

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, there are some enormous issues that face America today, but something is lost, as we talk about the challenges in the war on terror and the President's leadership in Iraq and, of course, finally, the strongly recovering economy under President Bush's leadership, is the President's space vision for tomorrow.

It becomes important that we pay attention to the great things that the President has proposed. For the first time really in 2 decades, we have a new space vision to guarantee that America will continue to be the predominant space leader through the next millennium, as it has been over the last 50 years. It is important that we return the Shuttle to flight; it is important that we complete the international space station. But more importantly, the President has given us a new vision so that we can explore mid-Earth orbit and outer-Earth orbit.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest that Sean O'Keefe is doing a wonderful job. I hope this House will be able to focus in the next 5 months and after the election on a bipartisan American vision for leadership in space. The President's vision is affordable, it is visionary, it is flexible; and, most important, it will maintain America's leadership in space.

NEW DIRECTION IN AMERICA FOR JOBS

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, President Bush came to northeast Ohio, Youngstown, last week to try to defend an economic program that simply is not working in any of the Great Lakes industrial States. Ohio has lost one out of six manufacturing jobs since President Bush took office. We have lost almost 200 jobs every single day of the Bush administration.

His answer to that is more tax cuts for the rich, hoping they trickle down and create some sort of economic activity, and more trade agreements like NAFTA that continue to ship jobs overseas. Those policies are not working.

What we should be doing is extending unemployment benefits to the 50,000 Ohio workers who have lost their benefits. We should reexamine these trade agreements. We should pass the bipartisan Crane-Rangel bill which gives companies incentives to manufacture in the United States, rather than giving tax breaks to the largest companies in the country which continue to outsource and continue to ship jobs overseas. That policy is not working.

We need a new direction in Ohio and across the country.

FAREWELL TO PAGES

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, this is the longest 1-minute that we will see on the House floor in a year, and this is the annual farewell to our pages who have served us so well this last year. I would like to ask the page class of 2003-2004 to come on down to the well of the Chamber. Come on. Come on down, and find a place in the first two rows here.

Well, here we are. It is a special time. As you finalize your activities today on the floor and you go through your graduation tomorrow and you get loaded up, first of all, thanks. Thanks for serving us. Thanks for serving your country. We are going to miss you.

As chairman of the House Page Board, it is my privilege to acknowledge and thank this outstanding group of young men and women. Today marks your last day of service in the 2004 page class. You are starting another phase of your life, and all of these phases of life always continue. New phases, new challenges.

While today is the ending of the page experience, it is the beginning of a multitude of opportunities that may not even be revealed to you yet. Universities and careers, travels and adventures, families and friends all lie on the horizon for each one of you.

It is true that whenever one door closes, another one opens. Go boldly through each new door that presents itself during the course of your life and embrace the challenge that the world puts in front of you with the same vigor and expertise and the commitment to work that you have shown here on the floor.

We really are proud of you. You have had an insider's view that a lot of people would pay a lot of money for. As many of you know, part of my West Point experience was leadership; it is a leadership school. What we teach at West Point is that there are good examples of leadership and there are bad examples of leadership, and take the good and remember the bad and try not to replicate the bad.

As you have seen, a multitude of things happened in this last year, I challenge you to do the same thing. Look at the good qualities of the Members and the staff, not just the page program staff, from the dorm to the school, to here on the floor, but also your interaction with Members of Congress, your interaction with their staffs. Take the good. Remember that. Use that to help mold you into the kind of adult you want to be. But also remember the bad experiences, how maybe some of you saw the treatment of other individuals that you did not really think was right or proper, and use that and commit yourself to say, that is not going to be me when I am an adult. That is part of the learning and growing experience.

I am going to be able to interject as we have a chance to share, but I want to yield now to the ranking member of the Page Board, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), a man who has

been involved with this program, I would like to say forever, although he may not agree with that.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal gratitude to all of the pages who have served so diligently here in the 108th Congress. We all recognize the important role that congressional pages play in helping the U.S. House of Representatives operate. You come from across the Nation. You represent what is good about our country.

To become a page, you have had to prove yourselves to be academically qualified. You have ventured away from the security of your homes and families to spend time in an unfamiliar city. But through this experience, you have witnessed a new culture; you have made new friends and learned the details of how government operates. And you have seen Congress at its best and sometimes at its worst. We are human beings, but this is the greatest democracy in the world.

As we all know, the job of congressional page is not an easy one, and no one knows that more than you. Along with being away from home, the pages must possess the maturity to balance the competing demands for their time and their energy. In addition, you must have the dedication to work long hours and the ability to interact with people on a personal level; from the powerful to everyone. You have had to deal with people, and I am very proud of how you have dealt with them.

At the same time, you face a challenging academic schedule of classes in the House page school. I am sure that you will consider your time spent here in Washington, DC, to be one of the most valuable and exciting experiences of your lives. With that experience, you will move ahead and lead successful and productive lives.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt back in the mid-1930s uttered these words, but they are as relevant today as they were during those very difficult times. He said, "There is a strange cycle in human events. To some generations, much is given. Of other generations, much is expected."

This generation of Americans has a rendezvous with destiny.

□ 1445

And having met all of you and seen you at work, I am confident that you will meet the challenges of that rendezvous.

Mr. Speaker, as the Democratic member of the House Page Board, appointed by Speaker Tip O'Neill. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this group of distinguished young Americans. I am personally proud of you. I have benefited from you. I think we all add to one another. You added to my experiences. You have presented to me a challenge to do better. And when you go back home, you will have had a special experience that no one else will have had.

There is a great program in this country called Close Up. It is a great