

trafficking organizations and shut down markets that fund their illegal drug enterprises.

I am happy that the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER), chairman of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, and Human Resources, with whom I serve as ranking member, supports me in this effort and is an original cosponsor of this legislation. I deeply appreciate his support for families like the Dawsons, and urge all of my colleagues to support the Dawson Family Community Protection Act, not only to protect families, but also to allow their voices to be heard.

Lastly, I especially thank Tony Haywood, our counsel to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, for his tireless work on this legislation; as well as Michael Christianson, Kimberly Ross, and Asi Oforu on my staff for their assistance.

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#### TRIBUTE TO NBC NEWS REPORTER DAVID BLOOM

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

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a son of Minnesota who died tragically this weekend while embedded with the 3rd Army Infantry Division in Iraq.

NBC news reporter David Bloom was a native of Edina, Minnesota, in the Third Congressional District which I am privileged to represent. David's parents, Harold and Laura Bloom, and his brother, John Bloom, are residents of Edina.

David distinguished himself at an early age as a champion debater and hockey player at Edina West High School. David was also an avid fan of his beloved Minnesota Vikings and Minnesota Twins, and he often touted his hometown teams on national television.

David Bloom's meteoric rise as a journalist was nothing short of spectacular. As his NBC colleague, Katie Couric, said, "David was always there for the story and not the glory. He was a reporter's reporter." Another NBC colleague, Matt Lauer, said, "David personified energy, passion, compassion, and balance."

With his engaging personality, sound intellect, high level of energy, and great sense of humor, David Bloom's 10-year career at NBC News always drew rave reviews. From his early years at the network in Chicago and Los Angeles to his years as White House correspondent and co-anchor of Weekend Today, David Bloom always got the story.

As NBC Washington Bureau Chief Tim Russert said, "David was first and foremost a competitor. He was very resourceful, stretching every deadline he ever met. One marvels at how much he did and how well he did it."

Mr. Russert and many other close friends and colleagues also have said

that David loved his wife, Melanie, and his three daughters more than anything. When Russert gave him the nickname "Bloomster", David readily told them it was his second favorite nickname. His favorite nickname was "Dad."

Madam Speaker, David Bloom was well-liked and respected by everyone who knew him. That was evidenced by the lofty praise that has filled the airwaves and the newspapers across America since his tragic and untimely death at age 39.

David Bloom was a great credit to his native Minnesota, his beloved family and friends, and his profession. As his co-anchor, Soledad O'Brien, put it, there was not a dry eye anywhere at NBC. I know my colleagues here in the House of Representatives feel the same profound sadness at the loss of David Bloom. Our thoughts and prayers go out to David Bloom's family, his wife, Melanie, and daughters Nicole, Christine, and Ava, as well as David's parents, Harold and Laura, and his brothers, John and Jim.

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#### IMPACT OF THE LACK OF ENFORCEMENT OF IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS ON THE ADAMS FAMILY

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, it was a little over a year ago that I had the opportunity to visit with a gentleman who was, at that time, the head of a ministry in the Vicente Fox government in Mexico. His name was Juan Hernandez. Mr. Hernandez was head of a new agency that was called the Ministry for Mexicans Living in the United States. It was interesting that that would be the name of any new governmental entity that had just been created, but that was it, a new agency, the Ministry for Mexicans Living in the United States.

In the discussion we had, I found it interesting in that when I asked him specifically what was the purpose of such an agency, he said, well, it was to, first of all, increase the flow of Mexican nationals into the United States. I asked him for what purpose. He said essentially that in doing that the hope was, of the Mexican Government, that it would influence United States policy towards Mexico, because he wanted to have a large number of Mexican nationals living in the United States, but with political, economic, and cultural ties remaining to Mexico. So his job was split between encouraging the flow, on one hand, and then encouraging this connection on the other, a connection that would remain.

We talked a little longer. There were two other Members of the Congress there with me that evening. He said something that I thought we were all kind of amazed at. He said, Congressman, it is not two countries, it is just a region.

I know that he believed that, and many other people do. I think perhaps even people in this body may think of it that way: It is not really two countries, it is just a region where the border does not matter; it is inconsequential, and it is sometimes even problematic because it does restrict the free flow of people across that particular part of the country. There are folks who look at it in that way. Borders, they think, are anachronisms, not necessary, anymore; and after all, it was really just a region.

What has happened as a result of this shift in philosophy, this shift in government philosophy in Mexico in particular, the push for people to come north? In the past, Mexico had treated people coming across the border with some disdain, and there was actually a derogatory term applied to people who left Mexico.

But in the last 5 to 6 years, because of the importance of what Mr. Hernandez was described as trying to influence American foreign policy vis-a-vis Mexico, and also because of the importance that remittances play. Remittances is the amount of money made in the United States, or countries outside of Mexico, but sent back into Mexico to family members that now accounts for something over 30 percent of their gross domestic product. Therefore, of course, they are very interested in using America as a way of expanding that particular phenomenon. That is fine.

On our side, we have, of course, abandoned the borders. We have made sort of an unwritten agreement with Mexico that we would not really do anything to significantly impede the flow of those people into the United States for our own reasons, some of it dealing with cheap labor and our demand for it; others because of the political consequences that arise as a result of a massive flow of people across the border into the United States who will sometimes themselves vote, even illegally, but eventually become voters after a period of time, or their children will after they have been born here and are citizens of the United States.

But this has had an impact on certain folks. We do not hear anything about them. That is why I come just about every week with another individual, another person. Tonight I am going to talk a little bit about Frank Adams. Frank and his wife Barbara operate a small ranch of about 500 acres. It is about 3½ miles north of Douglas, Arizona.

Here is a picture of Frank. They have lived on this ranch for about a half a century. They are only 3½ miles north of the border. Their daughter lives on that ranch with them, and they have two grown sons living in Texas. Their experience is not an awful lot different from many of the other ranchers on that border area who I have brought to the attention of the body in the past.

Their lives have been completely turned upside down by this phenomenon, this elimination of the border, the fact that there is no longer a border, the "It is not really two countries, it is just a region" philosophy. Their lives have been turned upside down. Their ranches are being destroyed. They are being essentially driven out of their homes.

I just wanted to bring Mr. Adams to the attention of the body as a homeland hero.

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#### AMERICA'S IMPORTANT WAR COLLEGES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend our troops on the battlefields in Iraq. Their continuing advance to victory is a product of that courage and ingenuity under changing conditions. It is also the results of extraordinarily detailed and adaptive planning. That itself was built on the knowledge and wisdom instilled by our war colleges.

These institutions in every service make great officers into outstanding war-time leaders. Military historians have noted that the allied victory in World War II is due in no small part to the fact that some of our top military leaders both attended and taught at the services war colleges. I believe the same will be said for Operation Iraqi Freedom. In all of the services, including the Army's exceptional war college at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, our officers are skilled in the art of strategy, operations, and tactics that are the foundation of an innovative and effective military campaign.

The instruction provided by our service intermediate- and senior-level war colleges came to fruition in the war plan developed by General Tommy Franks and his team. The plan outlined a truly joint effort that has kept American forces a constant 48 to 72 hours ahead of Iraqi responses. The strategy has hit hard at Iraqi leadership and Republican Guard targets, degrading command and control and isolating the bands of fighters unwise enough to take on our troops. Quite simply, the Iraqi military is already incapable of fighting in a coordinated way at division, brigade, and battalion levels. This is a stunning military achievement that would not have been possible without leaders educated in the art of war. And we as a Nation owe a debt to the professional military education system that provided that education to today's senior military leaders.

The current American infiltration of Baghdad demonstrates our disciplined ability to encircle the city and deal with the remnants of resistance, sector by sector. The strategy also shows a so-

phisticated approach to enhancing the psychological impact of each military action taken. By removing the will of the Iraqis to fight, our victory and the Iraqi people's liberation will come that much more quickly. I believe that military historians and strategists will long study the plans of this operation, the planning that was a product of the American war college system will become the lesson plan for future officers.

As British Air Marshal Brian Burridge said this morning, the U.S. advance into Bagdad has been unique. Historians and academics will pour over it for years, and this will be a required case study for students of war.

We should be proud of our troops and of the officers who lead them. But we should also feel deep pride for the system of institutions that has made this leadership as exceptional as it is.

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.)

#### AMERICA NEEDS A BALANCED BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I would like to open up by saying when the President sent us his budget this year the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, acknowledged that the surplus of the \$5.6 trillion which we all hailed 2 years ago is gone. It has vanished. In fact, OMB now says there never was such a surplus when they, the Office of Management and Budget, adjust the surplus to account for the economy as they see it now. The 10-year surplus is no longer \$5.6 trillion. It is \$2.4 trillion. And all of that \$2.4 trillion has been committed, or I should say overcommitted, by policy action to the tune of \$129 billion. That is what we would incur if we did not do anything else, mostly due to the tax cuts passed in June of 2001.

So any additional tax cuts and any additional spending beyond current services will go straight to the bottom line. There is no surplus anymore to mitigate or cushion or offset that deficit. It goes straight to the bottom line and adds dollar to dollar to the deficit. The arithmetic is simple.

Knowing that, the President of the United States nevertheless proposes \$2 trillion in additional policy actions, legislative actions here, mostly, once again, in new tax cuts that will add \$2 trillion to our national debt over the next 10 years.

Now, when the Congress Budget Office sent us their analysis of the Presi-

dent's budget as they are required by law to do, they saw deficits out as far as they forecast. As a matter of fact, when you back out Social Security as I think you should because I do not think we should be spending Social Security, and everybody on this House floor who was here just a couple of years ago foreswore the practice of ever again spending the Social Security surpluses, so when you back it out and look at what CBO portrays and depicts the President's budget to produce, you will see that over the next 10 years they forecast deficits, without a Social Security surplus to offset them, deficits of \$400 billion at least every year for the next 10 years.

So when you remove the Social Security surplus from the equation, the accumulation of deficits is \$4 trillion over the next 10 years. As a consequence of this budget that the President sent up here, in a way both Houses repudiated the President's budget. Both Senate Republicans and House Republicans rejected what the President sent. When the House Republicans saw the President's budget, they warmly embraced his tax cuts. They were ready for another round of tax cuts, despite our experience with the last round; but they at least acknowledged the responsibility to go find some offsets, some spending offsets that would help mitigate, reduce, cushion the impact of these huge tax cuts. The President was seeking another \$1.4 trillion in tax cuts as much again this year as he did back in 2001.

They went back looking for some offsets; and they came up with \$470 billion in what we call, in budget parlance, reconciliation tax cuts. These are reconciliation spending cuts. These are directives to the committees of jurisdiction that write legislation that deal with Medicare and Medicaid and school lunches, a whole array of entitlement programs, to go change that permanent law so that they can save a certain sum of money by a certain date.

In this case, as I said, the total of all those reconciliation instructions came to \$470 billion. Our Republican colleagues wanted to cut Medicare over the next 10 years by \$262 billion, Medicaid by \$110 billion, veterans by \$15 billion on the mandatory side, the entitlement side and 15 more on the veterans health care side, education by \$9.4 billion on the mandatory side. That would have to come out of school lunches and student loans, government pensions \$40 billion, the railroad retirement program, a vested benefit if there ever was one, \$3.7 billion.

Well, those offsets had a short shelf life. They survived attack in the Committee on the Budget. They all voted for it on the Republican side of the committee; but during the markup, the chairmen of these different committees who were about to be the object of these reconciliation instructions came forth and they said, you have got to give us some relief. We cannot do it. So the number was cut from \$470 billion to \$265 billion.