

to establish a special task force in order to improve its recruiting program. This year, the services are forecasting that they will each make their active duty recruiting goals for enlisted personnel. Time will tell.

Active duty recruiting is not the only challenge facing the services. Maintaining a suitable reserve force to provide the additional support for our military is also a daunting challenge. Last year, two of the seven reserve components, the Navy Reserve and the Air Force Reserve, missed their enlisted recruiting goals.

Currently, the Army National Guard and the Naval Reserve are both on a path to miss their projected goals for this fiscal year. Both the Army and the Air National Guard are struggling to meet a higher recruiting mission with fewer recruiters than last year. With our growing dependence on the Guard and the Reserve, these difficulties are a cause for serious concern. Unlike years past, our military cannot operate effectively without the participation of the National Guard and Reserve. So we must do everything possible to ensure that we devote sufficient resources to Reserve and Guard recruiting.

Retaining those highly trained service members who are already in the military is also vitally important. We cannot afford to lose the investment we make in our service members by failing to provide adequate education, training, working conditions and quality of life to make military service an attractive career option. Today, highly skilled, motivated individuals are being enticed to leave the military and to use their skills and expertise in the private sector. We simply cannot allow this trend to continue if we hope to remain the world's most foremost military power.

Last year, enlisted retention was a particularly acute problem for the Air Force. In the officer corps, the Army missed its officer retention goal by 1,069 while the Air Force was short 523. Many officers who leave are in the junior officer ranks. These are the leaders of tomorrow; and if we hope to keep them in the military, we must be responsive to their needs and concerns.

Spending on high-tech weapons systems is important, but we simply cannot afford to neglect the people side of our defense equation. The personnel and compensation systems of today are based on outdated notions which do not make sense for the 21st Century. For example, the up or out promotion system may not make the most sense in an era where we have computer experts who aspire only to work with computers for their entire careers.

We need to revisit how the services fill critical specialty positions. The current retirement system, which penalizes those who do not stay for a full 20-year career, clearly merits scrutiny. And although the Committee on Armed Services addressed retiree health care last year, it is clear to me that the TRICARE system, which also serves

the active duty and reserve communities, is broken and needs to be fixed.

If we do not attend to these people programs, all the sophisticated weapons systems in the world will not do us any good because we will not have enough people who are smart enough and well trained enough to operate them.

We simply cannot afford to let that happen. Therefore, as we begin this new millennium, let us renew our commitment to the dedicated men and women who serve in our Nation's military and to ensuring that our Nation's Armed Forces continue to be the best trained, most highly qualified force in the 21st Century.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. MINK of Hawaii 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 Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DEFAZIO 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 Arkansas (Mr. BERRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BERRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

HONORING FORMER PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, on this 90th birthday of Ronald Reagan, I think all of us should be inspired; and we unfortunately are a country that has grown so cynical that, okay, it is not cool to say something nice about Ronald Reagan because I am a Democrat or it is not good to say something about Jimmy Carter because I am a Republican. Yet, I think all people who have served in public service in the courthouses, in the school boards and in the Nation's Capital, in the State legislatures around the country deserve respect for their contributions and for their attempts to make the world a better place.

I was a college student when I first knew of Ronald Reagan. He was running for President in 1976. I was in the Ford camp, but I listened to his speeches very carefully and realized over the next several years that he, in fact, had something to contribute and something to say.

Reagan's ideas, I would say, were probably basic conservative philosophies of less government, of individualism, of people solving problems and not government solving problems, and yet beyond that there seemed to be something else in him, a little twinkle in the eye that maybe captured our imagination; in the words of a poet, maybe took the ordinary and made them extraordinary, and had this ability to galvanize the people of America to try to do their best. In his inaugural address, his closing line was, "Good Morning, America." And he would say repeatedly, after all, we are America; America, where great things happen.

I had the opportunity this weekend to hear our new President, George W. Bush, speak, and I saw a lot of the same tendencies, a sincerity. The ideas are ideas that we in this Congress have debated many, many times, and yet there seems to be something new. There seems right now to be a new energy, a new chemistry in this town.

People, I think, Democrat and Republicans, are excited. Here we have a President of the United States who went to the Republican retreat this weekend, where we were doing our budget planning. No big deal, a Republican President going to a Republican retreat. Yet, after that he went to the Democrat retreat to talk to them, to reach out to them. Indeed, he has met several times over the past couple of weeks with Democrat group after Democrat group, Democrat leader after Democrat leader, holding out his hands.

In that Republican retreat this weekend, rather than taking a partisan swing at the Democrats, who often were not so kind to him and did not show the same benevolent spirit or the magnanimity that he has, he held everything up with high integrity. He referred to Mr. DASCHLE with great respect. He referred to the institution of Congress and the passing of legislation with great respect.

I am looking forward to working with this gentleman. I like his ideas on education, local control for local school boards, the teacher in the classroom who knows the kids' names, where she will have a lot more input in the process. After all, that teacher knows what the needs of the classroom are. More professionals, more computers, more classroom space, more bricks and mortar. The teacher who knows the children's names, who knows which ones need a hugging and which ones need an A or a B; they are the ones who should be leading education, not the bureaucracy out of Washington, D.C.

I am very interested in his passion for education.

On the subject of taxes, it is just this easy: If you knew that the Federal Government could operate, pay all of our obligations and all of our normal functions of government on your contribution as a taxpayer, you would probably say, okay, I do not like paying my taxes but you need the money,

fine. But if you found out we could do it on less than what you were paying in, you would probably want the money back.

I had the opportunity to talk to a little girl at Johnson High School over the break. She had a job, senior in high school, made \$7.00 an hour. So I said to her, Julie, if you work for two hours, you make \$14. Do you get to take it all home?

She said, no. I have to pay about \$4 in taxes.

I said, okay. On the \$14 you earn, you have to pay \$4 in taxes. If you knew that I could run the government on \$3.50 of that money, what would you want me to do with the extra 50 cents?

She said, give it back to me.

Now, why does she want it back and what is she going to do with that money? She is going to buy more CDs, more hamburgers, fill up her tank a few more times; and when she does that, she stimulates the economy, businesses expand, jobs are created, more opportunities, more people are working. Therefore, less people are on welfare, more are paying taxes, more paying into the system than taking out of the system, and it is a win/win. It is what Adam Smith, the great economist, called the invisible hand of America that makes the whole engine thrive.

If this senior in high school at Johnson High in Savannah, Georgia, could understand that, why is it so many people in Washington are confused about it? The surplus does not belong to the government. It belongs to the 17-year-old Julies around the country, and Bush understands this. I am looking forward to working with the new President on this.

On Social Security, he supports a lockbox. He says, we are going to save Social Security, not just for the next election but for the next generation. And in doing so, we are not going to change benefits for near-retirees or for retirees. We are not going to have a tax increase, and that is important. And from there on we are going to work on a bipartisan basis to do what is best for the American people.

The reason I believe that we have a new President and a new administration in the White House is because George Bush dared to stick his foot in the water of issues. Rather than skirting around the edge, he got into the water. I think the American people are ready for a substantive debate on real issues that affect all of us.

So on this birthday of Ronald Reagan, let me wish the Reagan family the best, but let me also wish the best to the Bush family and make a pledge that this Member of Congress is ready to work.

□ 1915

TRIBUTE TO RONALD REAGAN ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AKIN). Under the Speaker's announced

policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SCHAFFER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material on the following Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, this leadership Special Order is one that we dedicate to and devote the time to our 40th President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, we have a number of Members on the majority side who have indicated a desire to speak during a portion of this Special Order. I have got a number of remarks I would like to make; but others here are here now, so I will immediately yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE).

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I want to express appreciation to my distinguished colleague from Colorado for taking this time this evening to honor a man who has had a profound impact on the lives of all of us, and a very positive impact in my estimation, and I am a former U.S. history professor, I think the greatest impact of anybody in the lifetime of anyone today, a positive impact that has had a reverberating positive effect, not just here in the United States, but worldwide.

I was familiar, of course, with Ronald Reagan, as one of the most popular and handsome movie actors growing up as a child and going to the movies; but it was not that Ronald Reagan that I got really attached to. Rather, it was during the 1964 campaign.

I was teaching history at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, at the time, and got involved. One of the things that was frustrating in that campaign was we were not communicating our message well on behalf of Barry Goldwater. But something that happened during that campaign was Ronald Reagan delivered a speech that was taped, and that taped message that Ronald Reagan delivered for Barry Goldwater in the 1964 campaign was far and away the most effective message in getting our word out to the people at the grassroots. It certainly turned me on.

I was then intrigued to learn that Ronald Reagan had only been a Republican for 2 years. He had been a Democrat until 1962; and he became a Republican that year, so he had been working on behalf of the values that he believed in, which extended beyond party lines.

Ronald Reagan believed in the same values that he had believed in when he was still a registered Democrat, but he communicated them effectively, and that resounding message was something that we took from that 1964 cam-

paigned on into future elections. It was something that got so many of us that were involved in the Goldwater campaign excited that we pushed to try to get Ronald Reagan the nomination at the 1968 convention down in Miami.

I know there was tribute paid for him getting elected Governor of California. That was demoralizing to us, because Ronald Reagan felt that to continue to go from the election of governor to seeking the Presidential nomination was not proper. So we were disappointed that our troops were split down in Miami, and I was down there working behind the scenes for Ronald Reagan at that time.

In 1976 again we had that window of opportunity, and we all got charged up and excited. I must confess to you that the biggest disappointment I have ever experienced in politics was when Ronald Reagan, by that very narrow margin, lost the nomination in 1976. I remember standing on a balcony at one of the hotels down there with tears in my eyes, because I was fearful that was the end of the Ronald Reagan candidacy.

Because of that, I got in that Presidential race in 1980, in the summer of 1978, because it was the principles I believed in; and I was fearful that Ronald Reagan might wait until the end of 1979 and then say, Well, Mommy and I have looked at it and decided to go to the ranch. I figured there was no way I could get name identification between the end of 1979 and getting into that Presidential cycle. As a result, I entered that race.

Ronald Reagan ended up getting in that race, as you all know, and I told him at the time, because I only got 2 percent of the vote in the New Hampshire primary, I knew it was all history, I was going to stick it out through the Illinois primary in mid-March because our candidates out there were on the ballot indicating who they were going to support at the convention, and they were all going to take a bath if they had my name after theirs, and I figured I had an obligation to take a bath with them. But I reassured Ronald Reagan that all of those people would support him and I would support him as soon as we got Illinois behind us. That is exactly what happened.

We went on, as you well know, to the most exciting victory, at a time in our history when Jimmy Carter, the retiring President at that time, was looking to the future of this country with total despair. But those of you that remember back to that era remember that we suffered an inflation rate of 14 percent, 14 percent, that last year. We had unemployment rates and interest rates that were staggering, and, sad to say, President Carter looking to the future was despondent and thought this country had peaked.

Ronald Reagan saw it from a totally different perspective, and he took it and ran with it and started to elevate this country and the world on the right