

people with an annual payroll exceeding \$1.7 billion. With the fair market value of all assets directly associated with horticulture at over \$2.9 billion, the development of this new flower will benefit many Illinois families.

We want to especially congratulate Dr. Jim Ault, Director of Ornamental Plant Research at the Garden. He is the father of the Orange Meadowbrite whose scientific name is *Echinacea*, "Arts Pride," in honor of Art Nolan, Jr., a long-time benefactor of the Garden's research program.

We here in the Congress want to honor Chicagoland Grows, the Chicago Botanic Garden, and especially Dr. Ault for adding a new and beautiful flower to America's garden.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PRESIDENT
REAGAN

(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, today Congress will adopt a resolution recognizing the 93rd birthday of President Ronald Reagan. It will take place this coming Friday.

As we in Congress today face difficult choices ahead in crafting a Federal budget, I think we would do well to reflect on the wisdom of the 40th President of the United States who, in October of 1964, said, "There can be no security anywhere in the Free World if there is no fiscal and economic stability in the United States." He said, "Government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem. And that 'the size of the Federal Government is not an appropriate barometer of social conscience or charitable concern.'"

But he also said in January 1981 in his first inaugural address, "It is not my intention to do away with government. It is rather to make it work; work with us, not over us; stand by our side, not ride our back. Government can and must provide opportunity, not smother it; foster productivity, not stifle it. A healthy economy built on a vision of limited government."

Happy birthday, President Reagan. May Congress honor your memory by honoring the principles of limited government in our day that you so tirelessly advanced in yours.

COMMISSIONER TAGLIABUE
MAKES BAD CHOICE IN CHOOSING
MTV FOR SUPER BOWL
HALFTIME SHOW

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I know many of my constituents will be very pleased with this resolution coming before the House today regarding the *Columbia* disaster, but this issue has not been the one that my

phones have been ringing about. I have heard from many of my constituents who are outraged over the offenses that they were exposed to in the NFL halftime show and many of the commercial.

The NFL has promoted football, and the Super Bowl in particular, as a time for families to gather around the television once a year to see the NFL's best and, indeed, I was doing that myself. I had my 5-year-old son and my teenage daughter. Rather than being one of the NFL's finest hours, it was one of their most offensive.

NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue issued a statement following the game calling the halftime show offensive, inappropriate, and embarrassing to the NFL.

Commissioner Tagliabue, when you hired one of the most offensive networks, MTV, to do the halftime show, what did you expect? MTV does not produce programming for family audiences. Indeed, my wife and I recognized that the halftime show was going to be offensive, and we changed the channel for 30 minutes.

Commissioner Tagliabue, wake up.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 2, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
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 February 2, 2004 at 2:05 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits the Budget of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2005.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005—MES-
SAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC.
NO. 108-146)

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 Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

THE BUDGET MESSAGE OF THE
PRESIDENT

The Budget I am proposing for 2005 is a reflection of this Nation's goals and purpose, and advances our three highest priorities. First, America will prevail in the War on Terror by defeating

terrorists and their supporters. Second, we will continue to strengthen our homeland defenses. Third, this Nation is building on the economic recovery that began in earnest in 2003 with policies that further promote growth and job creation. In addition, we will continue to strengthen the domestic institutions that best express our values, and serve the basic needs of all: good schools, quality and affordable health care, and programs that promote hope and compassion in our communities. In meeting these priorities, the Government must exercise fiscal responsibility by limiting spending growth, focusing on the results of Government programs, and cutting wasteful spending.

In 2003, America made great progress in the War on Terror. Afghanistan, which once was ruled by the repressive Taliban regime, now has adopted a new constitution, taking a fundamental step on the path to democracy. In Iraq, the remnants of the Ba'athist regime are being systematically rounded up, and Iraqis are assuming responsibility for their own security and future government. Libya has pledged to disclose and dismantle all of the regime's weapons of mass destruction programs.

These victories do not change a fundamental truth: Our Nation remains at war. In this war, which began on September 11, 2001, our citizens are the strategic targets of our enemy. We have responded in two significant ways: First, we have taken the offensive to hunt down the terrorists, deny them easy refuge, identify and seize their secret finances, and hold them and their sponsors to account. Second, we have moved to secure the Nation's homeland. In 2003, the new Department of Homeland Security began operations in the biggest reorganization of the Federal Government in a half a century. Over this past year, we have taken steps to reduce the terrorist threat to Americans here at home, and protect American interests overseas. This Nation has committed itself to the long war against terror. And we will see that war to its inevitable conclusion: the destruction of the terrorists.

Our Budget reflects the continuing importance of providing for the defense and security of the American people. We will continue to provide whatever it takes to defend our country by fully supporting our military, which is performing with great skill and honor in our battles overseas. We also are providing the necessary resources to our law enforcement and emergency personnel at home to meet the new threats posed by terrorists.

Just as we have taken much-needed steps to strengthen our national security, we have also pursued an aggressive agenda to promote our economic security. In 2003, we worked with the Congress to accelerate much of the tax relief that had been passed in 2001, so that Americans could keep more of their paychecks and so that businesses

would have more incentive to invest in new jobs and new equipment. As a result, our economy is strong, and growing stronger. Economic output in the third quarter rose at its fastest annual pace in nearly 20 years. More manufacturers reported rising factory activity than at any point in the last 20 years. American homeownership reached its highest level ever. Employment is on the rise. By cutting tax rates on investment gains and dividend payments, we promoted saving, capital formation, and investment—and Americans' holdings in the stock market rose by almost \$3 trillion.

There is still more to do, however. We cannot be satisfied until every American looking for work has found a job. We must sustain the momentum of this recovery by making the tax relief passed in 2001 and 2003 permanent. We will continue to open markets abroad for American products. And as the economy improves, we will also confront the challenge faced by workers who must learn new skills to fill new jobs. As a Nation, we must help Americans develop the skills they need to succeed in a highly competitive, highly productive economy. And so this Budget continues to support high standards in our schools and proposes a Jobs for the 21st Century initiative to ensure older students and adults can gain the skills they need to find work now.

Economic growth and good stewardship of taxpayer dollars will help us meet another important priority: cutting the budget deficit brought on by recession and war. We must continue to evaluate each Federal program, to make sure that it meets its goals, and produces and desired results. I proposed to hold discretionary spending growth below four percent, less than the average rate of growth of American family incomes. And spending unrelated to defense and homeland security will be held below one percent growth—less than the rate of inflation—while continuing to meet education, health care, and other priorities of this Nation. With this spending restraint and continued pro-growth economic policies, we can cut the deficit in half over the next five years.

Finally, this Budget addresses the needs of a great and compassionate Nation, whose values are strong, and whose institutions of hope are enduring. We are helping communities of faith pull the addicted out of dependency. We are lifting children out of a life of despair by making sure they have mentors, and we will continue to press for improvements in our schools, so that no child is left behind. We are extending hope and healing to millions suffering from the global epidemic of AIDS. We will begin to implement of the benefits of our Medicare modernization and reform law, which will bring all our seniors coverage for prescription drugs. And we will make health care more affordable and extend the full benefits of our health care system to more Americans who currently have no health insurance.

Meeting these priorities will require hard work, skill, and the resources of a great Nation. Yet America has always risen to new challenges, and has always set new goals. Challenge and change have revealed the true strengths of this Nation and the enterprise of its people. And as 2004 begins, I am confident those gifts will serve us again, until our work is done.

GEORGE W. BUSH,
February 2, 2004.

□ 1415

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMMONS). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Such record votes, if postponed, will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

EXPRESSING SORROW ON THE AN- NIVERSARY OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA" ACCIDENT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 507), expressing the profound sorrow of the House of Representatives on the anniversary of the accident that cost the crew of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* their lives, and extending heartfelt sympathy to their families.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 507

Whereas February 1, 2004, marks the one year anniversary of the accident that claimed the Space Shuttle *Columbia* and the lives of seven heroic astronauts that made up its crew;

Whereas, while in orbit, *Columbia's* experienced crew conducted important microgravity research into the life sciences, physical sciences, and space and earth sciences, in addition to promoting education initiatives;

Whereas the *Columbia* experienced a structural failure that resulted in its destruction over the States of Texas and Louisiana as it approached to land on February 1, 2003;

Whereas the seven crew members of STS-107, Rick D. Husband (Commander), William C. McCool (Pilot), Michael P. Anderson (Payload Commander), Kalpana Chawla (Mission Specialist), David M. Brown (Mission Specialist), Laurel B. Clark (Mission Specialist), and Ilan Ramon (Payload Specialist) exhibited unparalleled bravery and commitment to the goal of exploring space and advancing mankind's search for knowledge in the cosmos;

Whereas Rick Husband, 45, was a Colonel in the United States Air Force, a test pilot, and a veteran of STS-96, and held degrees from Texas Tech University and California State University, Fresno;

Whereas William C. McCool, 41, was a Commander in the United States Navy and test pilot, and held degrees from the United States Naval Academy and the University of Maryland;

Whereas Michael P. Anderson, 43, was a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air

Force, a former pilot instructor and tactical officer, and a veteran of STS-89, and held degrees from the University of Washington and Creighton University;

Whereas Kalpana Chawla, 41, was an aerospace engineer, a Federal Aviation Administration Certified Flight Instructor, and a veteran of STS-87, and held degrees from Punjab Engineering College (India), the University of Texas at Arlington, and the University of Colorado, Boulder;

Whereas David M. Brown, 46, was a Captain in the United States Navy, a naval aviator, and a naval flight surgeon, and held degrees from the College of William and Mary and Eastern Virginia Medical School;

Whereas Laurel B. Clark, 41, was a Commander in the United States Navy and naval flight surgeon, and held degrees from the University of Wisconsin, Madison;

Whereas Ilan Ramon, 48, was a Colonel in the Israeli Air Force, a fighter pilot, and Israel's first astronaut;

Whereas these brave astronauts will never be forgotten by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration family and all those who believe in the importance of exploring our universe; and

Whereas when the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Mars Exploration Rover (MER) Spirit landed on Mars on January 3, 2004, it brought with it a small commemorative plaque bearing the names of the seven astronauts, establishing an enduring memorial on another planet to the fallen crew of Space Shuttle *Columbia*: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives does offer its gratitude to the seven Space Shuttle *Columbia* astronauts and its heartfelt sympathy to their families on the anniversary of their loss, with the reassurance that this sacrifice will not have been made in vain, but will strengthen this Nation's resolve to continue their journey of discovery.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 507.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) for bringing this very important resolution to the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker, we can still see their faces. Their friends can still hear their hearty laughter. And their families can still feel their embrace. At every mention of their names or reminder of their courage, our hearts ache with the hollow pangs of mourning and our thoughts and prayers turn to their loved ones. For there is no loss like the loss of a hero. And 1 year ago our Nation and our world lost seven.