and specifically, in honor of a great Shoreline City police officer and King County sheriff's deputy, Mark Brown, who died in the line of duty Saturday, February 27, leaving his wife, Laurie, and Hannah and Alex, his children; and it is a personal matter because he was my cousin.

Mr. Speaker, I want to tell the Members that I am proud that my cousin responded to an alarm last Thursday on his motorcycle and was pursuing his duties and was involved in a collision and died early Saturday morning, and I want to tell them that it brings home that we have many public servants who get up and risk their lives every day, and their families do not know whether they are coming home.

Mr. Speaker, I want to tell my colleagues that in 1993 I voted for a bill

that established community police officers, and I want to tell them Mark Brown was the epitome of a community police officer.

On the TV stations in Seattle I listened to tribute after tribute after tribute to a man in his grocery stores and in his restaurants who was a pillar of his community. Mark Brown, as a community police officer, I want his children, Hannah and Alex, to know they lost a father and we lost an American hero, Mark Brown.

□ 1030

ED-FLEX AND ENDING SOCIAL PROMOTION

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

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I also extend my prayers to the Brown family, as we all do.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 800, as my friend just did, the Ed-Flex Partnership Act of 1999. I support this bill because it gives States and local school districts the flexibility to tailor Federal programs to meet their local needs.

But with flexibility also comes accountability. Ed-Flex works to require States to identify specific and measurable goals they have for those students and groups affected by the waivers. In other words, Ed-Flex requires States to have accountability systems in place prior to granting them the authority to waive specific requirements.

But Ed-Flex alone will not solve all of our problems. Our public schools still have pressing needs: Unmet school construction and modernization, a shrinking pool of qualified teachers, and a lack of technology in the classroom.

At a time when children are being promoted to successive grades based on age and not achievement, social promotion is an issue that should concern us all. It must stop. That is why I urge my colleagues, cosponsors of Ed-Flex, to not only cosponsor Ed-Flex, but to support the Democrats' plan to reward those school districts who end social promotion and close underperforming schools by providing them with additional funds to build new schools and hire new teachers. Ed-Flex is good, but alone it will not solve all our problems.

FRESHMAN REPUBLICANS ARE WORKING TO RETURN DOLLARS, DECISIONS, AND FREEDOM BACK HOME

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

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my fellow freshman Republicans to thank the leadership for recognizing our ideas and allowing us to quickly turn our campaign promises into action.

Yesterday the House passed a resolution that directs this body towards real social security reform. That bill was sponsored by a freshman, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PAUL RYAN). The gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. LEE TERRY) has already introduced a bill to eliminate a tax on international home pages, and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. MARK GREEN) is heading up a project for the freshman class that will reduce Federal mandates on our State governments.

We believe local people can best secure our Nation's future: parents, teachers, pastors, small business owners, and civic leaders. These are not only the heroes of our home towns, they are the heroes of our country. The answers to our problems are seldom found here in Washington. They are found on Main Street, in board rooms and community centers, in church sanctuaries and classrooms, and in family rooms all across our Nation.

Freshmen Republicans are working to return dollars, decisions, and freedom back home.

COMMEMORATING THE NAVAL RESERVE ASSOCIATION

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

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the men and women of the Naval Reserve Association, and to congratulate them on the 84th anniversary of the founding of the Naval Reserve, celebrated on March 3, 1999. At the same time, I wish the Association's Spring National Conference to be held on the same day in San Diego, California, the best of success.

The American people owe the 94,000-strong Naval Reserve a debt of gratitude for the sacrifices they have made, both past and present. America's strength and position as the sole superpower in the world is the result of our dedication to our country's defense. Without the Naval Reserve's contribution, America would not have become the beacon of democracy it is today in the world. For that, I, along with the residents of the 41st Congressional District in California, thank them.

I look forward to working with them and other members of the Naval Reserve Association on issues which affect all the men and women of our military.

WELCOME TO WHITNEY ELIZABETH GERRO

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

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, having a Member of Congress in your family is kind of like a white elephant gift. You are kind of glad you have it, you just do not quite know what to do

with it. But every now and then it pays off to have a congressman in your family.

Today is one of those days. On December 7, 1998, Mike Gerro and Jan Barton Gerro had a beautiful baby daughter, Whitney Elizabeth Gerro. They have written this poem to announce her arrival to the world, and I want to read it for my colleagues here in the House. It is entitled, "A Special Arrival."

She's an angel of sweetness
A treasure of love
A beautiful blessing
From heaven above.
A daughter adored.
Who with nurture will grow.
What a pleasure to welcome
Whitney Elizabeth Gerro.

She really is a blessing. She had her baptism this past Sunday in Arlington, Texas. I am very, very proud to be one of her uncles.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WORKS DILIGENTLY TO PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, the Republican Party is working very diligently and very intensely with the Senate to try to protect social security. We have a lot of concerns about the President's proposal, which only protects or earmarks 62 percent of the social security trust fund dollars for social security.

Many of us believe that we should put 100 percent of social security dollars into social security and not spend it on any other program; not for roads, not for bridges, not for congressional salaries, not for anything else. We hope that we can get the President to come around to our way of thinking.

We also feel that we need to pay down the debt. We have a debt of \$5.4 trillion. Which costs the American families, on an average for a family of four, about \$2,000 dollars a year. That is \$2,000 for a college tuition, for house payments, for a nice vacation, for a car, whatever the need of the family is. Now it just goes to interest on the debt. It does not even pay down the principal.

These are things we think the President's budget ignores. We want to put it on the table. We are working in that direction. I hope that the President will decide to join us.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 603, CLARIFYING THE APPLICATION OF THE "DEATH ON THE HIGH SEAS ACT" TO AVIATION INCIDENTS

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 85 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 85

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 603) to amend title 49, United States code, to clarify the application of the Act popularly known as the "Death on the High Seas Act" to aviation incidents. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Each section of the bill shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 85 is an open rule providing 1 hour of general debate. It would be equally divided and controlled between the chairman and the ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

The rule provides that each section of the bill shall be considered as read. Furthermore, the rule authorizes the Chair to accord priority in recognition to members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The rule also permits the chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the

bill, and to reduce voting time to 5 minutes on a postponed question if the vote follows a 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides for 1 motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 603, reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, would clarify that the Death on the High Seas Act shall not be the controlling law in lawsuits arising from aviation crashes into the high seas.

The purpose of this legislation is to ensure that families of passengers killed in airline disasters are not treated differently under law depending on whether the aircraft crashed over land or water.

This discrepancy arises from a Supreme Court ruling in *Zicherman versus Korean Airlines* that applied the Death on the High Seas Act to lawsuits related to crashes over the ocean. Under the Death on the High Seas Act, Mr. Speaker, families are denied the ability to seek compensation in a court of law for such noneconomic factors as a loss of companionship of a loved one, relatives' pain and suffering, or for punitive damages. Under existing law, for example, parents receive virtually no compensation in the death of a child. On the other hand, if a plane crashes over land, State tort laws usually apply, offering a broader range of legal remedies to surviving family members.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) and his colleagues on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure have made this legislation an early priority this session, and have requested an open rule, which was granted by the Committee on Rules without dissent.

Accordingly, I encourage my colleagues to support House Resolution 85, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is an open rule. It will allow for full and fair debates on H.R. 603. As my colleague has described, it will allow for 1 hour of general debate, to be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The rule permits amendments under the 5-minute rule, which is the normal amending process in the House. All Members on both sides of the aisle will have the opportunity to offer germane amendments.

H.R. 603 would allow the families of ocean plane crash victims the same rights to file lawsuits as when the crash takes place on land. It was introduced in response to TWA Flight 800, which crashed off the coast of New York in 1996. In 1997, the House passed a similar bill by a voice vote under suspension of the rules, but the Senate failed to take action on the bill.

This is an open rule. It was adopted by a voice vote of the Committee on Rules. I urge adoption of the rule and of the bill.