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of America

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No. 91

## House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
July 6, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord our God, having been refreshed by the celebration of the independence of this Nation and having been renewed in the spirit of those who planted the seeds of liberty and equal justice in the soul of America, let this summer session of the 108th Congress of the United States begin with Your blessing.

As Members return to Capitol Hill, fill this place with the divine vision of Ezekiel, the prophet. May this lofty vision shape our future.

On this day, may Your all-powerful hand come upon this Chamber and this country, that the long-term building of an everlasting city of truth and justice be realized. The dream of America, the last best hope for the world, seems utopian only if we rely solely on ourselves or our own power.

But with You and in You all things are possible. So we place our trust in You, Lord God. Help us build with Your vision in mind, now and forever. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 4200. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4613. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2401. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2402. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military construction, and for other purposes.

S. 2403. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for defense activities of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

### PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is Private Calendar Day. The Clerk will call the first individual bill on the Private Calendar.

### TANYA ANDREA GOUDEAU

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 530) for the relief of Tanya Andrea Goudeau.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 530

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. IMMEDIATE RELATIVE STATUS FOR TANYA ANDREA GOUDEAU.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Tanya Andrea Goudeau shall be classified as a child under section 101(b)(1)(E) of the Immigration and Nationality Act for purposes of approval of a relative visa petition filed under section 204 of such Act by her adoptive parent and the filing of an application for an immigrant visa or adjustment of status.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Tanya Andrea Goudeau enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), she shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the petition and the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status are filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Tanya Andrea Goudeau, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 1, for the current or next following fiscal year, the worldwide level of family-sponsored immigrants under section 201(c)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

(e) DENIAL OF PREFERENTIAL IMMIGRATION TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN RELATIVES.—The natural parents, brothers, and sisters of

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g.,  1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Tanya Andrea Goudeau shall not, by virtue of such relationship, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

**SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY FOR CITIZENSHIP.**

For purposes of section 320 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Tanya Andrea Goudeau shall be considered to have satisfied the requirements applicable to adopted children under section 101(b)(1) of such Act.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**RICHI JAMES LESLEY**

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 712) for the relief of Richi James Lesley.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 712

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR RICHI JAMES LESLEY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Richi James Lesley shall be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Richi James Lesley enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), he shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Richi James Lesley, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 1, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 202(e) of such Act.

(e) DENIAL OF PREFERENTIAL IMMIGRATION TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN RELATIVES.—The natural parents, brothers, and sisters of Richi James Lesley shall not, by virtue of such relationship, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**DURRESHAHWAR DURRESHAHWAR,  
NIDA HASAN, ASNA HASAN,  
ANUM HASAN, AND IQRA HASAN**

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 867) for the relief of Durreshahwar

Durreshahwar, Nida Hasan, Asna Hasan, Anum Hasan, and Iqra Hasan.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 867

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR DURRESHAHWAR DURRESHAHWAR, NIDA HASAN, ASNA HASAN, ANUM HASAN, AND IQRA HASAN.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Durreshahwar Durreshahwar, Nida Hasan, Asna Hasan, Anum Hasan, and Iqra Hasan shall each be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Durreshahwar Durreshahwar, Nida Hasan, Asna Hasan, Anum Hasan, or Iqra Hasan enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), she shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Durreshahwar Durreshahwar, Nida Hasan, Asna Hasan, Anum Hasan, and Iqra Hasan, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 5, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the aliens' birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the aliens' birth under section 202(e) of such Act.

(e) DENIAL OF PREFERENTIAL IMMIGRATION TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN RELATIVES.—The natural parents, brothers, and sisters of Durreshahwar Durreshahwar, Nida Hasan, Asna Hasan, Anum Hasan, and Iqra Hasan shall not, by virtue of such relationship, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**LINDITA IDRIZI HEATH**

The Clerk called the Senate bill (S. 103) for the relief of Lindita Idrizi Heath.

There being no objection, The Clerk read the Senate bill as follows:

S. 103

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR LINDITA IDRIZI HEATH.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 101(b)(1) and subsections (a) and (b) of section

201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Lindita Idrizi Heath shall be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of that Act or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Lindita Idrizi Heath enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), Lindita Idrizi Heath shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBERS.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Lindita Idrizi Heath, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by one, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of birth of Lindita Idrizi Heath under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of birth of Lindita Idrizi Heath under section 202(e) of that Act.

**SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY FOR CITIZENSHIP.**

For purposes of section 320 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1431; relating to the automatic acquisition of citizenship by certain children born outside the United States), Lindita Idrizi Heath shall be considered to have satisfied the requirements applicable to adopted children under section 101(b)(1) of that Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)(1)).

**SEC. 3. LIMITATION.**

No natural parent, brother, or sister, if any, of Lindita Idrizi Heath shall, by virtue of such relationship, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This concludes the call of the Private Calendar.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, Speaker pro tempore PENCE signed the following enrolled bill on Wednesday, June 30, 2004:

S. 2507, to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to provide children with increased access to food and nutrition assistance, to simplify program operations and improve program management, to reauthorize child nutrition programs, and for other purposes.

COMMUNICATION FROM LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR OF HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Anthony Reed, legislative director of the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, June 29, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a criminal subpoena for testimony issued by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

ANTHONY REED,  
Legislative Director.

COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF ASSISTANT OF HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Luke Hatzis, staff assistant of the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT, Member of Congress:

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a criminal subpoena for testimony issued by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

LUKE HATZIS,  
Staff Assistant.

IRAQ BECOMES SOVEREIGN NATION AND U.S. ALLY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week on June 28, Iraq became a sovereign nation as control was handed over from coalition forces to a new Iraqi Government headed by Prime Minister Iyad Allawi and President Ghazi al-Yawer. This is an extraordinary achievement for President George W. Bush, the American military, and our coalition partners.

Despite attacks from political opponents, President Bush firmly acted to protect American families from future terrorist attacks by liberating Iraq from one of history's most brutal dictators. Today, only 15 months after the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, Iraq has turned from an enemy to a developing democracy. No longer a sup-

porter of international terrorism, today's Iraq, along with Afghanistan, represents a beacon of hope in the Middle East for freedom and democracy.

As the Iraqi people continue their struggle for a better future, our brave men and women in uniform continue to work with Iraqi forces to hunt down and stop the depraved enemy who is desperate to stop the march for freedom.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops; and we will never forget September 11.

SENATORS KERRY AND EDWARDS ARE OUT OF STEP WITH MOST AMERICANS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, so Senator KERRY has picked Senator EDWARDS as his running mate. That means the Senator with the most liberal voting record has picked the person with the fourth most-liberal voting record. That does not sound like mainstream to me, and certainly their views do not represent the majority of the American people.

Both Senators KERRY and EDWARDS voted against the ban on partial birth abortion. Both have opposed all of the recent tax relief legislation.

Both Senators voted against sending our troops in Iraq and providing them with body armor, and both favor amnesty for illegal immigrants.

Mr. Speaker, Senators KERRY and EDWARDS are out of tune, out of line, out of touch, and out of step with most Americans.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions 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 8 of rule XX.

RECORD votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

RECOGNIZING THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 410) recognizing the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and recognizing the Marshall Islands as a staunch ally of the United States, committed to principles of democracy and freedom for the Pacific region and throughout the world, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 410

Whereas the Marshall Islands were ruled under a succession of colonial regimes, in-

cluding under Spanish and German rule, followed in the 20th century by Japanese rule under the League of Nations system for governance of territories;

Whereas military activities of Imperial Japan based in the Marshall Islands before and during World War II established the strategic importance of the Marshall Islands in the Pacific;

Whereas the Marshall Islands were liberated from Japanese military occupation in some of the most horrific battles of World War II, during which brave Marshallese people risked their lives to aid the Armed Forces of the United States and its allies;

Whereas in 1947 Congress approved a trusteeship agreement with the United Nations Security Council under which the United States became the administering power with plenary powers of government in the Marshall Islands;

Whereas during the United Nations trusteeship period the United States fulfilled its commitment to promote the progress of the Marshall Islands toward democratic self-government and self-determination, leading to the establishment of local self-government that culminated in a constitutional convention in which delegates representing the people of the Marshall Islands proposed that they be constituted as a self-governing nation;

Whereas in accordance with the enabling measures adopted by the United States as administering power of the Marshall Islands, which encouraged and fully supported the emergence of the Marshall Islands as a duly constituted nation based on the freely expressed will of the people, in 1979 the people of the Marshall Islands adopted their own constitution and subsequently declared their form of government to be a republic;

Whereas the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands established a parliamentary governmental system with separation of powers and a "Bill of Rights," guaranteeing democracy and freedom for the Marshallese people based on the rule of law, limited government, and individual liberty;

Whereas the United States and the duly constituted Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands adopted a Compact of Free Association to define government-to-government relations between the United States and the Marshall Islands as two sovereign nations under mutually agreed terms upon termination of the United Nations trusteeship for the Marshall Islands;

Whereas the promulgation of a national constitution made possible the termination of the United Nations trusteeship in 1986 and the emergence of the Republic of the Marshall Islands as a sovereign nation in free association with the United States under the Compact of Free Association, forming an alliance that preserves the close and special political, social, economic, and military relationship between the two countries that developed during the trusteeship period;

Whereas the United States has no closer alliance with any nation or group of nations than it does with the Republic of the Marshall Islands under the Compact of Free Association, which continues the strategic partnership and role of the Marshall Islands in United States strategic programs based in the Marshall Islands, which began at the end of World War II and has continued under the trusteeship and Compact to promote the mutual security of the United States and the Marshall Islands;

Whereas the Republic of the Marshall Islands is a model for transition of formerly non-self-governing territory ravaged by war to a sovereign political status as a stable democracy, a success story for institution building and recovery from conflict not only

for the Pacific region but throughout the world;

Whereas in light of the shared history of the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands and special relations under the Compact of Free Association, it is entirely fitting for Congress to recognize the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, recalling the importance of duly constituted self-government in the self-determination process leading to national sovereignty for the Marshall Islands; and

Whereas the Republic of the Marshall Islands has remained one of the staunchest allies of the United States during the cold war and the war on terrorism, and the voting record of the Republic of the Marshall Islands as a member state in the United Nations General Assembly is unparalleled by any other country, further demonstrating the shared commitment of the two nations to promote democracy and global peace: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—*

(1) recognizes the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and

(2) recognizes the Republic of the Marshall Islands as a staunch ally of the United States, committed to principles of democracy and freedom for the Pacific region and throughout the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the concurrent resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the United States and the Marshall Islands share deep bonds of history and friendship. We have enjoyed the uniquely close alliance over the past half century. The ties between us stretch back to World War II when we struggled together to liberate the Marshall Islands from Japanese occupation.

During the intervening decades, these bonds of blood have grown into an abiding alliance. The Congress reaffirmed that alliance late last year when we approved the amended Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, which extended the strategic and economic ties between our two countries.

When the Marshallese people adopted their Constitution in 1979, they formed a democratic government, committed to the rule of law and individual liberty. It was a critical development in their transition from the U.S.-administered trust territory into a sovereign independent nation.

The people of the United States saw our shared ideals of freedom and democracy take root among our friends in the Pacific; and when full sovereignty followed in 1986, we gained a stalwart ally in the community of nations.

I commend this effort to commemorate that event and our continuing alliance with the Republic of the Marshall Islands, which deserves our unanimous support.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity a couple of times now to visit the Marshall Islands, once years ago and again this January, and to be able to visit with President Note and other members of the Parliament and other ministers as well and to visit a couple of the islands and to witness the friendship firsthand with the Marshallese people.

It is significant to note that nearly a hundred Marshallese citizens have actually been serving with our Armed Forces in Iraq and other theatres of war. They have been a very staunch ally of ours, and I think it is also significant to note that in the United Nations, the United States has no better friend and ally than the Marshallese. The Marshall Islands votes with the United States 99 percent of the time. That is something that is not shared with any other country or nation. So we owe a debt of gratitude to the Marshallese people; and to recognize them for the adoption of their Constitution 25 years ago, I think, is a significant step. It means a lot to them, and it should mean a lot to us.

There is also another reason that it is important that we recognize the Marshall Islands for what they do and have done for us in the past. Our nuclear testing dates back to the 1950s when we did Operation Bravo and in other operations where we tested nuclear devices, and the Marshallese people have cooperated and helped us in that regard for over a half century; and for that we owe a debt of gratitude.

From the military base at Kwajalein, I was able to see our base there and see what we are currently doing today; and it is a great operation there, and we have the full cooperation of the Marshallese, which makes it much easier to accomplish what we need to.

They have been a stable democracy in the Pacific for over 25 years, and this is due in part to the fact that the United States during the U.N. trusteeship period fulfilled its commitment to promote democratic self-government and self-determination for the Marshall Islands. These efforts led to the establishment of local self-government, and this culminated in a constitutional convention in which delegates representing the people of the Marshall Islands proposed that they be constituted as a self-governing nation.

This happened, and in 1979 the people of the Marshall Islands adopted their own Constitution and declared themselves a republic. This Constitution established a parliamentary govern-

mental system with separation of powers and a bill of rights guaranteeing democracy, freedom, and limited government for the Marshallese people.

□ 1415

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and would first like to commend my colleague, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), for introducing this important measure as well as the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE), and the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for their strong support for this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 410 recognizes the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Given the extremely close bilateral relationship between our two nations and the important role played by the people of the Marshall Islands in our Nation's victory in World War II, it is appropriate that we commemorate this important day in the history of the Marshall Islands.

The United States has no greater friend in the Western Pacific than the government of the Marshall Islands. The United States maintains an important military facility at Kwajalein Atoll, and young Marshallese men and women serve in the United States Armed Forces. The Marshall Islands has been a strong supporter of American policy at the United Nations and a good friend to an embattled ally of the United States, the State of Israel.

The Marshall Islands is also a strong and flourishing democracy, having recently completed free and fair elections in 2003 for its legislature. In fact, Members of Congress welcomed Marshallese President Kessai Note to Washington, D.C. a few weeks ago. President Note discussed the future of relations between the United States and the Marshall Islands and the need for the U.S. Congress to carefully examine the Changed Circumstances Petition submitted by the Marshall Islands.

In short, Mr. Speaker, the Marshall Islands is a strong, democratic ally of the United States and a strategically important position. We must do all we can to further solidify relations between our two nations.

I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 410.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON).

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me a great deal of fulfillment and joy to recognize the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Given the extremely close bilateral relationship between our two nations, and the important

role played by the people of the Marshall Islands in our Nation's victory in World War II, it is appropriate that we commemorate this important day in the history of the Marshall Islands.

On the personal side, I had the pleasure to be the Ambassador to Micronesia. As you know, Micronesia and the Marshall Islands are right in the same region, and the islands of Micronesia are under a Compact of Mutual Agreement, as are the Marshall Islands. As they work their way into the 21st century, it is with our support as they build their democracy in islands that are thousands of miles away. We can be proud of the relationship we have had with them for the past 20 years as they build their nations into a brighter, more prosperous future.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's comments and just to say again that we had the opportunity, myself and the gentleman from California (Chairman POMBO) of the Committee on Resources, to travel with Secretary Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior, to the Marshall Islands earlier this year, and were able to meet with the President and others. I know they appreciate this gesture, and we have no greater friend than the Marshall Islands.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 410, to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and that the Marshall Islands is a staunch ally of the United States. I want to begin by commending my friend, the Gentleman from Arizona Mr. FLAKE, for his leadership in introducing this worthwhile resolution of which I am an original cosponsor.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands suffered for 400 years under the colonial regimes of Spain and Germany. In the 20th century, under the League of Nations system for governance of territories, Japan governed the Marshall Islands. During World War II, the Marshall Islands were liberated from Japanese rule through the cooperation between the Marshallese people and the Armed Forces of the United States.

In a 1947 agreement between Congress and the United Nations Security Council, the United States assumed trusteeship of the Marshall Islands. During the period from 1947 to 1979, the United States promoted democratic self-government and self-determination in the Marshall Islands. In 1979, the Marshall Islands adopted their own constitution and declared themselves the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Since that time, the Republic of the Marshall Islands has proved itself a staunch ally of the United States and a model for transition from a non-self-governing territory ravaged by war to a stable and democratic example of institution building for the Pacific region and the rest of the world.

On June 17, 2004, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Kessai Note wrote to U.S. Senator DANIEL AKAKA expressing his

continued concern for the people of Ailuk Atoll near which the United States tested the thermonuclear weapon Bravo in 1954. The people of Ailuk and others still suffer from the fallout of those tests. I support President Note in his desire to have the people of Ailuk receive the support and assistance they badly need.

Mr. Speaker, this is worthy resolution, which is deserving of all our support and I urge all my colleagues to support its passage. And I look forward to the continued friendship of the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and to pay tribute to a staunch ally of the United States and a people committed to the principles of democracy and freedom for all people of the Pacific region and the world.

It is perhaps fitting that on May 29, 2004, America dedicated the National World War II Memorial in recognition of the duty, sacrifices, and valor of the members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in World War II. The beginnings of our Nation's close relationship with the people of the Marshall Islands are deeply rooted in that titanic struggle. In 1944, risking their lives to aid the Armed Forces of the United States and our Allies, the Marshallese people joined with the U.S. to liberate the Marshall Islands from Japanese military rule. Some of the most horrific battles of World War II occurred on the Marshall Islands before the Japanese military occupation was finally put to an end. The momentous events brought together the people of these two great lands in a common bond that has resulted in more than five decades of friendship and strategic solidarity between the Marshall Islands and the U.S. That relationship is as strong today as it ever was.

Comprising 30 atolls and 1,152 islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands represents a total land mass that is almost equivalent in size to Washington, D.C., but covers roughly 770,000 square miles of the western Pacific Ocean. Unfortunately, due to the vastness of the world's largest ocean, and the distance between us, the culture, history, and people of the Marshall Islands are largely unknown to most Americans, except perhaps as the place where the United States tested more than 67 nuclear weapons during the development of our Nation's strategic arsenal. Although that testing left a legacy that we continue to address to this day, it would prove critical to the success of our country during the Cold War.

The United States nuclear testing program put the people of these remote islands on the front line in the Cold War struggle to preserve international peace, promote nuclear disarmament, support nuclear nonproliferation, and provide facilities critical to the development of a deployable missile defense system. The hardships and suffering endured by Marshall Island citizens during the testing program directly contributed to the positive and peaceful end to the Cold War. Their importance to the emergence of democracy across the globe cannot be understated. The people of the United States, and indeed the entire Free World, owe the people of the Marshall Islands an enormous debt of gratitude for their sacrifices.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands has an unmatched record of working in conjunction

with the United States in the pursuit of international peace and security, the rights and well-being of the peoples of the world, and in the War on Terror. I have been fortunate to have many great friends who hail from the Marshall Islands, and I will never forget the openness and kindness with which I was received. I congratulate the people of the Marshall Islands on the 25th Anniversary of their Constitution; and I commend them for the undying commitment to democracy and freedom. The United States is fortunate to have such a loyal friend and ally in the Pacific region. I look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship between our two great Nations for many more years to come.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, throughout my tenure in Congress, I have worked closely with the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) on many issues arising in the Pacific region. The RMI has always been, and continues to be, a great ally of the United States and is dedicated to international peace and freedom. Therefore, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 410.

By the beginning of the 1900's, the RMI was annexed by Spain, Germany, and Japan. In 1934, the Allied invasion and occupation of the RMI began. In 1947, the RMI became one of six entities in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands established by the United Nations with the United States as the Trustee. Throughout all these years of being occupied, the people of RMI never lost their self-identity or hope for their own country. This hope grew in the decades after World War II as a local form of self-government was established. This led to the convening of a constitutional convention.

In 1979, the people of the RMI adopted a constitution and chose their form of government, a republic. With separation of powers and a Bill of Rights listing guaranteed rights, the RMI is based on the same principals and freedoms that the United States was founded on hundreds of years ago. Similar to our founding, it was the will of the people driving the process and making the decisions.

The RMI is now a sovereign nation. As a sovereign nation, the RMI has aligned itself closely with the U.S., particularly in a number of defense and strategic issues. Recently, we have renewed our mutually beneficial relationship by reauthorizing the Compact of Free Association. This has guaranteed that our alliance will continue for another 15 years.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution and recognize the 25th anniversary of the adoption of RMI's constitution. Their commitment and dedication to peace and democracy should be commended.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 410, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

#### EISENHOWER EXCHANGE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM TRUST FUND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2121) to amend the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Act of 1990 to authorize additional appropriations for the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Program Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2121

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Program Trust Fund Enhancement Act of 2003".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) 2003 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship program.

(2) The Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship program was founded to honor the 34th President, Dwight D. Eisenhower, for his character, courage, patriotism, and commitment to international understanding through exchange.

(3) Over the past 50 years the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship program has exposed thousands of leaders throughout the world to the values of American political institutions, private sector commerce, educational opportunities, and cultural and societal traditions.

(4) Eisenhower Exchange Fellows worldwide have assumed positions of leadership in their respective countries, whether in the fields of government, industry, or civil society, and they retain links to the United States through their membership in Eisenhower Exchange Fellowships.

(5) The Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship is developing a new program to broaden its geographic base to emphasize the relationship of the United States with the Arab world.

(6) Congress has previously recognized the importance of the work of the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship program when it granted the program a Federal Charter under section 3(a) of Public Law 101-454.

(7) The Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship is one of the best examples of public and private partnerships.

(8) Additional resources are required to achieve the goals and objectives of the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship program in the 21st century.

#### SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE EISENHOWER EXCHANGE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM TRUST FUND.

Section 5 of the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-454; 20 U.S.C. 5204) is amended—

(1) by striking "To provide" and inserting "(a) INITIAL ENDOWMENT.—To provide"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) ENHANCED ENDOWMENT.—In addition to the amount initially appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriation under subsection (a), there is authorized to be appropriated to the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Program Trust Fund \$12,500,000 for fiscal year 2004."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FLAKE. 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.R. 2121.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) I am pleased to speak to a bill introduced by the distinguished gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT). The measure authorizes an increase in the Eisenhower Fellows Trust Fund that was established in 1992. The proceeds of this trust fund finance this well-respected exchange program. The increase will be directed towards programs in the Middle East.

The Eisenhower Fellowships is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization created in 1953 to honor President Eisenhower. Eisenhower Fellowships promote international understanding and productivity through the exchange of information and ideas among emerging leaders throughout the world. The program brings rising leaders from other countries to the United States and sends American counterparts abroad with a custom designed program for each participant.

The fellowship program seeks to create a network of leaders whose ties to one another and the United States may foster peace, productivity and progress. This is accomplished by creating programs that enhance the capacities of men and women leaders likely to have an impact on their nation's development. Programs are designed to build on the individual's professional skills as well as develop contacts within the United States. These experiences are devoted to the growth of the individual Fellows, to the advancement of their effectiveness as leaders, and to their ability to contribute to progress and reconciliation among diverse groups.

The advantage to the United States in such interaction affords our citizens the opportunity to understand the aims, achievements and problems of different countries through meeting proven young leaders of these countries.

In closing, the Eisenhower Fellowships promote international under-

standing and productivity through the exchange of information, ideas and perspectives among emerging leaders throughout the world. This is important and useful to our future as a member of the globalized society.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation and I urge my colleagues to do so as well. This legislation reauthorizes an important public diplomacy program named after our 34th President, Dwight D. Eisenhower. The Eisenhower Fellowship Program, funded by both the private and public sectors, has made an enduring contribution to international understanding and furthering U.S. interests around the globe by promoting international understanding through the exchange of information, ideas and perspectives among emerging leaders worldwide. It brings rising foreign leaders to the United States and sends their American counterparts abroad, with a custom designed program for each participant.

Mr. Speaker, since its inception, over 1,500 fellows have become alumni of the program. Among them are four heads of government and 100 cabinet-level appointees. Numerous fellows have become ambassadors, legislators, university presidents, supreme court judges and governors. They head major corporations and nonprofit organizations involving health, environment and culture.

Mr. Speaker, this is the type of program that must be continued if we are going to try to improve our stature around the world and to change the misunderstandings that are being propagated by those who do not understand our great Nation.

Indeed, we must increase these types of programs if we are going to start to make inroads on the increasingly negative view of the United States that has been growing over the past 2 years. Recognizing this need, the Eisenhower program is developing an expanded program for Middle East and the Arab world.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support passage of this legislation, and urge my colleagues to do so as well.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2121—the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Trust Fund Enhancement Act. The Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship honors former President Dwight D. Eisenhower for his character, courage and patriotism in both times of war and peace. Its programs are designed to advance international understanding by providing opportunities to emerging world leaders; exposing them to diverse experiences. Each year the program attracts approximately 45 leaders to the United States from countries around the world. Eisenhower Fellowships spend two months studying, learning and participating in democratic institutions at all levels of government.

AUGUST 15, 2003.

President Eisenhower believed that informed professionals have the best opportunity to create international trust and cooperation. Eisenhower Fellowships has followed this vision. Since its founding in 1953 by private citizens, Eisenhower Fellowships has built up a distinguished alumni body of over 1,300 alumni in over 100 countries. There are 4 heads of state and over 100 cabinet appointments among them.

During its first 50 years, Eisenhower Fellowships has proven the validity and impact of its founding vision to bring together young leaders from all over the world to pursue our mission, as Eisenhower saw it, of peace through understanding. On October 3rd, 2003 Dr. Henry Kissinger, Chairman of the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship, presented the Eisenhower Medal for Leadership and Service to former Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Chairman and President George H.W. Bush.

The tragedy of September 11th and the subsequent evidence of deep international hatreds and misunderstanding have demonstrated that Eisenhower Fellowships' core mission is even more relevant now than it was in 1953. Since September 11th, almost daily headlines have provided further evidence of deep rifts along with misunderstanding and violence; conditions analogous to those that led to the creation of Eisenhower Fellowships 50 years ago.

For Eisenhower Fellowships to continue to have a meaningful impact globally, a significant expansion of its programs is imperative. World population has grown from 2.7 billion in 1953 to well over 6 billion; and there are now 192 independent nations versus a few dozen when Eisenhower Fellowships was founded.

The Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship is funded by a mix of private and Federal funds. Congress granted a Federal charter in 1990 (P.L. 101-454) and created a permanent trust fund to assist the fellowship program. The initial trust fund authorization has not increased in over fourteen years while demands on the program have increased substantially. This is a fitting time to recognize the commitment of the program to its original goals and to increase trust fund investments. Under its federal charter, funds deposited into the trust fund remain in the United States Treasury and are invested in governmental securities. Only proceeds from the trust fund are appropriated to the Fellowship for operations. H.R. 2121 would increase trust fund assets by \$12.5 million. This is essential as the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship is advancing plans for a major new initiative with key countries in the Middle East; including Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Near the end of his first inaugural address, President Eisenhower said, it is "our hope, and our belief, that we can help to heal this divided world." That faith in the ability of America to help bring peace and justice to the world was a fundamental part of Dwight Eisenhower. It is fitting that 50 years later the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship is still promoting these values and ideas in the name of President Dwight David Eisenhower.

I support H.R. 2121 and commend the Committee for bringing this critical bill to the floor honoring an outstanding President and a great Kansan.

Hon. DENNIS J. HASTERT,  
*Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I learned recently that the entire Kansas delegation joined together on May 15th as original co-sponsors of H.R. 2121—The Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Trust Fund Enhancement Act. The purpose of the bill is to increase the Federal Trust Fund established by Congress that assists in funding the work of the Eisenhower Fellowships program. I commend Congressman Tod Tiahrt for taking the lead on introducing this legislation and encourage you to work with him in getting this bill enacted into law.

As the current Chairman of Eisenhower Fellowships, I can attest to the need for increased Federal support. The organization is funded by a mix of private and Federal funds. Congress granted a Federal charter in 1990 (PL 101-454) and created a permanent trust fund to assist the fellowship program. The initial trust fund authorization has not increased in over thirteen years. Although we have steadily increased the levels and proportion of our private funding, demand for our programs has increased far more rapidly than our resources. This has been especially true since September 11, 2001, an event that strongly underlined the urgency of our mission: building understanding and progress through dialogue among leaders from around the world. Now in its fiftieth year of successful operations, Eisenhower Fellowships remains committed to this original goal and poised to make a larger contribution.

I therefore ask for your support of the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Program Trust Fund Enhancement Act of 2003 by scheduling this bill as soon as possible after Congress returns from the August break. The timing of this is critical to me and to all the supporters of the Eisenhower Fellowships, since I will be chairing its 50th Anniversary Board meeting on October 3, 2003, and presenting the Eisenhower Medal for Leadership and Service to former President George H.W. Bush—my predecessor as Chairman of Eisenhower Fellowships. The Congressional expression of support for our mission by enacting this bill into law will be a key factor in strengthening this very fine example of public/private endeavor in a mission critical to the U.S. national interest.

Sincerely,

HENRY A. KISSINGER.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2121.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JAMES E. WORSHAM POST OFFICE  
AND JAMES E. WORSHAM CARRIER ANNEX BUILDING

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3340) to redesignate the facilities of the United States Postal Service located at 7715 and 7748

S. Cottage Grove Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, as the "James E. Worsham Post Office" and the "James E. Worsham Carrier Annex Building", respectively, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3340

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. JAMES E. WORSHAM POST OFFICE.**

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7715 S. Cottage Grove Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "James E. Worsham Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in this section shall be deemed to be a reference to the James E. Worsham Post Office.

**SEC. 2. JAMES E. WORSHAM CARRIER ANNEX BUILDING.**

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7748 S. Cottage Grove Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "James E. Worsham Carrier Annex Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in this section shall be deemed to be a reference to the James E. Worsham Carrier Annex Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. 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.R. 3340.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker on behalf of the Committee on Government Reform, I rise in support of H.R. 3340. This bill redesignates two postal facilities in Chicago, Illinois, as the James E. Worsham Post Office and the James E. Worsham Carrier Annex Building, respectively. My esteemed colleague, the gentleman from Chicago, Illinois, introduced this legislation and all members of the Illinois State Congressional delegation have cosponsored this bill. I share their support of H.R. 3340, and I urge all of my colleagues to likewise support this bill.

James Worsham was a native of Chicago and enjoyed an admired career as a letter carrier and a leader of a postal employees union. After bravely serving our Nation for 4 years, Worsham began his postal career as a letter carrier in 1963. He ultimately joined the National Association of Letter Carriers and he rose to the ranks of Branch President and National Trustee.

Today, we honor Mr. Worsham's sustained diligence within the postal community.

Mr. Speaker, again I urge support of H.R. 3340.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) in the consideration of H.R. 3340, legislation redesignating the Grand Crossing Postal Station in Chicago, Illinois, after James E. Worsham.

□ 1430

This measure, which was introduced by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) on October 20, 2003, was unanimously reported by our committee on June 24, 2004. H.R. 3340 enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the entire Illinois delegation.

Mr. Worsham, a native of Chicago, began his postal career in 1963 as a letter carrier assigned to the Grand Crossing Postal Station. His hard work and dedication was quickly noticed by his coworkers, and he was drafted to become shop steward. From that point on, Mr. Worsham was a man on the move. His leadership qualities were recognized not only by his coworkers but from the branch president and others in the local National Association of Letter Carriers' office. Mr. Worsham was subsequently slated to run for the sergeant at arms position. He later became an auditor and chief steward for Branch 11.

A career milestone occurred in 1979 when Mr. Worsham was elected president of Branch 11. He served in that position until his retirement. Upon his retirement, President Worsham became director of Retired Members for NALC, a position he held here in the Nation's Capital. He later returned to Chicago to serve again as president of Branch 11.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH), for seeking to honor the illustrious and stellar career of James E. Worsham, and I urge the swift passage of H.R. 3340.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Missouri for yielding me this time.

I am very pleased to join with my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH), who introduced this legislation to rename a post office formerly known as the Grand Crossing Post Office for Mr. James Worsham.

James Worsham is synonymous with development of the letter carriers union in the city of Chicago and in the State of Illinois. He has provided tremendous leadership to the extent that the Illinois Letter Carriers are actually one of the most effective organizations of letter carriers in America. As a mat-

ter of fact, the Chicago local has a bevy of activities in which they are constantly involved, not only in terms of protecting the rights and privileges of union members but also being greatly involved in civic, community, and public interest activity.

Mr. Worsham has been honored by his local union. As a matter of fact, they have actually renamed the union hall the James Worsham Union Hall, and now with redesignating these postal facility buildings. He had actually retired from local leadership, became a national employee of the union, and then came back and was petitioned by his members to run again after having been away from the union for a number of years in terms of local leadership.

So I commend my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH), for having the foresight and understanding of how we recognize someone who has given practically all of their adult life to a movement. So I am pleased to join in support of this resolution. I urge its passage. I want to commend Mr. Worsham for an outstanding career as a postal worker, a union leader, and as a great American.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH).

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Missouri for yielding me this time.

I certainly want to also thank my colleague, the gentleman from the adjoining district in Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), for his kind remarks, his gracious comments on this resolution, and for all that he does for the entire State of Illinois and the Nation, particularly for the 7th Congressional District.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) and others for their efforts in bringing this legislation to the floor today. I owe a great debt of gratitude to the entire Illinois delegation for their cosponsorship of this worthy piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise in support of H.R. 3340, a bill that I introduced back in September of last year, which designates the U.S. post office located at 7715 and 7748 South Cottage Grove Avenue in my hometown of Chicago as the James E. Worsham Post Office Building.

This bill pays fitting tribute to Mr. James E. Worsham, who has served the Chicago community with considerable distinction as a hard-working and dedicated postal worker. Before joining the postal service, Mr. Worsham served in the U.S. Air Force for 4 years and then the city of Chicago as a traffic court clerk for 4 years.

Mr. Worsham began what would become an illustrious postal career on the southeast side of Chicago at the Grand Crossing Station on January 16, 1963, the station that we are proposing to name after him today.

Mr. Speaker, back on January 16, 1963, it was an infamous day in the city of Chicago. On that particular day in

the city of Chicago, the actual air temperature reached 27 degrees below zero; and Mr. Worsham, a new letter carrier, having no experience as a letter carrier, was sent out into the elements to deliver the mail. It was his first day, and he was not appropriately dressed for the prolonged exposure to the severe weather conditions in Chicago; and as a result, he suffered extreme frost bite to his ears. Undaunted by this initial experience, he returned to work the next day and adhered to the literal meaning of a carrier's creed: neither rain nor snow, heat nor cold, nor frost-bitten ears shall stay a carrier from his appointed rounds.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Worsham's coworkers were first to recognize his leadership skills and his fiery and staunch determination to get the work done. Because of this, his coworkers elected him to become their shop steward, and Mr. Worsham continued to climb the professional and leadership ladder. He held numerous high-profile positions such as sergeant at arms, auditor and chief steward for Branch 11. In January of 1979, while holding these positions, he ran for the president of Branch 11 and won overwhelmingly.

Mr. Speaker, as president, his skills became known throughout the Nation and the national president of the association recruited him to become a national trustee at the same time that he maintained his position as president of Branch 11.

Upon retirement, Mr. Worsham did not stop there, nor did he slow down. He became director of Retired Members for the Letter Carriers here in Washington, D.C. for the last 4 years. Mr. Worsham continues to fight for the rights of postal employees, and he continues to ensure that the public receives the services that they are entitled to.

Mr. Speaker, again, I believe that this legislation is a fitting tribute to Mr. James Worsham, and I strongly encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 3340.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for his comments and the colorful tale that he told us.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 3340, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3340.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VITILAS 'VETO' REID POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4327) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7450 Natural Bridge Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Vitilas 'Veto' Reid Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4327

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. VITILAS "VETO" REID POST OFFICE BUILDING.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7450 Natural Bridge Road in St. Louis, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the "Vitilas 'Veto' Reid Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Vitilas "Veto" Reid Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. 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 the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4327 is a great tribute to the service of one of St. Louis, Missouri's favorite sons. This legislation designates the St. Louis postal facility as the Vitilas "Veto" Reid Post Office Building.

Mr. Speaker, longtime Postmaster Veto Reid of St. Charles, Missouri, enjoyed a postal career that spanned over 5 decades. He started his career in 1951 as a substitute clerk and ultimately rose to be the postmaster in Godfrey, Illinois, from 1980 until 1983. He then moved to St. Charles, Missouri, where he served as postmaster for 18 years until his retirement in 2001.

Beyond his postal career, Reid is active in his community and sits on the boards of St. Charles County YMCA, the St. Louis branch of the NAACP, the Habitat for Humanity, and Lindenwood University. Veto and his wife, Bessie, reside in St. Charles; and on behalf of my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY), I want to congratulate him for this de-

served post office designation. After all, it is highly appropriate to name this postal facility in St. Louis after a great individual and a postal institution in St. Louis like Veto Reid. I commend the gentleman from Missouri for advancing H.R. 4327 to the floor today. I support this meaningful honor of Veto Reid.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I want to thank the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) for her kind words. Hopefully, she will come to St. Louis one day and meet Mr. REID.

Mr. Speaker, I rise as a sponsor of H.R. 4327, a bill to honor Mr. Vitilas "Veto" Reid by permanently designating the Normandy Post Office located at 7450 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, Missouri, the Vitilas "Veto" Reid Post Office.

As we have heard, Veto Reid has had a U.S. Postal Service career that spanned over 50 years. He started his career on August 20, 1951; and it culminated with his retirement as postmaster on September 1, 2001.

His first assignment was "indefinite substitute clerk," which included working in the mail processing and special-delivery sections. After 18 years as a clerk, he received his first management promotion to mail supervisor in December of 1969. That promotion was indeed a significant accomplishment and was a first for an African American. Affectionately known to his family and friends as Veto, he has been throughout his life a man of many firsts. Some of his many accomplishments are as follows:

Superintendent of station and branches in Berkeley, Missouri; delivery program branch supervisor in Chicago, Illinois; officer-in-charge, in Hazelwood, Missouri Post Office; officer-in-charge in St. Charles, Missouri; postmaster of Godfrey, Illinois; postmaster of St. Charles, Missouri.

Veto Reid's outstanding record of accomplishments as a postal service employee was recognized in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on October 21, 2001. He is an honor graduate of the historic Vashon High School located in St. Louis, and attended Stowe Teachers College and the University of Missouri at St. Louis. He is also a trustee and chairman of the board of Prince of Peace Missionary Baptist Church, where he has been a member for more than 65 years.

□ 1445

He also has long-lasting memberships with the Albert Holman Masonic Lodge, Eureka Consistory, and Medinah Temple representing the Shriners of Eastern, Missouri.

Veto Reid served on the boards of many advisory committees throughout the St. Louis community. In January of 1995 he was appointed President of the Advisory Board of St. Joseph's Hospital SSM, St. Charles, Missouri. In

July of 1999, he was elected President of the Rotary Club of St. Charles, Missouri. In both cases he became the first African American to hold such positions.

Mr. Reid was also the first African American station manager at the South St. Louis City, Chouteau Branch, and he was also the first African American to be appointed station manager at the Godfrey, Illinois, and St. Charles, Missouri post offices.

Vitilas Reid has received many awards, including the First Postmaster's Leadership Award, which was presented at the 1992 National Association of Postmasters of the United States convention in Nashville, Tennessee. In January 2002, he received the State of Missouri Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Service Award. He was inducted into the historic Vashon High School Hall of Fame in 1990, and was inducted into the St. Louis Gateway Classic Walk of Fame in August of 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure in tribute to a man whose life has meant so much to his co-workers and his community.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 4327.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4327.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERRY B. DURYEA, JR. POST OFFICE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4427) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 73 South Euclid Avenue in Montauk, New York, as the "Perry B. Duryea, Jr. Post Office".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4427

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. PERRY B. DURYEA, JR. POST OFFICE.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 73 South Euclid Avenue in Montauk, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Perry B. Duryea, Jr. Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Perry B. Duryea, Jr. Post Office.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. 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.R. 4427.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am proud to support this legislation that designates a U.S. postal facility in Montauk, New York, as the "Perry B. Duryea, Jr. Post Office." Every Member of the New York State delegation has cosponsored this bill. While State cosponsorship is a formality for post office designations to be reported from the Committee on Government Reform, in this case I think it reflects a great deal of the sentiment from my New York colleagues.

Mr. Perry Duryea remains one of the most highly respected Speakers of the New York State Assembly in history. Speaker Duryea represented the people of Long Island with considerable dedication. First elected as a State Assemblyman in 1960, Perry Duryea exhibited extraordinary leadership for nearly two decades in the New York State legislature, spending 12 years as Republican leader. He held the distinguished position of Assembly Speaker from 1969 to 1973, and he served as Minority Leader from 1966 through 1968 and again from 1974 to 1978.

We all deeply regret that Speaker Duryea passed away in January following a car accident near his home in Montauk. I hope this post office designation provides a wonderful reminder of Perry Duryea's legacy as a public servant and as a great American to his friends, his family, and to all New York residents.

I thank the gentleman from New York for his work on H.R. 4427 that honors Perry Duryea. I strongly urge all of the Members of this House to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 4427, legislation designating the postal facility in Montauk, New York, after Perry Duryea. This measure which was introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) on May 20, 2004, was unanimously reported by our committee on June 24, 2004. H.R. 4427 enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the entire New York delegation.

Perry Duryea, a lifelong resident of Montauk, New York, was a political

legend. For 18 years, from 1960 to 1978, Mr. Duryea served as the Republican Assemblyman from the First District. While serving in the State Legislature, Mr. Duryea served as Minority Leader and Speaker of the Assembly.

Mr. Duryea was known for being bipartisan and recognized as a community leader. He worked tirelessly for the people of New York State and Long Island. Sadly, he passed away in January of this year.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague for seeking to honor the legacy of Perry Duryea, and I urge the swift passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4427.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE PRESIDENT POSTHUMOUSLY AWARD THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO HARRY W. COLMERY

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 257) expressing the sense of Congress that the President should posthumously award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Harry W. Colmery.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 257

Whereas the life of Harry W. Colmery of Topeka, Kansas, was marked by service to his country and its citizens;

Whereas Harry Colmery earned a degree in law in 1916 from the University of Pittsburgh and, through his practice of law, contributed to the Nation, notably by successfully arguing two significant cases before the United States Supreme Court, one criminal, the other an environmental legal dispute;

Whereas during World War I, Harry Colmery joined the Army Air Service, serving as a first lieutenant at a time when military aviation was in its infancy;

Whereas after World War I, Harry Colmery actively contributed to the growth of the newly formed American Legion and went on to hold several offices in the Legion and was elected National Commander in 1936;

Whereas in 1943, the United States faced the return from World War II of what was to become an active duty force of 15,000,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines;

Whereas Harry Colmery, recognizing the potential effect of the return of such a large number of veterans to civilian life, spearheaded the efforts of the American Legion to develop legislation seeking to ensure that these Americans who had fought for the democratic ideals of the Nation and to pre-

serve freedom would be able to fully participate in all of the opportunities the Nation provided;

Whereas in December 1943, during an emergency meeting of the American Legion leadership, Harry Colmery crafted the initial draft of the legislation that became the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, also known as the GI Bill of Rights;

Whereas the GI Bill of Rights is credited by veterans' service organizations, economists, and historians as the engine that transformed postwar America into a more egalitarian, prosperous, and enlightened Nation poised to lead the world into the 21st century;

Whereas since its enactment, the GI Bill of Rights has provided education or training for approximately 7,800,000 men and women, including 2,200,000 in college, 3,400,000 in other schools, 1,400,000 in vocational education, and 690,000 in farm training and, in addition, 2,100,000 World War II veterans purchased homes through the GI Bill;

Whereas as a result of the benefits available to veterans through the initial GI Bill, the Nation gained over 800,000 professionals as the GI Bill transformed these veterans into 450,000 engineers, 238,000 teachers, 91,000 scientists, 67,000 doctors, and 22,000 dentists;

Whereas President Truman established the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1945 to recognize notable service during war and in 1963, President Kennedy reinstated the medal to honor the achievement of civilians during peacetime;

Whereas pursuant to Executive Order No. 11085, the Medal of Freedom may be awarded to any person who has made an especially meritorious contribution to "(1) the security or national interest of the United States, or (2) world peace, or (3) other significant public or private endeavors"; and

Whereas Harry Colmery, noted for his service in the military, in the legal sector, and on behalf of the Nation's veterans, clearly meets the criteria established for the Presidential Medal of Freedom: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that the President should posthumously award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Harry W. Colmery of Topeka, Kansas.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. 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. Con. Res. 257.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to offer my support for House Concurrent Resolution 257. This resolution expresses the sense of Congress that the President should posthumously award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Harry W. Colmery.

Mr. Speaker, countless remarkable Americans have contributed great

sums to the building and development of our great Nation. Today we celebrate Harry Colmery, truly one of the most remarkable of all Americans. Harry Colmery had the awesome vision and the practical brilliance to compose "The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944," or much better known as the GI bill.

Harry Colmery grew up and attended school in Pennsylvania before earning a law degree in 1916. When the U.S. entered World War I, Colmery left to serve America as a first lieutenant in the Army Air Service. When he returned safely home after the war, he developed a successful law practice, eventually arguing two cases before the United States Supreme Court. He also became involved in the emerging American Legion and was elected National Commander in 1936.

As the head of the American Legion, Colmery had the foresight to see beyond the second great war and to understand that at its completion nearly 15 million servicemen and service-women would be returning home looking to continue their lives. Many would probably want to go back to work, many more would want to go on to college. Colmery addressed both interests at an emergency meeting of the American Legion leadership in December of 1943. There Colmery drafted the initial draft of what became the Servicemen's Readjustment Act. President Franklin Roosevelt signed the law the following year, and it is credited with almost single-handedly jump-starting the modern American economic engine.

Mr. Speaker, the G.I. Bill provided educational benefits that more than 2 million men and women utilized to attend college after coming home from World War II. Furthermore, an additional 5 million veterans received job training and other preparation through the G.I. Bill. Indeed, the G.I. Bill became one of the most directly influential acts of Congress in American history. It is impossible to measure the benefit to our national economy and general welfare from the fruits of all of this education.

Harry Colmery's work in authoring the G.I. Bill make him one of the great Americans about whom many people today actually know very little.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution requests the President to posthumously award the Nation's highest civilian award to Harry Colmery. On behalf of the chairman, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), and the rest of the Members of the Committee on Government Reform, I want to make clear that this is not a frivolous request, nor do we believe that the Presidential Medal of Freedom is an honor that should be awarded lightly. But we believe that Harry Colmery deserves the Presidential Medal of Freedom for the millions of lives that he helped improve through the G.I. Bill.

I want to applaud the distinguished gentleman from Kansas (Mr. RYUN) for bringing this legislation forward on be-

half of Harry Colmery and his momentous contributions to our Nation. I believe this legislation deserves the full support of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) for her remarks on Mr. Colmery.

Mr. Speaker, it is never too late to honor someone who has done a great deed for our Nation. Harry W. Colmery should be honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom because millions of Americans are better off today as a result of his vision and the hard work he put in to making his dream a reality.

After returning from duty in the Air Service during World War I, Mr. Colmery was struck by the financial and emotional hardships he and his fellow veterans encountered when they returned home. These hardships included trouble adjusting to civilian life and the inability to find adequate jobs.

Holding a law degree and therefore in better shape than most veterans, Mr. Colmery immediately became involved in the newly formed American Legion, where he helped fellow veterans who were less fortunate than he was. He held several legion posts before being named National Commander in 1936.

As more and more young men were drafted into service during World War II, Harry Colmery began to think of his own experiences and how he could improve the lives of American veterans when they returned from war. He led efforts to make sure that these fine young men who had risked their lives for the freedom America enjoys would best benefit from that freedom when they returned.

In December 1943, Colmery called an emergency meeting of the American Legion leadership. Colmery drafted legislation that would become the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, known today as the G.I. Bill of Rights.

The G.I. Bill of Rights is considered to be one of the core reasons that the 15 million U.S. soldiers active during World War II were able to return to America and lead productive lives.

Since its enactment, the G.I. Bill of Rights has provided education and training for 7.8 million men and women. For the first time some of our Nation's most elite universities became available to working class Americans through the G.I. Bill, when they otherwise would not have had the opportunity or financial resources.

Executive Order No. 11085 states that the Medal of Freedom may be awarded to any person who has made a meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States. Frankly, the contribution Mr. Colmery has made to the well-being of all Americans, regardless of race, class or religion, is immeasurable. As a grateful Nation, we thank Mr. Colmery and award him the Presidential Medal of

Freedom because it is never too late to honor American heroes like Harry Colmery.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I urge all Members to support House Concurrent Resolution 257 that was offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. RYUN). He wanted to be here today but was delayed at the airport.

□ 1500

I certainly commend him for his leadership on this resolution.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 257, which would express the sense of Congress that the President posthumously award the Medal of Freedom to Harry W. Colmery. Mr. Colmery, a lawyer who successfully argued cases before the Supreme Court after World War I, was the visionary who drafted in long-hand during the Christmas and New Year's holidays of 1943-1944 what would become the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly known as the "G.I. Bill of Rights."

Michael Bennett, author of *When Dreams Came True—The G.I. Bill and the Making of Modern America*, credits Mr. Colmery with the wisdom and foresight that "made the United States the first overwhelming middle-class nation in the world. It was the law that worked, the law whose unexpected consequences were even greater than its intended purposes."

The World War II G.I. Bill of Rights—and the engaging response on the part of the 7.8 million veterans who used it—produced 450,000 engineers; 238,000 teachers; 91,000 scientists; 67,000 doctors; 22,000 dentists; and another one million college-educated men in other professional disciplines like business, management, manufacturing, banking, and social services. Among the 7.8 million GI Bill recipients were about five million World War II veterans who received other forms of valuable technical schooling or on-job training that become so important to our post-war civilian economy.

Mr. Speaker, even before WWII ended, Harry Colmery forecast that we as a nation would need a kind of economic "cubby hole" for training its veterans after the war, as the American economy would transform from making machine guns to making Maytags. Congress agreed, and on June 22, 1944, it sent the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 to the White House. President Roosevelt signed the bill saying ". . . it gives emphatic notice to the men and women in our Armed Forces that the American people do not intend to let them down."

But frankly, it was more than not letting down the veterans themselves. Michael Bennett speculates on Mr. Colmery's foresight, "For this was a bill . . . conceived in democracy and dedicated to the proposition that those called upon to die for their country, if need be, are the best qualified to make it work, if given the opportunity."

Having served in the Army Air Service during World War I, Harry Colmery understood that economically empowering veterans through education and training was vastly superior to providing them with cash bonus payments, as was done for World War I service.

And history has shown how correct Mr. Colmery was.

Building upon the success of the original GI Bill, Congress subsequently approved a second bill following the Korean War; a third bill following the Vietnam War; a fourth bill for the post-Vietnam War era; and in 1985, under the dedicated leadership of former Veterans' Committee Chairman Sonny Montgomery, Congress approved the modern version of the GI Bill which is fittingly called the Montgomery GI Bill.

And in recent years, Congress has continued to keep faith with the goals originally set out by Harry Colmery by passing legislation that modernizes the GI Bill to meet the needs of America's military veterans in the 21st century. As a result of bipartisan legislation I was proud to sponsor along with my good friend Congressman LANE EVANS, the total lifetime college benefit for qualified veterans has risen from \$24,192 in January 2001, to \$35,460 today. In total, more than 21 million veterans have received higher education and job training through the original WWII GI Bill and its successors.

Michael Bennett noted that, "the \$14.5 billion cost of the WWII GI Bill was paid by additional taxes on the increased income of the GI Bill recipient by 1960. Without the property—and the social peace—engendered by the GI Bill, America couldn't have afforded the Marshall Plan's \$12.5 billion."

Mr. Bennett further observed that by 1960, "veterans were only in their early 40s, at the height of their earning powers, and the bill's catalytic effects would be felt for years to come throughout the entire economy as homes, schools, roads and service industries multiplied. Between 1960 and 1980, America's Gross Domestic Product quintupled from \$515.9 billion to \$2.7 trillion. Since then, the GDP has risen to \$8.5 trillion in 1998, a tripling in 17 years rather than a quintupling in 20."

Economic philosopher Peter Drucker said in the Harvard Business Review that "the GI Bill of Rights and the enthusiastic response to it on the part of America's veterans signaled the shift to a knowledge society. In this society, knowledge is the primary resource for individuals and for the economy overall."

Mr. Drucker later wrote that "future historians may consider it the most important event in the 20th Century. We are clearly in the middle of this transformation; indeed, if history is any guide, it will not be completed until 2010 or 2020. But already it has changed the political, economic and moral landscape of the world."

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Harry W. Colmery essentially articulated for America what author Bennett later referred to as the "American Creed in Action." Mr. Colmery knew from his personal experiences during and after World War I that Americans who fight in wars often are ordinary people who do extraordinary things. Mr. Colmery and The American Legion mounted the campaign for the GI Bill and against those who predicted that it could turn the nation's college and universities in to "educational hobo jungles." In the end, Mr. Colmery and Representative Edith Nourse Rodgers (MA), who worked with him and co-authored the GI Bill legislation in the House of Representatives, won out.

As the New York Times reported in November 1947, ". . . here is the most astonishing

fact in the history of American higher education. . . . The G.I.'s are hogging the honor rolls and the Dean's lists; as they are walking away with the top marks in all of their courses. . . . Far from being an educational problem, the veteran has become an asset to higher education."

Mr. Speaker, as a trained lawyer and not an economist or an educator, Harry Colmery designed the legislation to allow 14 million World War II veterans to transform arsenals of mass destruction into industries of mass consumption.

These veterans did not just pass through higher education, they transformed it. But it was more than that. They created the modern middle class, thanks to the vision of Harry Colmery.

I encourage my colleagues to emphatically support the Presidential Medal of Freedom for this extraordinary American.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 257, a resolution that would urge the President to posthumously award Harry W. Colmery of Topeka, Kansas, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

In order to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, a person must have contributed in one of the following areas: the security or national interest of the United States, world peace, or another significant public or private endeavor. Harry Colmery's work to bring the gift of education to so many millions of American service members certainly qualified.

Harry Colmery answered the call of duty in World War I by serving as a first lieutenant in the Army Air Service. Aviation was a new concept in those days, and Mr. Colmery showed exceptional bravery and faith by serving his country in the air.

Harry Colmery also served the United States as a lawyer, having received his law degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1916. He used his education well and argued two successful cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. In his personal life, Mr. Colmery was active in the American Legion, and its members elected him National Commander in 1936.

In December of 1943, Mr. Colmery's law career and his devotion to his country intersected. Millions of young Americans had answered the call of duty and served in World War II and were starting to return home. Harry Colmery and the American Legion wanted to ensure that these returning soldiers would be able to transition back into civilian life. In Room 570 of the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., Mr. Colmery outlined the legislation that became the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, better known now as the G.I. Bill of Rights.

The G.I. Bill has helped to create over 250,000 engineers 238,000 teachers, 91,000 scientists, 67,000 doctors, and 22,000 dentists since being signed into law. Thanks to these men and women, bridges, buildings, and ships have been built; children have realized their dreams, scientific mysteries have been solved, and patients in need of care have been healed.

As an active member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, I am proud that Mr. Colmery's work on the G.I. Bill of Rights is something we have built upon. In the 107th Congress, my colleagues and I worked to pass legislation to expand educational benefits for veterans. This legislation, The 21st Century

Montgomery G.I. Bill Enhancement Act, included an increase in basic education benefits, an increase in the rate of survivors' and dependents' educational assistance and an expansion of the work-study program.

Today, the military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq are creating a new generation of veterans. Harry Colmery's foresight has secured valuable educational benefits for these men and women who are so bravely defending freedom in the war on terror and gives them opportunities for their futures.

I am pleased that my colleague, Mr. RYUN, has been successful in bringing this resolution to the House floor, and I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this resolution to posthumously award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Mr. Harry W. Colmery.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 257, expressing the sense of Congress that the President should posthumously award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Harry W. Colmery. Harry Colmery is truly an American treasure. In December of 1943, Mr. Colmery sat in room 570 of the Mayflower Hotel drafting what arguably became our most successful domestic program ever, possible even more remarkable than the Homestead Act.

I believe Mr. Colmery simply wanted a decent opportunity for the 14 million GIs we brought home after World War II. The GI bill provided veterans with opportunities that were limited only by their own aspiration, ability and initiative. The VA provided the opportunity; the veterans provided the initiative.

On June 20, 2002, I joined Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman CHRISTOPHER SMITH, former Senator Bob Dole, former House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman G.V. Sonny Montgomery, Congressman JIM RYUN—who authored the legislation we are considering today—author Michael Bennett, and National Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle of The American Legion, at the Mayflower Hotel to dedicate room 570. This was our first step to recognize the man who authored legislation which, unbeknownst to him, would create the modern middle class.

After the ceremony, this distinguished group of individuals wrote letters in support of honoring Mr. Colmery with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This was followed by Congressman RYUN introducing H. Con. Res. 257, of which I am proud to co-sponsor.

Harry Colmery was a visionary and deserves the Nation's highest honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The GI bill transformed America. Former President George Bush put it best, "The GI bill changes the lives of millions by replacing old roadblocks with paths of opportunity. And, in so doing, it boosted America's work force, it boosted America's economy, and really, it changed the life of our Nation."

Mr. Speaker, let us honor the man who redefined our way of life. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 257.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Con. Res. 410, by the yeas and nays.

H. Con. Res. 257, by the yeas and nays.

RECOGNIZING THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 410, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 410, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 379, nays 0, not voting 54, as follows:

[Roll No. 326]  
YEAS—379

Abercrombie  
Ackerman  
Akin  
Alexander  
Allen  
Andrews  
Baca  
Baird  
Baker

Baldwin  
Ballenger  
Barrett (SC)  
Bartlett (MD)  
Barton (TX)  
Bass  
Beauprez  
Bell  
Bereuter

Berkley  
Berman  
Berry  
Biggert  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (GA)  
Bishop (NY)  
Bishop (UT)  
Blackburn

Blumenauer  
Blunt  
Boehkert  
Boehner  
Bonilla  
Bonner  
Bono  
Boozman  
Boswell  
Boucher  
Boyd  
Bradley (NH)  
Brady (PA)  
Brady (TX)  
Brown (SC)  
Brown, Corrine  
Brown-Waite, Ginny  
Burgess  
Burns  
Burr  
Burton (IN)  
Buyer  
Calvert  
Camp  
Cannon  
Cantor  
Capito  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cardoza  
Carter  
Case  
Castle  
Chabot  
Chandler  
Chocola  
Clay  
Coble  
Cole  
Cooper  
Costello  
Cox  
Cramer  
Crane  
Crenshaw  
Crowley  
Cubin  
Culberson  
Cunningham  
Davis (AL)  
Davis (CA)  
Davis (FL)  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (TN)  
Davis, Jo Ann  
Davis, Tom  
Deal (GA)  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DeMint  
Diaz-Balart, L.  
Diaz-Balart, M.  
Dicks  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Dooley (CA)  
Doolittle  
Doyle  
Dreier  
Duncan  
Dunn  
Edwards  
Ehlers  
Emanuel  
Emerson  
English  
Eshoo  
Etheridge  
Evans  
Everett  
Farr  
Fattah  
Feeney  
Ferguson  
Flake  
Foley  
Forbes  
Ford  
Fossella  
Frank (MA)  
Franks (AZ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Frost  
Gallegly  
Garrett (NJ)  
Gerlach  
Gibbons

Gilchrest  
Gillmor  
Gingrey  
Gonzalez  
Goode  
Goodlatte  
Gordon  
Granger  
Graves  
Green (TX)  
Green (WI)  
Greenwood  
Grijalva  
Gutknecht  
Hall  
Harris  
Hart  
Hastings (WA)  
Hayes  
Hayworth  
Hefley  
Hensarling  
Herger  
Herseth  
Hill  
Hinojosa  
Hobson  
Hoeffel  
Holden  
Holt  
Hooley (OR)  
Hostettler  
Houghton  
Hulshof  
Hunter  
Hyde  
Inslee  
Isakson  
Israel  
Issa  
Istook  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson-Lee (TX)  
Jefferson  
Johnson (CT)  
Johnson (IL)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Johnson, Sam  
Jones (NC)  
Kanjorski  
Kaptur  
Keller  
Kelly  
Kennedy (MN)  
Kennedy (RI)  
Kildee  
Kilpatrick  
Kind  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kingston  
Kirk  
Kline  
Knollenberg  
Kucinich  
LaHood  
Lampson  
Langevin  
Lantos  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latham  
LaTourette  
Leach  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis (CA)  
Lewis (GA)  
Lewis (KY)  
Linder  
Lipinski  
LoBiondo  
Lofgren  
Lucas (KY)  
Lucas (OK)  
Lynch  
Maloney  
Manzullo  
Markey  
Marshall  
Matheson  
Matsui  
McCarthy (MO)  
McCollum  
McCotter  
McCrery  
McDermott

McGovern  
McHugh  
McKeon  
McNulty  
Meehan  
Simpson  
Skelton  
Smith (MI)  
Smith (TX)  
Smith (WA)  
Snyder  
Soudier  
Spratt  
Stark  
Stearns  
Strickland  
Stupak  
Sullivan  
Tanner  
Tauscher

Aderholt  
Bachus  
Becerra  
Brown (OH)  
Cardin  
Carson (IN)  
Carson (OK)  
Clyburn  
Collins  
Conyers  
Cummings  
Delahunt  
DeLay  
Deutsch  
Engel  
Filner  
Gephardt  
Goss

Gutiérrez  
Harman  
Hastings (FL)  
Hinchee  
Hoekstra  
Honda  
Hoyer  
Jenkins  
John  
Jones (OH)  
Klecicka  
Lowey  
Majette  
McCarthy (NY)  
McInnis  
McIntyre  
Miller (NC)  
Pascrell

Payne  
Pelosi  
Peterson (MN)  
Peterson (PA)  
Pitts  
Pombo  
Price (NC)  
Slaughter  
Smith (NJ)  
Solis  
Stenholm  
Sweeney  
Tancredo  
Tauzin  
Thompson (MS)  
Udall (CO)  
Weller  
Young (FL)

Taylor (MS)  
Taylor (NC)  
Terry  
Thomas  
Thompson (CA)  
Thornberry  
Tiahrt  
Tiberi  
Tierney  
Toomey  
Towns  
Turner (OH)  
Turner (TX)  
Udall (NM)  
Upton  
Van Hollen  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Vitter  
Walden (OR)

Walsh  
Wamp  
Waters  
Watson  
Watt  
Waxman  
Weiner  
Weldon (FL)  
Weldon (PA)  
Wexler  
Whitfield  
Wicker  
Wilson (NM)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wolf  
Woolsey  
Wu  
Wynn  
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—54

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE  
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) (during the vote). Members are reminded there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1853

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Filed for:  
Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 326, I was unavoidably detained in my Congressional District, and I missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 326 on H. Con. Res. 410, the Marshall Islands I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE PRESIDENT POSTHUMOUSLY AWARD THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO HARRY W. COLMERY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 257.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 257, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 381, nays 1, not voting 51, as follows:

[Roll No. 327]

## YEAS—381

Abercrombie Dooley (CA) Kolbe  
Ackerman Doolittle Kucinich  
Akin Doyle LaHood  
Alexander Dreier Lampson  
Allen Duncan Langevin  
Andrews Dunn Lantos  
Baca Edwards Larsen (WA)  
Bachus Ehlers Larson (CT)  
Baird Emanuel Latham  
Baker Emerson LaTourette  
Baldwin English Leach  
Ballenger Eshoo Lee  
Barrett (SC) Etheridge Levin  
Bartlett (MD) Evans Lewis (CA)  
Barton (TX) Everett Lewis (GA)  
Bass Farr Lewis (KY)  
Beauprez Fattah Linder  
Bell Feeney Lipinski  
Bereuter Ferguson LoBiondo  
Berkley Flake Lofgren  
Berman Foley Lowey  
Berry Forbes Lucas (KY)  
Biggert Ford Lucas (OK)  
Bilirakis Fossella Lynch  
Bishop (GA) Frank (MA)  
Bishop (NY) Franks (AZ)  
Bishop (UT) Frelinghuysen  
Blackburn Frost Marshall  
Blumenauer Gallegly Matheson  
Blunt Garrett (NJ) Matsui  
Boehlert Gerlach McCarthy (MO)  
Boehner Gibbons McCollum  
Bonilla Gilchrest McCotter  
Bonner Gillmor McCreery  
Bono Gingrey McDermott  
Boozman Gonzalez McGovern  
Boswell Goode McHugh  
Boucher Goodlatte McKeon  
Boyd Gordon McNulty  
Bradley (NH) Granger Meehan  
Brady (PA) Graves Meek (FL)  
Brady (TX) Green (TX) Meeks (NY)  
Brown (SC) Green (WI) Menendez  
Brown, Corrine Greenwood Mica  
Brown-Waite, Grijalva Michaud  
Ginny Gutknecht Millender-  
Burgess Hall McDonald  
Burns Harris Miller (FL)  
Burr Hart Miller (MI)  
Burton (IN) Hastings (WA) Miller (NC)  
Buyer Hayes Miller, Gary  
Calvert Hayworth Miller, George  
Camp Hefley Mollohan  
Cannon Hensarling Moore  
Cantor Herger Moran (KS)  
Capito Herseth Moran (VA)  
Capps Hill Murphy  
Capuano Hinojosa Murtha  
Cardoza Hobson Musgrave  
Carter Hoeffel Myrick  
Case Holden Nadler  
Castle Holt Napolitano  
Chabot Hoolley (OR) Neal (MA)  
Chandler Hostettler Nethercutt  
Chocola Houghton Neugebauer  
Clay Hulshof Ney  
Coble Hyde Northup  
Cole Inslee Norwood  
Conyers Isakson Nunes  
Cooper Israel Nussle  
Costello Issa Oberstar  
Cox Istook Obey  
Cramer Jackson (IL) Oliver  
Crane Jackson-Lee Ortiz  
Crenshaw (TX) Osborne  
Crowley Jefferson Ose  
Cubin Johnson (CT) Otter  
Culberson Johnson (IL) Owens  
Cunningham Johnson, E. B. Oxley  
Davis (AL) Johnson, Sam Pallone  
Davis (CA) Jones (NC) Pastor  
Davis (FL) Kanjorski Paul  
Davis (IL) Kaptur Pearce  
Davis (TN) Keller Pence  
Davis, Jo Ann Kelly Petri  
Davis, Tom Kennedy (MN) Pickering  
Deal (GA) Kennedy (RI) Platts  
DeFazio Kildee Pomeroy  
DeGette Kilpatrick Porter  
DeLauro Kind Portman  
DeMint King (IA) Price (NC)  
Diaz-Balart, L. King (NY) Pryce (OH)  
Diaz-Balart, M. Kingston Putnam  
Dicks Kirk Quinn  
Dingell Kline Radanovich  
Doggett Knollenberg Rahall

Ramstad Scott (VA) Tierney  
Rangel Sensenbrenner Toomey  
Regula Serrano Towns  
Rehberg Sessions Turner (OH)  
Renzi Shadegg Turner (TX)  
Reyes Shaw Udall (NM)  
Reynolds Shays Upton  
Rodriguez Sherman Van Hollen  
Rogers (AL) Sherwood Velázquez  
Rogers (KY) Shimkus Visclosky  
Rogers (MI) Shuster Vitter  
Rohrabacher Simmons Walden (OR)  
Ros-Lehtinen Simpson Walsh  
Ross Skelton Wamp  
Rothman Smith (MI) Waters  
Roybal-Allard Smith (TX) Watson  
Royce Smith (WA) Watt  
Ruppersberger Snyder Waxman  
Rush Souder Weiner  
Ryan (OH) Spratt Weldon (FL)  
Ryan (WI) Stark Weldon (PA)  
Ryun (KS) Stearns Wexler  
Sabo Strickland Whitfield  
Sánchez, Linda Stupak Wicker  
T. Tanner Wilson (NM)  
Sanchez, Loretta Tauscher Wilson (SC)  
Sanders Taylor (MS) Wolf  
Sandlin Terry Woolsey  
Saxton Thomas Wu  
Schakowsky Thompson (CA) Wynn  
Schiff Thornberry Young (AK)  
Schroek Tiahrt  
Scott (GA) Tiberi

## NAYS—1

Taylor (NC)

## NOT VOTING—51

Aderholt Harman Pelosi  
Becerra Hastings (FL) Peterson (MN)  
Brode (OH) Hinchey Peterson (PA)  
Cardin Hoekstra Pitts  
Carson (IN) Honda Pombo  
Carson (OK) Hoyer Slaughter  
Clyburn Hunter Smith (NJ)  
Collins Jenkins Solis  
Cummings John Stenholm  
Delahunt Jones (OH) Sullivan  
DeLay Kleczka Sweeney  
Deutsch Majette Tancredo  
Engel McCarthy (NY) Tauzin  
Finler McInnis Thompson (MS)  
Gephardt McIntyre Udall (CO)  
Goss Pascrell Weller  
Gutierrez Payne Young (FL)

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1910

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 327 on H. Con. Res. 257 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 327, I was unavoidably detained in my Congressional District, and I missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. COLLINS. Madam Speaker, I was not present for debate on the Energy and Water Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2005 (H.R. 4614), rollcall vote 320, a vote on the Previous Question; rollcall vote 321, an amendment by SANDERS; rollcall vote 322, an amendment by WILSON (NM); rollcall vote 323, an amendment

by MEEHAN; rollcall vote 324, an amendment by HEFLEY; rollcall vote 325, final passage for H.R. 4614. Additionally, I was not present for rollcall vote 326, Recognizing the Marshall Islands (H. Con. Res. 410); and rollcall vote 327, Presidential Medal of Freedom to Harry Colmery (H. Con. Res. 257).

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" for rollcall votes 320, 324, 325, 326, and 327. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 321, 322, and 323.

## JUST WHAT THIS COUNTRY NEEDS

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

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, the Democrats have chosen a trial lawyer as their vice presidential nominee. Now that is just what this country needs, a trial lawyer in the second most powerful position in the United States. That is just what America needs, a well-positioned trial lawyer who can make certain we sue more health care providers, sue more hospitals and drug companies. That is just what America needs, a trial lawyer who can ensure we sue more manufacturers and corporations.

If trial lawyers have not driven our health care costs out of sight and our job overseas, we need to give them a better platform to finish the job.

Let us be frank, Madam Speaker, America needs a trial lawyer at the helm like Custer needed another Indian at Big Horn. However, there might be a bright side to having more trial lawyers in Washington, since the courts have given terrorists the right to have their own lawyers. At least now we will have something positive for more trial lawyers to do here.

## UNITED STATES-AUSTRALIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-199)

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 Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents prepared by my Administration to implement the United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA). This Agreement adds an important dimension to our bilateral relationship with a steadfast ally in the global economic and strategic arena. This FTA will enhance the prosperity of the people of the United States and Australia, serve the interest of expanding U.S. commerce, and advance our overall national interest.

My Administration is committed to securing a level playing field and creating opportunities for America's workers, farmers, and businesses. The

United States and Australia already enjoy a strong trade relationship. The U.S.-Australia FTA will further open Australia's market for U.S. manufactured goods, agricultural products, and services, and will promote new growth in our bilateral trade. As soon as this FTA enters into force, tariffs will be eliminated on almost all manufactured goods traded between our countries, providing significant export opportunities for American manufacturers. American farmers will also benefit due to the elimination of tariffs on all exports of U.S. agricultural products.

The U.S.-Australia FTA will also benefit small- and medium-sized businesses and their employees. Such firms already account for a significant amount of bilateral trade. The market opening resulting from this Agreement presents opportunities for those firms looking to start or enhance participation in global trade.

In negotiating this FTA, my Administration was guided by the negotiating objectives set out in the Trade Act of 2002. The Agreement's provisions on agriculture represent a balanced response to those seeking improved access to Australia's markets, through immediate elimination of tariffs on U.S. exports and mechanisms to resolve sanitary and phytosanitary issues and facilitate trade between our countries, while recognizing the sensitive nature of some U.S. agricultural sectors and their possible vulnerability to increased imports.

The U.S.-Australia FTA also reinforces the importance of creativity and technology to both of our economies. The Agreement includes rules providing for strong protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, promotes the use of electronic commerce, and provides for increased cooperation between our agencies on addressing anticompetitive practices, financial services, telecommunications, and other matters.

The Agreement memorializes our shared commitment to labor and environmental issues. The United States and Australia have worked in close cooperation on these issues in the past and will pursue this strategy and commitment to cooperation in bilateral and global fora in the future.

With the approval of this Agreement and passage of the implementing legislation by the Congress, we will advance U.S. economic, security, and political interests, and set an example of the benefits of free trade and democracy for the world.

GEORGE W. BUSH.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 6, 2004.

□ 1915

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4754, DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-583) on the resolution (H. Res. 701) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4754) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY COMMITTEE ON RULES REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 3574, STOCK OPTION ACCOUNTING REFORM ACT

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, the Rules Committee may meet this week to grant a rule which could limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 3574, the Stock Option Accounting Reform Act. The Committee on Financial Services ordered the bill reported on June 15, 2004, and has yet to file its report with the House.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a brief explanation of the amendment to the Committee on Rules in room H-312 of the Capitol by 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 8. Members should draft their amendments to the text of the bill, as reported, on June 15, the text of which will be available later this evening on both the Committee on Financial Services' and Committee on Rules' Web sites.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are drafted in the most appropriate format. Members are also advised to check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY COMMITTEE ON RULES REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 2828, WATER SUPPLY, RELIABILITY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules may meet this week to grant a rule which could limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 2828, the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act. The Committee on Resources ordered the bill reported on May 5 of 2004 and filed its report with the House on June 25, 2004.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a brief

explanation of the amendment to the Committee on Rules in room H-312 of the Capitol by 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 8. Members should draft their amendments to the text of the bill as reported by the Committee on Resources.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are drafted in the most appropriate format. Members are also advised to check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain that their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GINGREY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

IRAQ'S TRANSITION: WHO ARE OUR ENEMIES AND WHY DO THEY HATE US

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Iraq's transition to democracy and what it holds for our future.

Mr. Speaker, like all Americans, I was pleasantly surprised on June 28 when the Coalition Provisional Authority transferred power to the Iraqi interim government 2 days ahead of schedule. This was an important first step toward demonstrating that America fulfills its promises. Iraq is again a self-governing sovereign state.

However, with that said, we face many challenges in the days ahead. The anti-democratic insurgency in Iraq is still a reality that we and the sovereign and legitimate government of Iraq must confront every day.

Mr. Speaker, in dealing with this insurgency, we must first ask ourselves the questions that opponents of the war in Iraq often fail to raise: Who are the insurgents? And why do they hate us and the new government in Iraq?

It is clear from studying this situation in Iraq, the insurgency is not made up of one group of people united around a common message. Rather, it is an insurgency based upon disparate groups with differing and conflicting agendas.

It is clear that we face an unholy alliance of four different, but overlapping, groups: Baathists, radical theocrats, transnational terrorists, and common criminals.

Each of these groups has differing objectives. The Baathists yearn for the day that they once again can control Iraq. This Fascist party formed the basis of the Hussein regime; and at its core it is corrupt, brutal, and anti-democratic.

The radical theocrats and fundamentalists, like Moqtada al Sadr, desire

the installation of a revolutionary theocratic government like that of Iran. Such a government will most certainly be anti-democratic and inherently repressive. Those who desire such a government do not have the support of the majority of Iraqis.

The foreign fighters and transnational terrorists can be divided into two categories: the first is al Qaeda. The second is made up of disparate radicalized Islamic groups. We know what the objectives of al Qaeda are, as September 11 so clearly demonstrated. It wishes to drag the Muslim world into a war against the West. The other foreign fighters are recruited by radicalized clerics and have a similar vision of international jihad.

The criminal elements in Iraq are undeniably part of the insurgency. While many thousands were unjustly persecuted in prisons under the Hussein regime, many prisoners were also legitimately criminals. Before the war began, Saddam Hussein saw fit to release a large number of these criminals to prey upon his own people. They form part of those opposing the legitimate government and the coalition forces.

Mr. Speaker, the follow-up question that many opponents of the war fail to ask is, Why do these insurgents hate us?

Mr. Speaker, the answer to that question is clear and straightforward. Our opponents hate us, the coalition, not because of what we do, but because of who we are. We represent individual liberty and democracy, two values that our terrorist opponents neither understand nor accept.

If we take the time to examine each of these four insurgent groups, we will find their opposition to the coalition is built upon a rejection of individual liberty and democratic pluralism. The Baathists, of course, have never supported freedom or true democracy. Thirty years of their regime amply demonstrated they believe in an Iraq ruled by a strongman like Saddam Hussein and plundered by his Fascist followers.

The radical fundamentalists for their part certainly do not believe in either freedom or democracy, unlike their mainstream Muslim brethren. They clearly support a regime ruled by a religiously radical minority. In this regime there will be no place for freedom or democracy.

Al Qaeda, of course, will never stop hating us and despises the principles which we believe are essential to Iraq's future. The other foreign fighters also aim to create a state that will pursue a permanent jihad against the West. This jihad is antithetical to values like freedom and democracy.

Finally, the criminal element of the Iraqi opposition is also opposed to the principles of freedom and democracy precisely because these principles do not empower them.

The great weakness of all these opposition groups, Saddamists, transnational terrorists, theocrats, and

common criminals, is that none of them offer an attractive future for the Iraqi people. None of these groups could compete in open elections or attain power in a genuine democracy. That is why they so fiercely oppose our efforts to create a free Iraq based on individual liberty, tolerance, and democratic elections.

Mr. Speaker, our President is right: the key to victory in the war against terror is the spread of freedom and democracy throughout the Middle East. Our own security is intimately linked to the success of democracy in this troubled part of the world. The success of democracy and self-government in Iraq is the crucial first step to transforming and liberating the Middle East. That is why we must succeed in this critical battle of the forces of oppression and terror in Iraq, and that is why the opponents of the war in Iraq are so badly mistaken in their criticism of our current efforts. Success in Iraq will make America safer.

Mr. Speaker, despite the claims of critics, we have made real and genuine advances in Iraq. No one can deny the significance of 16 new governing councils, 90 new district councils, 194 city or sub-district councils, and 445 neighborhood councils. Together these institutions allow millions of Iraqis to engage in local policy discussions for the first time in history. These are clear advances which will empower Iraqis to control their own destiny. Through building democratic and free institutions, Iraq will be free; and America will be safe.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

#### REIMPORTATION OF DRUGS

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, just last week the American Association of Retired Persons released a study showing that drug prices rose in the last year by nearly 4 percent in the first quarter of last year, putting us on target for what has happened in the last 5 years every year in a row where the price of prescription drugs have risen on average 17 percent each year compounded, growing the cost for our senior citizens, their families that help their grandparents and parents to afford their drugs. And now that we have a prescription drug bill, it is going to also cost our taxpayers continuously more and more money to try to pay for that medication.

We have known for the last year prices were going to go up close to

about 17 percent; the year before that, 19 percent; the year before that, 20 percent; and the year before that, 18 percent, drug prices had gone up. We passed a prescription drug bill to try to deal with what seniors have said is the number one issue that affected them and their pocketbooks, which is that they could not afford the medications they need that their doctors were prescribing.

And let just take one step back. This Congress passed a prescription drug bill designed not with seniors in mind, but with HMOs and pharmaceutical companies. Just take their discount card for a second: all this press around a discount card the government was going to offer, 17 different plans. Some drugs covered, other drugs not covered. And some drugs, when they are covered, could get dropped a week later and people are locked into that plan.

Think about it. If one were designing a plan for senior citizens, if one were designing a plan for the customer, would they have designed that plan as is? No. The only reason that plan and the discount card was designed that way was because it was designed to help the pharmaceutical industry and the HMOs that had contributed over \$250 million in the last election cycle and hired over 900 lobbyists to lobby that bill. That bill was not designed with senior citizens in mind. It was not designed to try to save them money. That bill, that legislation and the discount card, was designed for the people who paid for it.

We have a piece of legislation that was passed here in the House that dealt with allowing people to do what people have been doing and senior citizens have been doing for the last 10 years, to buy the prescription drugs they need from Canada and Europe where prices are 30 to 80 percent cheaper than they are here in the United States, allowing, finally, the United States to have a free market where we have competition and prices come down due to competition.

I did a study on my Web site from Costco, a discount retailer in my district and a discount retailer in Toronto, Costco to Costco, Chicago to Toronto; and the prescription drugs and medications at the Costco in Toronto are 40 to 60 percent cheaper than they are in Chicago, the same medications that we can find on the shelves in Costco in Chicago as on the shelves at Costco in Toronto. And why is that? They have lower prices there. And senior citizens, 1 million to 2 million a year, go over the border to buy their medications that their doctors prescribe in Canada, saving themselves thousands upon thousands of dollars.

They can do it in Europe where they also provide medications. The same things, the same types of medications that our doctors prescribe here, they get at 50 percent cheaper.

Why would we force our senior citizens into higher prices and our taxpayers to pay higher prices to support

higher prices when we could allow the free market to finally operate?

I understand why the pharmaceutical industry would pay about 200-some-odd million dollars in the last year and would hire 900-plus lobbyists. They have got a sweet deal going. They should fight for the deal they got. But we here fought on behalf of the people who elected us. Eighty-eight Republicans and 153 Democrats in the House voted in favor of allowing reimportation, allowing people access to affordable medications at world-class prices because people from around the world come to America for their medical care; yet Americans are forced to go around the world for their medications. And we here in the House stood up to the special interests.

Later this week, the other body is going to take up that legislation. Having failed to deal with the number one issue of price and affordability of prescription drugs, they are now going to take up what we here in the House have done, which is allowing people the access to medications in Canada and in Europe where prices are much cheaper for the same name-brand drugs, name-brand drugs that we find in the shelves over there in Canada that we find here, but 30 to 80 percent cheaper.

They are going to take up that legislation because they now have spent months talking to constituents, doing town halls, and they have found out what senior citizens have been telling us for the last 6 years: they cannot afford the medications that their doctors are prescribing. They are forced to pick between the medications and their food. They are forced to give up their month to allow their spouse to buy their medications. They are forced into cutting pills in half.

It is time that we allow the free market to operate, bring competition to the pricing of prescription drugs and allow the prices to be driven down to world prices where they are 30 to 50 percent cheaper than they are here in the United States.

□ 1930

#### TRIBUTE TO VINCE DOOLEY

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

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Vince Dooley upon his retirement as Athletic Director at the University of Georgia. I could use the time to recite the countless achievements of this great Georgian as a Coach and Athletic Director, but I will not. Instead, I will submit for the RECORD a 4-page resume outlining Coach Dooley's lasting contributions to the University of Georgia.

I prefer to use this time telling America about the man who made such a difference in so many lives, including my own. I first met Coach Dooley in

1961, when he was the guest speaker at my high school banquet for our football team. He was the freshman coach at Auburn and friends with our coach, Jim Loftin. That night, he made a three-win team feel like national champions, just like Vince Dooley always did, always encouraging and always motivational.

Three years later, he arrived in Athens, Georgia, as the new football coach for the Georgia Bulldogs, and Athens would never be the same again. He took a three-win team from the previous year and molded it into a 7-3-1 team, defeating Georgia Tech and winning the Sun Bowl Championship over Texas Tech.

In the years to follow, Vince Dooley led Georgia to intersectional victories over Michigan, Texas, Notre Dame, UCLA and Michigan State. In his 25 years as head coach, he led the Bulldogs to six Southeastern Conference championships, 20 bowl games and the 1980 National Championship.

His tributes, however, do not lie in the trophies he collected, but rather in the lives he molded; men like Tommy Lawhorne, an undersized, over-achieving linebacker, now a leading surgeon in Columbus, Georgia; and Billy Payne, an all Southeastern Conference end, responsible for convincing the world to come to Georgia for the Centennial Olympic Games; or the greatest player ever to play for Georgia, or, I would submit, for any other university in the country, Hershel Walker. Only a coach like Vince Dooley could instill the character and humility for which Hershel is known.

There are thousands more I could mention. They may not be in a Hall of Fame, but they played for Vince Dooley. They all represent the character, humility and work ethic that Vince Dooley instilled in all that came his way. We know them as Bucky Kimsey, Clayton Foster, Fred Barber, Andy Johnson and Frank Ros. Their communities know them as leaders.

There is no greater tribute to a man's career than the success of those who learned under him. It is only fitting that the man replacing Vince Dooley as Athletic Director is Damon Evans, just one of many who played for Georgia's greatest coach, Vince Dooley.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), the former national championship coach of the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. It is a pleasure to be able to speak for a few minutes here on Vince Dooley.

I first met Vince in 1969, when he was coaching at the University of Georgia and I was an assistant coach at the University of Nebraska, and I was impressed by his humility, his willingness to talk to a lowly assistant coach. Of course, 24 years as a head coach and 25 years as Athletic Director is unprecedented. Many people say one year in

coaching is like a dog year, so Vince is about 175 years old by that figure.

I thought that Vince was just an excellent representative of college football. He was a leader in regard to the Rules Committee, he worked on the College Football Association, was a very good person as far as compromise, keeping people on an even keel, because sometimes things got a little heated.

Of course, Vince, I guess nobody knows for sure what his politics are, but his wife ran for Congress as a Democrat and then again as a Republican. So he obviously is a man who has a very even keel. I think Barbara was a great asset to Vince, they are a great team. Of course, Vince has been a tremendous asset to the University of Georgia, to college football, and, of course, the State of Georgia.

So it is a pleasure for me to have a couple of minutes to talk about Vince. We wish him well in his retirement.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the profile on Vince Dooley I referred to earlier.

VINCE DOOLEY

HEAD FOOTBALL COACH: 1964-1988; ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: 1979-2004

For the past 40 years, Vince Dooley has had an enduring impact on the University of Georgia, Southeastern Conference, and collegiate athletics across the country. He has been a man of great foresight in times of change, and vision in critical times that have shaped the path of college athletics. His national stature was reinforced when he was chosen from athletic leaders around the country to chair a national sportsmanship summit in the spring, 2003.

There is no stronger indicator of Georgia's overall athletic prominence than its recent success in the annual Sears Directors Cup which includes a second place finish in the 1998-99 season, third place finish in 2000-01, and top ten finishes in four of the past five years. Sears Directors Cup competition annually recognizes the top athletic programs in the country. Under his watch as athletic director (since 1979), Georgia teams have won 18 national championships (nine in the past five years) including an unprecedented four during the 1998-99 year (women's swimming, gymnastics, men's tennis, men's golf). Since Dooley became athletic director, Georgia athletic teams have also won 75 SEC team championships and numerous individual national titles in both men's and women's sports.

He has also been a standard-bearer for academic excellence. Under his leadership, more than 100 Georgia student-athletes have been named first team Academic All-America, 43 have received NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarships, seven have been named recipients of the SEC's Boyd McWhorter Scholar-Athlete of the Year award, seven NCAA Top Eight Award winners, three NCAA Woman of the Year recipients, and well over \$275,000 has been awarded to the University's general scholarship fund through performances by Georgia student-athletes.

In 1985, Dooley was also instrumental in fostering the pledge which has resulted in \$2 million being contributed by the Athletic Association to the University—the principle being used for non-athletic scholarships and the interest used in the recruitment of top students and other nonathletic programs. These funds also provided private matching

money which made possible the construction of the chemistry building expansion and the Performing and Visual Arts Center. And as part of the University's Third Century Campaign, he also initiated the Vincent J. Dooley Library Endowment Fund which was created with Coach Dooley's personal gift of \$100,000 to the University library. Under his leadership, the Fund raised over \$2.3 million.

In addition to his commitment to Georgia's athletic facilities, he was instrumental in the Athletic Association's participation in the University's Ramsey Student Activities Center, a facility rated by Sports Illustrated in 1997 as the top student physical activities building in America. It cost more than \$35 million, over \$7 million of which was funded by the Athletic Association including \$2 million in advance to begin the project. The complex, which hosted the 1999 NCAA Women's Swimming and Diving Championships and the 2002 NCAA Men's Swimming and Diving Championships, includes competition facilities for varsity swimming and volleyball and practice arenas for basketball and gymnastics.

His community service and charity work is extensive and includes work with the Heart Fund, Multiple Sclerosis, Juvenile Diabetes, Boy Scouts, the homeless, and he is currently serving on the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army. He has served 28 years as the long-standing chairman of the Georgia Easter Seals Society and in 1987 was named National Volunteer of the Year for his service. For his many contributions, a new Easter Seals facility in Atlanta was built and named for him in 1990. He and his wife, Barbara, are currently co-chairing a fundraising campaign to establish a Catholic high school in the Athens and northeast Georgia area. Dooley, who was instrumental in the University's campus being designated as an arboretum, was presented with the Georgia Urban Forest Council's 2001 Individual Achievement Award given for significant accomplishments in promoting urban forestry in Georgia.

He served six years on the Advisory Committee to the Atlanta Olympic Organizing Committee and was in Tokyo with his former player, ACOG president Billy Payne, when Atlanta won the bid to host the 1996 Games. Through his efforts and association with Payne, Dooley helped secure for Athens and the university three Olympic venues (soccer, volleyball, and rhythmic gymnastics) which was the largest number of events in a city outside Atlanta. Dooley was selected as a flame bearer in the 1996 Summer Olympics torch relay receiving the flame from Payne in Sanford Stadium. He also chaired a \$1.5 million fund raising campaign for new Salvation Army facilities in Athens.

Another honor came Dooley's way in June, 2001, when he was named the Division I-A Southeast Region Athletic Director of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) and award sponsor Continental Airlines.

Dooley was born into an athletic family in the Alabama coastal city of Mobile, September 4, 1932. His younger brother Bill, former head football coach at North Carolina, Virginia Tech, and Wake Forest, was an All-SEC guard at Mississippi State in 1954. After graduating from McGill High in Mobile, Dooley accepted a football scholarship to Auburn where he was an all-star football and basketball player. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Management ('54) and Masters in History (1963). After serving in the Marines and as an assistant coach at Auburn, he was named head coach of the Bulldogs in December, 1963, at the age of 31. Dooley still maintains his academic and continuing education interests by auditing

classes at the University in such disciplines as history, political science, art history, and horticulture.

Dooley is married to the former Barbara Meshad of Birmingham. They have four children; Deanna (Mrs. Lindsey Cook), Daniel (married to the former Suzanne Maher), Denise (Mrs. Jay Douglas Mitchell), and Derek (married to the former Allison Jeffers). The Dooleys also have ten grandchildren: Patrick, Catherine and Christopher Cook; Michael and Matthew Dooley; Ty, Joe and Cal Mitchell; and John Taylor Dooley and Peyton Dooley.

#### FAST FACTS ON VINCENT DOOLEY

Program success—In NACDA's Director's Cup Competition that recognizes the top athletic programs in the nation, Georgia has finished as follows over the last five years: 2001-02—7th; 2000-01—3rd; 1999-2000—12th; 1998-99—2nd; 1997-98—8th.

Standard bearer for academic excellence—over 100 Academic All-Americans; 43 NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship recipients; seven NCAA Top Eight Award winners; seven SEC Boyd McWhorter Scholar-Athlete of the Year winners; three NCAA Woman of the Year winners, more than any school in the country.

Hall of Fame Football Coach—Inducted into College Hall of Fame in 1994; 25 seasons (1964-88); 20 bowl games; 201 victories ranked third nationally among active coaches at time of his retirement; 1980 National Championship; six SEC Championships (1966, 68, 76, 80, 81, 82); 1980 and 82 NCAA National Coach of the Year; SEC Coach of the Year seven times; State of Georgia Sports Hall of Fame; State of Alabama Sports Hall of Fame; Sun Bowl Hall of Fame; Georgia-Florida game Hall of Fame; Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl Hall of Fame.

Award winning athletic director—2000 Georgia Trend Magazine Top 100 Georgians of the Century; 2001 Amos Alonzo Stagg Award from American Football Coaches Association for lifetime contributions to the sport of football; 2001 NACDA Division I-A Southeast Region Athletic Director of the Year; 1984 "Georgian of the Year" by the Georgia Association of Broadcasters; 1984 "Sports Administrator of the Year" by the State of Georgia Sports Hall of Fame.

#### SMART SECURITY AND NONPROLIFERATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to nuclear weapons, the policy of this administration looks like it was just pulled out of a 20-year-old time capsule. More than a decade after the fall of Soviet communism, President Bush and his national security team are still fighting the Cold War. Their budget called for more than \$100 million for research and testing of new nuclear weapons, including the robust nuclear earth penetrator and a so-called low yield nuclear weapons program.

Fortunately, the Subcommittee on Energy and Water of the Committee on Appropriations lives in the year 2004 with the rest of us, and initially has rejected these requests.

Even India and Pakistan, two nations mired in generations of conflict, whose shared border has been called the world's most dangerous nuclear

flashpoint, were recently able to reach a bilateral confidence building agreement on nuclear weapons. Meanwhile, the Bush administration enthusiastically jumps into the nuclear arms race. They believe the only good defense is a buildup of new nuclear weapons, which happens to violate the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty that the United States signed in 1970.

They believe that the only good defense is a gigantic offense. But just how strong does our Nation need to be? We already have 9,000 strategic nuclear warheads. How many of these weapons of last resort do we require in order to be secure; how much money do we need to spend; how much money do we need to spend on nuclear weapons; how much more dangerous must we make the world; and how many domestic priorities must we neglect before we decide that enough is finally enough?

There has to be a better way, a more sensible way, an approach that, to use Abraham Lincoln's words, calls on the better angels of our nature, Mr. Speaker, there is.

I have introduced H. Con. Res. 392 to create a SMART Security Platform for the 21st Century. SMART stands for Sensible, Multilateral, American Response to Terrorism. SMART treats war as the absolute last resort. It fights terrorism with stronger intelligence and multilateral partnerships. It aggressively invests in the development of impoverished nations. It controls the spread of weapons of mass destruction, with a renewed commitment to nonproliferation. And instead of saber rattling, instead of employing irresponsible rhetoric, like "axis of evil," the SMART nonproliferation approach calls for aggressive diplomacy, strong regional security arrangements and vigorous inspection regimes.

SMART security means the United States will set an example for the rest of the world by renouncing the first use of nuclear weapons and the development of new nuclear weapons. SMART security requires that the United States honor its multilateral nonproliferation commitments. If we are going to throw our weight around, demanding that other nations cease their weapons programs, we had better make sure we are meeting our obligations under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Under SMART, we would invest fully in the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, the CTR, an innovative partnership in which the Pentagon is working with the former Soviet Union to dismantle the nuclear weapons that were once aimed at our cities. CTR is critical to controlling the loose nuclear materials that are scattered throughout the former Soviet Union, keeping them from falling into the hands of rogue nations or terrorist groups.

Think about the price we have already paid to control weapons of mass

destruction in Iraq, weapons that do not even exist: Hundreds of American lives lost, thousands and thousands, in fact over 25,000 American soldiers injured, and hundreds of billions of dollars spent. Should we not be investing in eliminating a genuine nuclear threat? And we ought to be applying the lessons of CTR's success in Russia to dealing with Iran and North Korea.

Mr. Speaker, SMART security is an example. It is tough, but it is diplomatic; it is aggressive, but peaceful; it is pragmatic, but idealistic.

#### INDEPENDENCE DAY REPLAY OF 2000

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, coming back into town today and picking up a copy of one of the local papers, I read the headline, "Members Seek UN Election Monitors." Quoting from today's Roll Call, "a dozen Democratic House Members last week called on the United Nations to send monitors to oversee November's U.S. presidential election."

Mr. Speaker, I submit that I was astounded to read that in the paper today. It seems that there are people in this House who cannot get over the facts of the election that was held in the Year 2000, and the facts are that George W. Bush won that election. He won it in the constitutionally prescribed manner of a majority of electoral votes; he won on election day; and he won on every single recount held thereafter, until the Supreme Court said enough recounting 34 days later, and the counts were stopped.

But the President even won in the Miami Herald's recount that came out, I forget, in February or March of 2001, well into the President's first term. The Miami Herald finally acknowledged the fact that indeed George Bush had won Florida's electoral votes and had indeed won the election.

Those 34 days of transition time were critical to the start of this administration. We had an economy that was headed into a recession, and, as we found out later in that year, we had enemies of this country who were gathering strength and preparing to attack this country. Thirty-four days in transition were critical days that were lost.

But now comes this group who says that the events of the 2000 election are so serious that UN monitors are required on U.S. soil to monitor our electoral process.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you that the constituents of my district just simply do not understand what goes on in Washington, D.C. We have a candidate for the highest office in this land who says that foreign leaders would prefer him to be the President.

Mr. Speaker, we have got a judicial branch that seems to keep its eye on

what the foreign courts are ruling and what they are deciding.

Now, I am sad to say, we have Members of this body who simply do not understand what "sovereignty" means, and how ironic is that at a time when we are celebrating sovereignty in the country of Iraq, we just celebrated Independence Day in this country, and Members of our own body do not grasp that simple concept.

Mr. Speaker, when I was sworn in here 18 months ago, I swore an oath to uphold the Constitution. I think that is a good idea, to have that oath, to swear to uphold the Constitution. I think it might be a good thing if other Members of this body remembered why they are here.

#### CRITIQUING THE ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, if the last speaker had ever traveled outside the United States, he might understand why it is that every country in the world wants George Bush replaced.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to rise today to address the policies of this administration. I intend to use the "F" word, so be forewarned.

During the administration's watch, America has lost nearly 2 million jobs in the private sector. Through no fault of their own, Americans who are out of work cannot find a job. The administration's response is to classify flipping hamburgers as a manufacturing job.

We could have helped Americans weather the storm by extending unemployment benefits, but the administration turned a deaf ear.

Health care costs have skyrocketed in America, up to an average of 49 percent in 3 years. One in seven American families are struggling to pay medical bills, families are being forced to choose between food, housing and medicine. Unpaid medical bills are a leading cause of personal bankruptcy.

So what does the administration do? Provide health care for everybody in Iraq; muzzle the expert who knows what the prescription drug bill would really cost; and passes a drug bill for seniors after drug companies raise prices three times the rate of inflation, negating any possible benefit from a prescription drug card. There is an "F" word in there someplace.

Today, one out of every three Americans breathes unhealthy air. Thanks to this administration, existing rules are being rolled back so that old, dirty power plants can keep belching their pollutants into the atmosphere. The American Lung Association calls it the most harmful and unlawful air pollution initiative ever undertaken by the Federal Government.

□ 1945

100 million Americans live in places where the air is not fit to breathe. The

administration's response is to label science as fiction and then work to undermine environmental protection. We know the sources of pollution. Coal-fired power plants and diesel trucks are two big culprits. We know how to clean up the air. What does the administration do? Choose polluters over people. Choose polluters over protection. The administration wants to let oil rigs into the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The oil companies cannot wait. The only thing greater than America's greed for oil is the insatiable desire for profits by oil companies.

Certainly there must be an "F" word that applies when oil companies post 300 percent profits. The administration's civilian leaders must have lots of "F" words when the world first learned about the prisoner abuse scandals in Iraq. First they denied knowing anything. That was followed by media revelations of what they knew and approved in advance. The Geneva Conventions was something to embrace, not follow. That is the bottom line of the internal White House memos.

Need something else to use the "F" word? The administration has launched an undeclared draft in America. The undeclared draft compels current and former soldiers to fight in Iraq, even if they have already served. The undeclared draft uses rhetoric to mask reality. The military does not have enough soldiers. The administration knows they will be thrown out of office if they told America the truth. So the undeclared draft is called something else for now. Wait till after the election if George Bush wins.

The veterans seeking health care, the administration has a new plan. Bring your checkbooks and get in line. The administration wants to cut hundreds of positions in the VA. They want veterans to pay even more of the financial burden for the purchase of prescription drugs, and it wants veterans to pay a new enrollment fee. The administration's proposed budget for the VA is \$2.5 billion too low, but that is nothing compared to what the administration intends to do to education in title I funding which helps disadvantaged kids across America. This administration underfunds title I by over \$7 billion next year.

Half of every eligible school district in America will receive less grant money. The need is greater, but that does not matter. Only the rich have strong advocates in this administration.

From education to the environment, from veterans to health care, from the economy to forced military service, from moral leadership to global credibility, one word applies to this administration: the "F" word, failure, the administration's failure to create jobs that Americans want and deserve; the administration's failure to protect our land, air, water, and people; the administration's failure to confront military reality; the administration's failure to invest in our future leaders; the administration's failure to address the needs

of those who earn less than a million dollars a year; the administration's failure to retain America's moral leadership in the world and our moral compassion at home.

The Vice President used the other "F" word on the floor of the U.S. Senate. It showed a blatant disregard for a distinguished Senator. It showed a blatant disrespect of the American institution. It showed a blatant disrespect for being an American when dissent keeps the strong free. The "F" word applies to the administration. Failure in every way.

#### ELECTION YEAR

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, you know, we are certainly in the campaign season of an election year; and I think everybody, Mr. Speaker, needs to be on guard for the talent to spin. And I am reminded of a cartoon that was in our paper recently. And there were four figures, and the first figure said, "Gas prices are going up." And the next figure says, "Yeah. That is President Bush trying to give his friends in the oil industry more income and more money." And the next figure said, "Well, look, gas prices are coming down." And the next figure says, "Yeah. That is President Bush trying to buy our votes."

So I just challenge, Mr. Speaker, everybody in America to brace themselves probably for the most television ads they are going to see ever in this election. And you know what is encouraging is people in this country have a lot of what I call common sense that sort of comes from the gut. So I suggest to everybody, size up the candidates. Do what is right for our future.

You know, some people down here suggest that the way to have a balanced budget is to increase taxes. Some people suggest the way to balance the budget is to reduce spending. Whatever it is, I think we need to be very cognizant of what we are doing to future generations with overspending.

This year, even with the job growth and the expanded economy that is going to result in an estimated \$100 billion less overspending, less deficit spending than was earlier predicted, we are still leaving a huge mortgage to our children and our grandchildren. I want to talk about just two issues in that regard as we face the next several weeks of deciding how much we are going to spend in the appropriation bills, in the overspending and what it does to our kids, right now.

And interest rates of course just went up a quarter of a percent last week. It looks like before the end of the year they are going to go up again a little bit. Fourteen percent of total Federal spending now goes towards servicing the debt. So here is 14 percent of the \$2.3 trillion that is being spent

this year being spent to pay interest on what we are borrowing to accommodate the overzealousness of this body, the Senate, and the White House for the last 25 years to spend more and more money, trying to solve more and more problems.

That 14 percent of the total spending represents approximately \$300 billion a year; and if you realize that interest rates are going up and at the same time we are increasing the deficit, that means increasing the debt, that means increasing the interest that we are going to have to pay on that debt, it just leaves our kids with a huge responsibility, to the extent that their standard of living is going to be less than ours if we continue to do what we have been doing, and that is overspending.

And I suggest increasing taxes is not the right way to accommodate that overspending. Right now businesses are charged 18 percent more than the industrial countries that we compete with.

They pay 18 percent more in taxes in this country than other countries. So to simply say we are going to increase the taxes and put our businesses at a greater competitive disadvantage means that there is a greater likelihood that other countries are going to undersell us, that are going to produce those products. It means that companies in this country, to survive, are going to do more of their business overseas. Let us not solve our problems by increasing taxes.

Let me finish, Mr. Speaker, by talking about overpromising. It is easy for a politician to go back home to their districts or their States and say, well, you have some problems; I am going to come back in Congress, and we are going to push to solve that problem simply by increasing taxes to accommodate you, or maybe not even increasing taxes; maybe just making propositions.

The economists use the words "unfunded liabilities" to describe how much we have promised over and above the revenues coming in to pay for those promises. I would ask people to guess how much unfunded liabilities are now projected by the Medicare and Social Security actuaries. The answer is \$73.5 trillion. That means that we would have to have \$73.5 trillion into a savings account, earning as much interest to accommodate inflation, to pay for what is not coming in in the payroll tax in future years. It is not fair. It is moving away from the principle of those that work hard, that try, that study and invest end up better off than those that do not.

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, in closing, that it is important in this election year that the people of America size up their candidates.

#### H.R. 867, HASAN PRIVATE RELIEF BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives did a good deed. The House passed a bill that I had introduced nearly 2 years ago known as the Private Relief bill, which will allow Duri Hasan and her four daughters who live in Milltown, New Jersey, to fulfill the dream that brought them to America.

Nearly 3 years after the murder of their husband and father in a post-9/11 hate crime, Duri, Asna, Anum, Nida and Iqra received welcome and overdue news from the House of Representatives. Today, this body has helped them take a huge step toward putting the tragedy of September 15, 2001, behind them and put them back on track for American citizenship. I hope the Senate will move quickly on this.

I am very thankful to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their support of this bill and for the scores of citizens, activists, and religious leaders around the country who have supported this.

For any of my colleagues who are unfamiliar with the Hasan family, let me recall their tragic and heroic story. I think my colleagues will agree it is a true American epic filled with hopes and dreams, tragedy and hardship, and, thankfully, today, compassion in the form of a chance.

Waqar Hasan came to the United States in 1993 from Pakistan in search of a better life for his family. A year later, he brought his wife, Durrehshwar, or Duri we know her as, and their four daughters. The family settled in Milltown, New Jersey, where they had relatives. Waqar supported the family working in a gas station in the area. In the fall of 2001, he was in Dallas to establish a convenience store. He planned to move his family there after the business got off the ground.

However, on the night of September 15, 2001, just 4 days after the vicious 9/11 attacks, Mark Anthony Stroman walked into Waqar Hasan's convenience store in Dallas and shot the 46-year-old father to death. When asked by police why he shot Waqar, Stroman expressed no remorse: "I did it to retaliate on local Arab Americans or whatever you want to call them," he said. "I did what every American wanted to do, but didn't." Stroman is now on death row.

Mr. Hasan was very much a victim of the attacks of 9/11, and his death was a hate crime if ever there was one.

Before his death, Waqar had taken steps for him and his family to become American citizens. He was in the United States on an immigrant visa and was going through the paperwork towards citizenship. When he was brutally killed, his family's American future was placed in jeopardy. Their visas and green card applications were both dependent upon his visa. When he died, their hopes of American citizenship died with him. The Hasan family had lost their husband, father, and

breadwinner in a most horrible way; and now, they were facing the threat of deportation.

Mrs. Hasan and her teenage daughters think of themselves as Americans. The daughters are growing up here. Mrs. Hasan and all but the youngest daughter hold down jobs to make ends meet. One daughter attends Rutgers. Another daughter is studying at Kean College to become a teacher. They are the type of hard-working, reverent, patriotic, studious, industrious people that we want here in America; and they deserve to stay.

For the past 2½ years, I have been working with government agencies to keep the Hasan family in this country. I have pursued and exhausted every possible legal remedy to help the Hasan family stay. My Private Relief bill is the Hasan family's last hope of attaining permanent legal residency and eventually citizenship. Today, the House of Representatives passed that bill.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that there is no more crucial time to demonstrate to Muslims in America and around the world that we are a tolerant and sympathetic people. We must seize opportunities to showcase America's commitment to the democratic values that we are making great sacrifices to promote overseas.

This bill, of course, does not make everything all right. Duri Hasan and her daughters have lost their husband and father. Their lives have been given a severe blow. But with this bill, we avoid doing any further injury to them. I am very pleased to report the happy news to the Hasan family to whom today we here in the House have said, You belong here in America with us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York 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 New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE 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 Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio 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 Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LIPINSKI addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□ 2000

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

(Mr. BLUMENAUER 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 Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### OUR GREATEST RESOURCE

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thought we would talk tonight about several things, about our recent several CODELs to Iraq, to the theater, and also about the defense bill, and lastly, about the resources, the great American asset that ties all of our defense issues together, and that is the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States.

I thought, Mr. Speaker, maybe I would just start off with my great colleagues, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), in just talking about a couple of those great men and women in uniform.

I wanted to read a citation, Mr. Speaker, because we have had a lot of talk, lots of discussion and enormous publicity about the prison mess over the last several months. And one way we have countered that image that I think has wrongfully been splashed against lots of folks in uniform is by talking about the great heroism of a number of those people. And I remind my colleagues that we had some 16,000 Bronze Stars awarded in Iraq, some 127 Silver Stars, and I thought that tonight just to start off I would talk about a couple of the commendations that have been given to heroes in that very difficult theater in Iraq.

This is a Silver Star that was presented by order of the Secretary of the Navy to Staff Sergeant Adam R. Sikes, United States Marine Corps. I wanted to read this, Mr. Speaker.

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving as Platoon Sergeant, 1st Platoon, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 5, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force on 12 April 2003. During the Battle of At Tarmiyah, Staff Sergeant Sikes' platoon was pinned down by heavy small arms and rocket propelled grenade fire in the opening mo-

ments of the fight. Without orders, Staff Sergeant Sikes quickly rallied two of his squads and set them into position to suppress the enemy and prepare them to counter attack. With the squads in position, Staff Sergeant Sikes charged alone across the 70 meters of fire swept ground to close on the first enemy strongpoint, which he cleared with a grenade and rifle fire. Moving to the roof of a three-story building that was exposed to enemy fire, Staff Sergeant Sikes skillfully adjusted 60-millimeter mortar rounds onto nearby enemy positions. The rounds isolated the town from enemy reinforcement and decimated an enemy position in the nearby tree line. Upon learning that the other squad had taken casualties, Staff Sergeant Sikes moved to their position. With wounded Marines in a small compound, cut off by the enemy, Staff Sergeant Sikes signaled an amphibian vehicle and directed their evacuation while under a hail of small arms and rocket propelled grenade fire. By his bold leadership, wise judgment, and complete dedication to duty, Staff Sergeant Sikes reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service."

That is one of many, many commendations, Mr. Speaker, that have come out of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Here is another citation that I thought I would read tonight. This is a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal to Staff Sergeant Brian Porter, United States Marine Corps for heroic achievement while serving as tank commander, 3D Platoon, Company B, 1st Tank Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 7, 1st Marine Division in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. "Staff Sergeant Porter's actions against the enemy were quick and deadly. Upon initial contact with the enemy near Imam Anas with two of four tanks in the platoon temporarily unable to fire, he guided his tank to the right of the platoon and destroyed an Iraqi T-55 tank with main gun fire. He personally engaged and destroyed numerous armored personnel carriers and tanks to ensure the safety of the company. During a reconnaissance operation in Ad Diwaniyah, he secured the southern flank of the company. During the ensuing firefight involving mortar fire, machine gun fire, and rocket-propelled grenade fire, he destroyed a technical vehicle that was firing upon the platoon at close range. Staff sergeant Porter's initiative, perseverance, and total dedication to duty reflected credit upon him and were in keeping with the highest tradition of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service."

Mr. Speaker, these are obviously just a few out of thousands of citations that have been given to our soldiers and airmen and Naval personnel and United States Marines in theater in both Operation Iraqi Freedom and in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Mr. Speaker, if we have time at the end of our special order, I would like to

read a few more of those. But right now I would just like to introduce two of my great colleagues who also have been really working the issues that arise from this operation in Iraq and the operation in Afghanistan. I would like to yield first to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES).

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, first let me thank my good friend and chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), who spends every waking hour and then some doing everything he can to make sure our fine men and women in uniform have the support, the equipment, and the backing they need. So we are all owing a debt of gratitude to our chairman and to our good friend, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON). He and I have a lot of common friends in this fight. The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) represents Ft. Jackson, a fine training facility, Parris Island, Marine Base, Beaufort Air Station.

Every time I visit my troops at Ft. Bragg or Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina, I am constantly, continuously and consistently amazed at the attitude, the ability, the commitment, and the performance of these men and women who ask but little in return except the support of this Congress and the American people.

I have been to Iraq on a number of occasions. I was with the first group that went in. What our soldiers, sailors, Air Force, Marine and Coast Guardsmen put up with in terms of conditions, the things that they did not have but still came through, and won the fight in a remarkably short period of time with virtually no collateral damage to civilians and to other property is an incredible tribute to the servicemen and women that serve this country.

President Bush said something in Istanbul, Turkey just a week ago, and that was, in order to have justice, you had to have democracy. What our men and women in uniform are doing is providing for the Iraqi people and other surrounding nations the opportunity to see, to taste and to experience the democracy that equals freedom and ultimately justice. That is what we want for people all around the world, the privileges that we enjoy and, unfortunately, take for granted.

As I have been to Iraq and as I have visited our soldiers in training facilities, the amount of time and energy and effort that they put into making America safe, secure, and ultimately free is something that we can never repay. But I think for us to stand up and to stand tall and talk about the things that they are doing, whether it be in Fallujah, Baghdad, Najaf, Nasiriyah, and Afghanistan, these men and women 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, are out there doing the things that we call on them to do, tirelessly, without any idea of selfishness.

I cannot help but remember Daniel Metzdorf. I was in Iraq just a couple of

months ago and was there with our good friend, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) from the other side of the aisle and the minority leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), and they too share our respect for what they saw these men and women doing.

As we were headed back we stopped in Germany and visited our hospital at Landstuhl. We saw a number of folks, but the one I particularly remember because he looked like my son, Bob, as I walked in the door was Daniel Metzdorf of the 82nd Airborne. He had lost his leg. His concern was for the rest of his team. As he came back and has recovered, been at Walter Reed, he is a native of Florida but is back at Ft. Bragg now, his biggest concern was that his squad leader was not given sufficient recognition for the heroism that he exhibited in saving other members of his team when they were under attack by the enemy and the terrorists.

So as I think of him and the countless other men and women, a couple of whom the gentleman has referred to in those citations, I think we must continue to remind ourselves of how important these sacrifices are. And these are not sacrifices made at the whim of an individual or a Congress or a group of people. If we look at the record, the record is very clear from the past administration, from news media who now seem to have an extremely difficult time getting the facts right, reporting the actual conduct and the progress and wonderful things that our troops are doing for the people in Iraq, but as we look at that it is very clear and consistent, we have no choice. If we were to live up to the responsibilities of being a free and freer Nation, then we had to step in and stop these terrorists abroad before they could come to us.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to bringing a few more of these facts to light as we move on, but without dwelling too long at this time, I would like to turn over to a dear friend, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON). And we have supplied the gentleman with Abe Turner from Ft. Bragg to look after Ft. Jackson. So we are definitely a team and we work well together.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to say before the gentleman yields, I know he has been to Iraq and we really appreciate that great tour, and also the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) has spent a lot of time in Iraq. And I want to thank also the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), a great member of the committee, and the gentleman from El Paso, Texas (Mr. REYES) who was there with me over the last couple of weeks. So we have had great members of the Committee on Armed Services going over. I think that gives us some insight of what the troops need when we are putting together our bill to get the tools so they can get the job done.

I thank the gentleman for his remarks, and I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON).

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the chairman's leadership so much. We can all be proud of the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), as the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services. With his perspective as a veteran and with his devotion to the military, having a son serving in Iraq now, by his extraordinary leadership, I appreciate his coming and visiting Ft. Jackson last December. That was a highlight of my brief career here in Congress, to see the gentleman firsthand meeting with troops getting ready to deploy overseas. They were so honored to have the gentleman come and show his interest.

Mr. HUNTER. I want to thank the gentleman. I just want to remind the gentleman that my job here is lots of inside work and no heavy lifting.

It is interesting, we do a lot of things here that have some import and affect the ways our troops operate. But seeing those guys and ladies in 120 degree heat in Iraq and cheerful is an extraordinary experience.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. They can be cheerful because they know they have a chairman of the Committee on Armed Services who is personally interested in their safety and security and in promoting democracy and protecting the American people.

Additionally, I am very grateful to be here with my colleague from the north, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES).

I had an opportunity to visit with the gentleman at Ft. Bragg and visit with the Special Forces. It is so reassuring to see this new generation, to see how dedicated they are. Many of us had somewhat dismissed them as the Nintendo generation. Well, that is actually very positive because the equipment that they use is so high tech, it is crucial that they be able to operate equipment that is almost inconceivable in terms of advances in just a few years, and particularly even over the first Persian Gulf War, and the success of our troops and dedication is so heart warming.

Additionally, I was happy to hear the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES) reference Pope Air Force Base. I have a nephew who is currently still in the Air Force, and I am really proud that he served at Pope. But the perspective I would like to make tonight is indeed as a veteran, I retired after 31 years of service, it was last July, with my service with the Army National Guard, and I saw again firsthand the capable people who are protecting our country, because my job was as pre-mobilization legal counselor and additionally mobilization counseling. People did not whine. They knew, men and women, that they would be serving to protect the American people.

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Additionally, I am happy to be the parent of three sons who are serving in the military. My oldest son is a young

attorney from Lexington, South Carolina. He has been mobilized. He is serving in Iraq. I am in touch with him virtually every day by BlackBerry, by satellite phone. It is very reassuring.

My second son is a graduate of the naval academy, an ensign in the Navy. I am very proud of him being in medical school.

My third son was just commissioned a month and a half ago at Clemson University, in the Army ROTC; and he will have a career in the signal corps with the Army National Guard.

I am just so proud that they have on their own seen that one of the best ways to promote our country is to serve in the military; and then, finally, as a Member of Congress, it has already been referenced by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES), I am very grateful to represent Fort Jackson, ably commanded by General Abe Turner.

General Turner is so well known here in Congress because he was Army liaison to Congress and did a masterful job. I then ran into him, of all things, in Kuwait where he was one of the leaders there and helping us protect and promote our troops.

Additionally, I represent the Marine air station at Beaufort. We are very proud of their service. It is a joint Navy and Marine facility with squadrons of both; and I also represent Parris Island, where the training takes place of our troops on the east coast, and I have been there in 3 days of parallel training; and it was an extraordinary opportunity again to see the dedication of these young people.

I also represent the Beaufort Naval Hospital adjacent to McIntyre Air National Guard Base, Sully Air Force Base. I, again, over and over again, had the opportunity to meet young people, to meet people who are so dedicated in protecting our country.

Indeed, it was 2 weeks ago today that I had the opportunity to go on a delegation with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) with the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and we had the opportunity to meet with the incoming Iraqi police being trained. We had the opportunity to meet with the new government officials, the Prime Minister, Ayad Allawi, and also President Ghazi al-Yawer. It was very encouraging.

The Prime Minister is a real hero. He himself was a victim of Saddam Hussein's attempted assassination a number of years ago. I have heard it described he was virtually cut in half, but he recovered. His wife, though, did not. She had a permanent nervous breakdown. And so we have a very brave person serving as Prime Minister in Ayad Allawi promoting the people of Iraq to build a civil society.

Many of us had the opportunity, thanks to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), to meet with President Ghazi al-Yawer. He is a graduate of George Washington University; and he announced to us that he is an optimist,

that he believes a civil society can be established in Iraq, and I believe that we have seen in the past 10 days, since he took power and since the Prime Minister took power on the 28th, that, indeed, they are working to rebuild a civil society in Iraq.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) and I were in on the same meeting, and that was a wonderful opportunity. What he and I heard in terms of the appreciation of the Iraqi people, the desire of their people and their government to be free, the incredible gratitude that they feel towards our soldiers. Does the gentleman read anything like that in our national media? Does the gentleman hear that on the news at night?

What my colleague and I heard both there and in Iraq, we do not hear it. That is what the people of America need to hear and see, because that is true. That is what is happening in Iraq. That is the contribution. That is how the people who are receiving this help, particularly from men and women in uniform, that is the true response.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. It really is, and particularly with President al-Yawer. He was so outspoken in his appreciation for the dedication of our young people, of families who have lost heroes, who are protecting American people; and it was just heartfelt. It was the same heartfelt feeling that we actually did see, thank goodness, with President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan, who was here about 3 weeks ago to express the appreciation of the people of Afghanistan for their liberation and their ability now for probably the first time in history to establish a civil society.

When I say "civil society," I am talking about one that looks out for the people and the country, and one of the highlights was to meet with the minister of health in Iraq. He had previously been the minister of education, and he was telling us one by one of the progress being made in regard to education.

Thousands of schools have been renovated. These are not elegant schools with gymnasiums. These are largely one-room schoolhouses that have been repainted, many of them by the American military, with desks and with blackboards. In fact, 1¼ million book bags were distributed to the young people of Iraq from the United States Agency For International Development.

Additionally, he told us that there are 293,000 teachers in Iraq. What we hear when we read the paper is that people are unemployed. That is all we hear; but there are 293,000 teachers, and it was incredible to me.

I asked the minister what is the percentage of young people who are school age going to school; and he told us it was around 90 percent, maybe exceeding 90 percent, and that, in fact, in April when there was an upsurge in vi-

olence, the young people still came to school, and they were brought by their parents.

I find this encouraging because we know another fact is that there were 60 million new textbooks distributed in the last year. This is incredibly important. The textbooks previously had been idolatrous of the dictator Saddam Hussein. They had virtually identified him as a reincarnated Nebuchadnezer. That was an insult to their intelligence; but if that is all they read, that is all they read, that is all they heard.

Now, of course, we have all seen, as we have visited, the satellite dishes. Those were illegal under the Hussein dictatorship. Those of us who have visited, everywhere we look we see satellite dishes where it may not be all we want them to see, but they do have choices that they did not have before. So a civil society, I think, is being established.

Then the bravery that is exhibited. The gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER) was very interested that we visit a hospital; and we visited a hospital, and we visited with the American troops, and we visited with Iraqi patriots. In particular, there was a city councilman who was there who had been severely injured and his young son was there, and he was telling us that his brother had been killed in the same attack a week ago prior to us meeting with him and that another son, somebody had left a package at their home and when he picked it up, it was a small bomb that blew his right hand off. How brave that he persisted in trying to build a civil society.

It just brings to mind, particularly here in the week of the 4th of July, of the sacrifices of the persons who signed the Declaration of Independence. They were not greeted with riches and with a warm response by the ruling elite at that time. They lost so much, and now we have got people who are indeed promoting the establishment of a democracy.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I know both the gentlemen mentioned going through the air base in Germany, Ramstein Air Base, and going to the medical facility in Germany where our wounded troops are taken before they are brought back to Walter Reed or Bethesda; and in doing that this time, just this last week, I was reminded very strongly about what we displaced in Iraq when we got rid of Saddam Hussein, because one of the lead surgeons there had a videotape that was done by Saddam Hussein's agents as they amputated the hands of businessmen who they brought to the prison and decided, because Saddam Hussein had figured that they had not done enough for business lately and they had not brought the economy up sufficiently in Iraq in a certain period of time, he had their hands surgically amputated to give a little motivation to the other members of the business community. I imagine

it did motivate them. It probably motivated them to get out of there as quickly as they could.

When I see the discussion about Iraq peel off into some type of a debating society over whether or not we have found weapons of mass destruction lately, I pull that picture out of my top drawer that has all those Kurdish mothers spread out across the hillside dead, where they were killed in mid-stride holding their children, holding their little babies, where that chemical hit them and appeared to kill them just where they stood, and those pictures were as poignant and dramatic as any photos I saw of any of the death camps in Germany.

I was reminded once again of what we displaced when we displaced Saddam Hussein; and certainly, we are going to have, as the years go by and more mass graves are discovered and more people come forth with their stories, it is going to become very evident that the United States of America acted when others were afraid to act, when they were intimidated or when they were incentivized not to act because of economic situations, like the French who thought they were going to get all the contracts for the big oil fields, and perhaps others who thought that they somehow would have a good political or economic relationship with Iraq.

The United States acted, and we acted on behalf of humanity because it is humanity which rejects cutting people's hands off because they have not raised the economic standard; or shooting thousands of Shiites in the back of the head and bulldozing them into open trenches because they would resist Saddam Hussein's regime; or gassing Kurdish citizens in their little villages in northern Iraq. That is resisted by humanity, and the only nation which really took action along with our great British allies and Australia allies and several others brought something to the battle but not a lot, was the United States of America, and I think we can all be proud of that leadership.

It is going to be a rocky, tough road. They live in a tough neighborhood, and there is lots of danger for that new government to face. In fact, I think the biggest challenge for their armed forces is, number one, just keep their government alive, because there are lots of predators out there that want to take them down. I think we are going to make it and we are going to have an Iraq which is benign with respect to its relationship with respect to the United States, and that is going to accrue to the benefit of lots of Americans in generations to come.

I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES).

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, just a couple of quick points.

Again, the gentleman referred to the Iraqi businessmen whose hands were cut off. They came here to the Capitol of the United States of America and had a press conference. I did not see

anything about that anywhere near the front page, simply to make the point.

Mr. HUNTER. No. In fact, you know what I saw, The Washington Post had a front page article about the prison mess, and what they devoted the front and center to their front page on one day was that some prisoners in Guantanamo had asked for sugar in their tea, and they were told it was going to be a while before they got sugar for their tea. So they thought that was quite an abuse, and so instead of putting in an article about people who had their hands amputated by Saddam Hussein, they wanted to devote that very important space to prisoners who did not get sugar in their tea.

Mr. HAYES. The issue of weapons of mass destruction, let me for just a moment quote what the administration said about weapons of mass destruction.

The New York Times reported November 14, 1997, in a meeting that the White House was deciding to prepare the country for war. According to the Times, the decision was made to begin a public campaign to do interviews on the Sunday morning television news programs to inform the American people of the dangers of biological warfare and Saddam Hussein.

During this time, The Washington Post reported that President Clinton specifically directed Secretary of Defense Cohen to raise the profile of biological and chemical threat.

Again, I point out, this was the former administration, not because of partisan politics but because of the unanimous consensus that existed about the weapons of mass destruction.

On November 16, Cohen made a widely reported appearance on ABC's "This Week" in which he placed a 5-pound bag of sugar on the table and stated that that amount of anthrax would destroy at least half the population in Washington, D.C.

Cohen began his November 25 briefing on the "Pentagon Report" by showing a picture of a Kurdish mother and child that had been gassed by Saddam's Army. A bit later, standing beside the gruesome image, he described death on a mass scale: one drop of vx nerve agent on your finger will produce death in a matter of just a few moments.

Now, the U.N. believes that Saddam may have produced as much as 200 tons of vx; and this would, of course, be theoretically enough to kill every man, woman, and child on the face of the Earth.

He then sketched a massive chemical attack on an American city, on and on and on.

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Steven Hayes has written, by the way, no kin of mine. So I am not promoting my relative's book. Not a relative. I want to make that clear for the record.

Mr. HUNTER. He may make that point to you when you try to get a part of the royalty.

Mr. HAYES. That is probably true.

The book is very accurate, very concise, and there is also a condensed 7- or 8-page article on where the connection between terrorists around the world was so clearly made and tied into Saddam Hussein, his government, and their effort to promote, to build, and to harbor terrorists. So clear. So if anybody has any doubt in their mind, simply read that article, which is in the Weekly Standard, or read the book. The evidence is clear. It cannot be denied.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Chairman, it should be pointed out that, indeed, a certain gas projectile was discovered, that is a chemical weapon, and, additionally, mustard gas has been discovered, projectiles in the country of Iraq, which had previously been in the jurisdiction, obviously, of Saddam Hussein. It was clearly indicated that, of course, chemical weapons were being used against the Kurdish population by Saddam Hussein.

It is equally significant that the anthrax that was never explained as to what happened to it or where it may be, could fit in the back of a medium-sized U-haul, but yet it would be sufficient to have a horrible impact. More than the known population on the East Coast could have been killed by such an attack if it were widely dispersed, which would be difficult, but we would not want to find out. That is why we took this action. And this war in Afghanistan, the conflict in theater in Iraq, this is to protect the American people.

My colleague from California brought up our allies, but this needs to be brought out. We have 32 nations that have sent troops to Iraq. I am particularly grateful that 2 weeks ago I had the opportunity to meet a soldier from Latvia. Not in our lifetime would we ever dream that we would be meeting with a soldier from the Independent Republic of Latvia, which is now a free republic. Not any longer is it a forced member of the U.S.S.R., the Soviet Union. Now Latvia itself is a member of NATO.

It should also be noted, and it is just amazing how this is not picked up, when we express concern about NATO's involvement, we should be pointing out that 16 of the 26 members in NATO have troops serving in Iraq today. I want to particularly congratulate, because I have worked very closely as the co-chair of the Congressional Bulgaria Caucus, I want to thank the Republic of Bulgaria. I had the opportunity in Kabul, Afghanistan, to meet with the Bulgarian ambassador and commander of Bulgarian troops serving in Afghanistan.

I am very pleased there is a battalion of 495 Bulgarians serving in Iraq today. That is the largest foreign placement of troops in the nearly 1,300-year history of Bulgaria. For the first time, Bulgaria has invited a foreign country, the United States, to establish a base in their country, an air base at Burgas.

This is incredible, because every other base that has been established in Bulgaria has been done involuntarily, not at the request of the national assembly.

So this is an historic time where, because of the veterans who have made this possible, I believe there is a greater spread of democracy today than in the history of the world. The way I phrased it, too, I have had the opportunity to visit with our troops, and Dutch troops and Australian and Polish troops at Bishkek, Kyrgystan; at Kharshi-Khanabad, Uzbekistan; and Bagram, Afghanistan, and all of these are former Soviet air bases that had been built to fight the United States, which are now American and coalition air bases fighting the terrorists and winning the war on terrorism.

I think it is a remarkable time for us to celebrate the successes of the American military that are unparalleled in history, and I am very proud of what is being done. I am very proud of the successes, and I am confident the young people who are today on the front lines are going to persist and, with the resolve of the American people and around the world, succeed.

Mr. HUNTER. The gentleman is absolutely right. And this Cold War was won by American service personnel. I look at Korea and Vietnam as two of the important battles in that war and battles which helped to bring that war to a successful conclusion.

The gentleman makes a great point about people who used to be behind the Iron Curtain now serving side-by-side with Americans. And I am reminded also that troops from Nicaragua and El Salvador, which were the centers of the so-called Contra wars during the 1980s, when America's liberals said Ronald Reagan should stay out of Central America; that if the Soviets want to have an influence in Central America, which they were having with the Communist Sandinista and the FMLN in Salvador, let them have it, said the liberals, and let us stay out of Central America; we cannot possibly win that war. And of course they brought back the old Vietnam thing, they said you are going to get bogged down in another Vietnam. Today, we have fragile democracies in each of those countries, and they have sent troops to stand side-by-side with Americans in Iraq to try to bring freedom to yet another country.

I was told, incidentally, that the Salvadorans in particular have fought fiercely in the Iraq theater; that they are excellent fighters and they very much support the coalition, and that they have brought a measure of strong support to our operation there. So I thank the gentleman for bringing that up because I think that is an important one.

When Ronald Reagan was bringing down the Wall, and when he met that first move of force by the Russians during his administration, when the Soviet Union started to ring Western Eu-

rope with SS-20 missiles and Ronald Reagan started to push in ground launch cruise missiles and Pershing missiles into Europe, the liberal commentators across the world said, essentially, now you have gone and done it; we will never have peace with the Soviet Union, and we have to get this Ronald Reagan out of there.

Yet, by meeting the strength of the Soviet Union with American strength, the President produced a situation where at one point the Russians picked up the phone and said, can we talk? And when they started talking, they talked not about a negotiated settlement but they talked really about the disassembly of the Soviet empire brought about by American strength.

I think this operation in Iraq, while it is tough and hard and very dangerous, is going to produce a good result in that very difficult part of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Chairman, as we sit here and call attention to our incredible allies, I think that we may have forgotten momentarily the Italians, who have been incredibly courageous, along with the Hungarians, the South Koreans, and the list, as the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) pointed out, is 32-plus members.

My colleague was talking about these agents, biological weapons, chemicals, but what I mentioned was the previous administration in the 1990s. What has happened in June 24, of 2004? Charles Duelfer, head of the Iraq weapons inspection team, announced his group had uncovered at least 10 more artillery shells filled with banned chemical weapons from the regime of Saddam Hussein. I have not read that prominently in any paper or heard it on the nightly news.

Duelfer announced that his team is finding new WMD evidence almost every day, and I quote. "A roadside bomb, discovered May 15, contained chemicals that when combined formed sarin gas. All such weapons were supposed to have been destroyed. Chemical munitions were probably stored with conventional arms at some of the thousands of weapon depots located throughout Iraq. Military officials have uncovered some 8,700 weapon depots and continue to find new ones, and estimate the weapon depots in Iraq contain between 650,000 and 1 million tons of arms."

How do you kill 400,000 people and not refer to weapons of mass destruction? It defies common sense.

Mr. HUNTER. Well, I thank the gentleman for pointing that out, and I think that the American service personnel who are serving in Iraq, because of what the gentleman has mentioned, are undergoing enormous hardship because they always have to be on guard for the possibilities that other shells, for example, that have nerve agents like the one that was picked up as an IED in Baghdad and was partly ex-

ploded to the point where the people who were the team that were neutralizing the shell got sick, there is always a possibility that more shells are going to be taken out of that particular load or cache of weapons. And that will be a danger to American troops. So I thank the gentleman for bringing that point up.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if my chairman would kindly yield to me for 30 seconds.

Mr. HUNTER. I would be happy to yield to the gentleman.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Chairman, I notice that you have about 20 minutes more left in this hour, and I believe that the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE), myself, and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT), as well as a couple of other Members have an hour coming up. I found it very interesting, the conversation. Obviously, we may have some differing views on this, but I wonder if the chairman might consider that perhaps next week or the balance of the week at some time, that we could, those of us interested in this issue and have the articulate views, as my colleague and the other Members do, might consider combining our hour sometime and having a discussion?

Mr. HUNTER. I would be happy to. I would say to my friend that I would be happy to.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Maybe we could discuss that off the floor and perhaps we might benefit the whole American public by the kind of discussion that could take place.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to do that with my friend. I cannot guarantee the American public is going to make a sell-out crowd for us, but I would be happy to do that. Sure.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. I am sure with this trio that is here this evening and those we could bring to the discussion, particularly those of my esteemed colleagues on the Committee on Armed Services, I think we might get an audience that might not necessarily be able to follow the hearings that the chairman has put together so far.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy and we will talk about it and perhaps something good in terms of dialogue could result.

Mr. HUNTER. I look forward to it.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Hawaii will yield.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Well, the time belongs to the Chairman.

Mr. HUNTER. I would be happy to yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to call attention to our friends here, and anyone watching, that my first real experience with the Committee on Armed Services was with the gentleman from Hawaii. We were dealing with an issue in Bosnia which demanded bipartisan attention, and when it comes to supporting the men and women in uniform, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) is there. He will be there with you.

So I thought it was appropriate to call attention to a very fine memory, of many that I have, of the gentleman from Hawaii.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful, Mr. Chairman. I will yield any time to take that kind of compliment.

Mr. HUNTER. You better leave on that one. That is a good one.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Can I leave now?

Mr. HUNTER. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to also join in thanking the gentleman from Hawaii for his constructive suggestion.

But I want to reiterate again too that the war we are into, this global war on terrorism, is not something the United States sought. It is my humble opinion that the first attack was really in 1979, with the attack on our embassy in Tehran. We can all remember the signs that were carried at that time were "death to America." It does not need a discussion. That is what the intent is. And the reason for this feeling is because the United States represents freedom of association, of speech, as we just saw, freedom of women to participate in society, and freedom of media. All of this is being opposed by people who want to construct a 14th century life-style.

This is not a religious war. To me, it is a group of extremists who, as we saw last week, there was a heinous suicide bomber who attacked a Shiite mosque in Pakistan. Imagine just going straight into a mosque and killing 20 people. This is just something that has to be faced, and we either face the enemy overseas or we will again see them here in the United States, as we did on September 11.

September 11 was the culmination of a direct attack on the United States in 1993 on the World Trade Center, a direct attack on our embassies in 1998, at embassies all throughout Africa, and then, of course, the infamous attack on U.S.S. *Cole* in Yemen in the year 2000, and finally the attack of September 11, 2001. America is responding.

And I am very grateful that just as after World War II we helped rebuild Germany so it would not be a breeding ground for communism, we are helping to rebuild Iraq. I am sorry that it does not get the attention it should. It is probably just dull to hear that there is freedom of the press and media in Iraq. It is dull to hear the schools have been reopened. It is dull to hear the hospitals have all been reopened and the health clinics are available. But it is not dull. It is creating a civil society that protects the American people. We were able to protect the American people and defeat communism, and I am confident we can do the same thing in defeating terrorism.

I am so happy the gentleman brought up Ronald Reagan. It was 20 years ago virtually this minute that he was attempting to win the Cold War by putting Pershing missiles in Western Eu-

rope. Millions of people demonstrated against that in the United States and Western Europe. It ultimately led, again, to our victory.

I had the extraordinarily opportunity Sunday to meet with people at our church who are from Russia, and I was telling them how incredible it was for me to be there with them, because 15 years ago we were told that they like living under communism; that due to their serf background, they liked being slaves; that they really did not want to have to make decisions of who to elect and how to elect, what jobs to take, how much money to earn, whether they could buy a car or not; that they really enjoyed living in oppression.

□ 2045

We know that is not true. The dear Russians that I met with on Sunday said how much they appreciated what President Reagan and the American people have done to provide for their liberation. The same analogy applies to the people of Iraq and Afghanistan. It is such a positive time to see what our troops are doing.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY), also a great member of the Committee on Armed Services

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Armed Services. I know if the troops who are so bravely defending us, our liberty in Iraq and Afghanistan, if they have any opportunity to read a newspaper or listen to a radio or watch television, I know they know that if there is any greater friend than the chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), it is possibly the Commander in Chief, George W. Bush. I thank the gentleman for giving me an opportunity to say a few words tonight during this important hour.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the 108th Congress appropriated some \$187 billion to Operation Iraqi Freedom. \$18.5 billion was to restore the infrastructure of this Middle Eastern country long neglected by their dictator, Saddam Hussein. While Saddam Hussein was incurring huge debts, some say as much as \$100 billion to build up his own personal military and to construct numerous palaces, compounds to his own glory and edification, those of us on both sides of the aisle of the committee, we were there and saw these palaces. While at the same time the typical Iraqi citizen, especially the Shiite majority and the Kurds, was not only suffering from a lack of the basic necessities of life, but they were also being killed and tortured with reckless abandonment.

Mr. Speaker, I could talk more time than I am allotted about how we are expending this \$18.5 billion appropriation to restore the infrastructure, the needs, basic needs such as water and sewer plants, electricity, and schools; but let me use the time that I have got

to discuss something that I know a little bit about and that is called health care.

I am a physician member of the House of Representatives; and along with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I care deeply about the health care, most basic health care needs of the impoverished Iraqi people.

Mr. Speaker, let us do a little before and after comparison on health care expenditures in Iraq. Saddam Hussein's regime provided only \$16 million for the ministry of health in 2002. That was less than \$1 per person. This is a 23 to 24 million population country. The Iraqi medical system severely lacked medical equipment and capabilities. Doctors' salaries were about \$20 a month.

Today, Iraq's 2004 budget for health care is \$950 million, a \$934 million increase over 2002. All 240 hospitals and more than 1,200 health clinics are now open. The minister of health assumed full independent authority on March 28, 2004, and the minister of health is addressing drug shortages by making emergency drug purchases. Health care spending in Iraq has increased 30 times over its prewar levels, and children are receiving crucial vaccinations for the first time. Over 5 million children have been immunized for measles, mumps, and rubella. Every child in our country gets that basic right. It is estimated that 85 percent of Iraqi children now have been immunized.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I was listening to some discussion on this floor of the House earlier and a member on the other side of the aisle spoke about fairness. He used that little cute way of saying the F word, and the F word being fairness, and said it was not fair for us to be spending money on the health of the Iraqi people when it is estimated 40 million Americans do not have health insurance. But, Mr. Speaker, they have health care. They may not have health insurance, but they have basic health care; and I would remind my colleagues on September 11, 2001, 3,000 of our citizens, citizens of other countries, had good jobs with health care and health insurance, but they were killed. They are not with us today. Their families no longer have their presence, and yet they had great health care. So it is hugely important that we provide this infrastructure, this basic health care need to the Iraqi people.

It would be unconscionable to free them from the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein and leave them in poverty and squalor without having these basic health care needs met, because we would just be creating yet another dictator to take Saddam Hussein's place. I think it is entirely appropriate that we spend this money to restore the infrastructure, including the health care, the basic health care needs, of the Iraqi people. With that I yield back to my chairman.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr.

GINGREY) for the point he has made. It is a very important point. That is the message that I think has gone out to people around the world. They really understand the goodness of this country. Interestingly, they might not understand by watching our own television, but they have enough experiences with their own families and with their own view of the world to know that the United States is a good country.

I am reminded of a couple of years ago when my parents were in Manila in the Philippines, and the Philippines were undertaking demonstrations against the United States. The demonstration leadership would walk over to the line of Filipinos waiting to get visas to come into the United States, and they would hire people to take hold of signs that said "Down with the United States," or "The United States out of the Philippines." They would hire them to demonstrate against the United States and after they demonstrated awhile, the demonstrators would then give back their signs to the organizers, and they would retake their position in line waiting for their visa to the United States that they just demonstrated against.

I think it is clear to the Iraqi people that we are the good guys. I think they are reflecting on this now as we have turned this government over. They have been ruled by a government for so long that was very self-serving. Its own survival and its own enrichment were the major goals that it undertook. Here is the United States, which has expended an enormous amount of human capital and our economic capital in this part of the world, and yet what we are asking them to do is be free; be free, grow your economy, become prosperous, become a member of the world community, which does not oppress its people; and it is our hope if you have a free government, you are not going to oppress other people.

The Iraqis are going to have to be tough to maintain this government. There are going to be bombs and explosions going off in Iraq for a long time to come. If the pouring in of resources could stop explosions from going off, we would not have explosions in Israel right now, but that is a fact of life in that part of the world. It is going to have to be a tough government with some grit. They are going to have to develop a military that has the capability of protecting that government and protecting this running chance at freedom that we have given the Iraqi people.

Maybe it will not work; but from the beginning of time to the end of time, the only time when the Iraqi people will have had a real chance at freedom is when the Americans were there, and that is something we can all be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON).

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate some

other heroes who are serving our families, and that is the families and employers. The families are so dedicated to our servicemembers who are serving overseas, men and women. We all know first hand of circumstances where families are making sacrifices. Additionally, we have got family support groups that we have community support for. Anyone who wants to help members of our Guard and Reserve, in any phone book will be the listing of an armory. They can contact the unit clerk or the AST and offer to assist in some way.

Also, employers. We were very fortunate 2 weeks ago to have a hearing put together by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE), himself a retired Marine colonel. It was brought to our attention how employers are coming to bat for the people who have been mobilized and deployed. There are some indications of obvious problems; but I was told, and during the hearing it came out, for every one problem, there are nine good stories of where businesses have come forward to assist their employees who have been deployed.

They know the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act, now the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, will protect our servicemembers. Additionally, there are reemployment rights that will accrue to the people in the Guard and Reserve. We are all here to help make sure that they have the jobs that they had when they left, they have their seniority, that they have the ability to blend back in and assimilate right away into American society. But it is the employers who are doing this voluntarily.

Again, families and employers deserve a great deal of credit in helping us win the war on terror.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman has described something very important to our country and that is all of us pulling together. That means we are pulling together whether you are part of the family and you know your husband or loved one is going to have to take off and spend some time overseas and you are going to try to pull through those difficult times, or if your neighbors are going to help out or relatives are going to help out. Or as the gentleman has said, employers are going to help out. This country has got to pull together. We have done a lot of that.

One thing that the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES) has worked on so much is American businesses pulling together. That means if you are a business, you are a prime contractor in this country and you can buy a piece of material or a machine tool from another country but you have the opportunity to buy one from Americans, and employ Americans by your purchases, create jobs in America by your purchases, take a look at that and that is something that the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES) has been encouraging our American businesses to do. That is part of pulling together.

We are going to have to all do that with the same spirit that we used to win the Cold War and World War II.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES).

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the effort that the chairman has put into that because a strong industrial defense base is the key to our future. With economic security and good jobs in this country, then we are able financially to support our wonderful military.

A couple of quick things. President Bush has stood tall for freedom in America and freedom around the world. He said, "Democracy is the surest way to build a society of justice. If justice is the goal, then democracy is the answer." President Bush has stood tall for our troops in Iraq. What do the Iraqis say about what is happening? Well, 68 percent has confidence in the interim Iraqi Government, and 79 percent think the interim government will make things better for the Iraqis.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, mentioning the President reminded me of something Saddam Hussein said, because the other day when he got to have his say in court, which is something he never gave the people that he oppressed, he said words to the effect that he would not be there if it were not for George Bush. I will not repeat the adjectives that he used to describe President Bush, but when he said he would not be there if it were not for President Bush, or words to that effect, he was right, George Bush and about 300,000 great Americans in uniform. The point is we have to be the leaders of the free world. If the free world were not led by the United States, I do not think there would be a leader in the free world.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, President Bush stood up for freedom, as well he should.

Just a couple of weeks ago at President Reagan's funeral here in Washington, I had the unique privilege of standing in line waiting to walk by the casket of former President Reagan with Mikhail Gorbachev.

□ 2100

They called Reagan a cowboy; but Mikhail Gorbachev, his adversary at that time, was at his funeral saying that that man stood up for freedom, and he won the Cold War, just like President Bush is standing up and winning the war on terrorism and our troops are making that happen.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES). It must have taken a lot of grit for Mikhail Gorbachev to have all of the previous speakers or the speakers at that ceremony talk about how Ronald Reagan equipped him; but, you know, he put up with that and then paid his respects to President Reagan. And I think there is a message there, and that is that the goodness of America comes through, and ultimately it persuades others to follow

the path of freedom. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

And I think, Mr. Speaker, we are out of time. We would like to yield back the balance of our time.

#### IRAQ WATCH

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

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, as you know, and our friends know, we have been engaged in a conversation for some months now with regard to what we have come to term the Iraq Watch; and I was very pleased to note that my good friend and esteemed colleague, the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), indicated in the last hour that he and other Members were occupying, that they would be pleased at some point, perhaps in the future, to work out an opportunity for a dialogue, not necessarily a debate, but a conversation among friends with respect to Iraq and its implications for the United States, perhaps even combining hours. I do not know what the rules are precisely on that, and I do not ask for a ruling on that right now, Mr. Speaker; but at some point we hope to be able to do that, hopefully for the benefit of the membership and for those members of the American public and others that may be tuning in to our Special Orders.

For this evening's opportunity, however, I wanted to begin our discussion tonight with some references and observations over the so-called handover of sovereignty. I think, Mr. Speaker, you might agree that with respect to Iraq, and unfortunately not only Iraq, there tends to be opportunities for the media in particular to seize on certain phrases. They become almost phrases of art. These phrases then substitute for a whole panoply of analysis that might otherwise usefully take place.

In this instance, the phrase that I am referring to is the so-called "handover of sovereignty." Handover of sovereignty, what that means is not clear to me at this stage.

What I did observe during our break was a ceremony which took place under very, very strained circumstances. The television news was suddenly filled with the ominous music, the drumbeats, the portentous rhythms that seem to indicate that something of spectacular import is about to happen. Breaking news. Stentorian voices, a sound, and then suddenly we are told, well, we are going to go to the handover of sovereignty in Iraq. It is to take place in secret. It is to take place with a pool reporter there, apparently a pool camera. It is in some secret room somewhere in the green zone, presumably, I guess, in one of the palaces, or what are referred to as palaces, in Baghdad; and, suddenly,

there is Ambassador Bremer and some folks there with handshakes and pieces of paper passed back and forth. No real idea of what it is all about other than smiles and handshakes all around.

And suddenly sovereignty ostensibly has been transferred or handed over. That it took place in secret, that it took place ostensibly to prevent terrorist activity from disrupting it probably speaks more about what the handover was actually all about and whether or not the word "sovereignty" might properly apply.

In both instances, I think not. There was no handover of sovereignty. How can there be sovereignty when you do not control your armed forces, when the first pronouncements of your ostensibly sovereign government involve the possibility of imposing martial law on your own people and indications that the governing authority, that is to say the Coalition Provisional Authority under Mr. Bremer, still absent him in person, is going to be in charge of the military activities, presumably, according to this handover of sovereignty ceremony, under some kind of group discussion terminology.

Again, I fail to understand exactly how this "partnership," which was referred to between the so-called sovereign Government of Iraq and the Government of the United States through its military, is supposed to take place.

It is unclear to me that the questions that I asked of Assistant Secretary of Defense Wolfowitz in our Committee on Armed Services hearings, unclear to me whether these questions were answered. I simply said, "Who is in charge? Who has the authority?" And what I got was the usual dissembling and allusions to the idea of group discussions taking place. I am not quite sure how one responds to military situations in the arena of group discussions, but I suppose it is possible.

My own thought at that time was, and I said at that time and repeat again tonight, that my perception was that at the turnover of sovereignty, at least as best I was able to understand that term, the American military would be set adrift on a desert sea and would find itself in a situation of being the first responders in an Iraqi crisis and that we would be uncertain as to who exactly was issuing the orders and under what circumstances they would be obeyed.

This constitutes, for me, a crisis of another character, a crisis for us to answer; and in that context it is clear to me that the handover of sovereignty amounts to little more than a propaganda device meant to try to distance the political consequences and implications of our occupation from the political realities as the election approaches.

Obviously, people will have to make their own minds up on that score; but in relation to that then, among the first pronouncements of this sovereign government was that under consider-

ation was a possible policy of amnesty and that the amnesty would extend to those people who had murdered American troops, those people who had been involved in the insurgency that has taken place since the hostilities or major hostilities were pronounced at an end, i.e., mission accomplished by Mr. Bush some time ago on the infamous aircraft carrier stunt.

And subsequent to that, obviously this insurgency, again, this is a term that has been adopted by the media uncritically, has resulted in numerous deaths and woundings. Most members of, certainly, the Committee on Armed Services and other Members of the House of Representatives and members of the subcommittees of the other body have traveled both in their districts and here in Washington and in Germany to hospital situations where we have been able to speak with and, hopefully, bring some measure of comfort and support to members of the military who have been wounded, members of the military and others, including civilian employees. But all that has taken place since this pronouncement that the war was essentially over, that the major activities surrounding the invasion was over; and now we find that this sovereign government is contemplating offering amnesty to those people.

Now, if that is in fact what this has come to, I think the implications and consequences are serious indeed. There is no question in my mind that there will be some very serious dialogue taking place in this Nation if that is what this was all about, the opportunity for a government that has come into being solely as a result of the activities of the United States of America subsequent to the invasion, including and subsequent to the invasion of Iraq; and now we find a general amnesty being contemplated.

That was never discussed, to my knowledge, with any members of the Committee on Armed Services. It was never discussed, to my knowledge, with members of the subcommittees of Congress generally as to whether or not that was something that we could abide. One would think that at a minimum this sovereign government in Iraq would have the courtesy, if only out of respect for those who have died and those who have been wounded on their behalf, to at least engage in some form of a dialogue with the United States in regard to that possible amnesty.

I see my friend from Washington is about to ask for the floor, and I would be happy to yield to him.

Mr. INSLEE. Well, I appreciate this, and I would like to contrast the phony, alleged sovereignty in Iraq with the real sovereignty and democracy in the United States; and this is a thought I had while sitting on the West Lawn of the Capitol watching the fireworks that were so spectacular on July 4th over the Washington Monument. And as I was looking at the fireworks, I was

thinking about some of our work on the Iraq Watch, because the thought struck me that the reason we became a democracy, and such a strong one, is we had people who were rebellious and questioning and demanding against their government.

We had a bunch of people in the 18th century who were rebellious to King George, who abused the trust that this monarch had of his people, who was not honest with his people, who was fraudulent with his people, that got his people into difficult positions without their consent. And the thought struck me that that rebellious, demanding, questioning attitude that the patriots had that started this country is the same attitude of folks who are questioning this President who has not told the truth about the American people that started this war; and we ended up a sovereign country because we are demanding.

And I just note that as a theme tonight of our Iraq Watch that we demand the truth from our government, and the truth is that this phony allegation of sovereignty in Iraq is what I might call rose petal number 512, because this entire Iraq policy has not been based on reality. It has been based on a series of rose petals. Number one was we were told by Mr. Wolfowitz, rose petals literally would be strewn at our feet. Rose petal number two is when we were told that when we just caught Uday Hussein, the insurgency would stop. Then we were told when the other Hussein brother was caught, the insurgency would stop.

Rose petal number 300, I think was when they said Saddam was caught, the insurgency would collapse. Rose petal number 412 was when they said all of these people who are doing violent acts in Iraq, they are just a bunch of foreigners, and as soon as we get the foreigners out, it is not the Iraqi people who were upset we were running their country, it is just these people from Syria.

Turned out yesterday we found, like, 5 percent of the people in our custody are outside of Iraq. The problem we have got is some Iraqis we are battling with are another rose petal. And this is the ultimate rose petal that this administration is trying to foist on us, the American people, that unfortunately is not going to work. We lost three Marines today following the "sovereignty" rose petal.

The fact is we have got to face reality in Iraq. This administration has never faced reality in Iraq. This administration has consistently given us misinformation; and until this administration changes its attitude, or the people in the White House change, we are going to be in trouble in Iraq.

You know, look at the situation. We keep hearing about, oh, there is nothing but good news in Iraq, about all these rebuilding programs, and we have people who are working very hard, people in the military are working hard. I am sure some of the people at Halli-

burton are working hard, too. It is too bad they are charging us twice as much for meals as they are supposed to be, but I am sure they are working hard.

□ 2115

But when an assessment was done, I believe by the GAO, they found that less than 2 percent, less than 2 percent of the reconstruction projects that we voted in October to fund have been done; 140 out of 2,300 reconstruction projects have been done. Electricity is still not working in Baghdad as much as it was for the average person before the war.

Yet we continue to get these rose petals that the administration tries to feed us, and it is this type of attitude based on falsehood and mysticism that have got us in this problem.

Mr. HOEFFEL. If the gentleman will yield, I certainly respect and agree with the comments of the gentleman from Washington. This sovereignty in Iraq does seem like a false sovereignty, when you realize the facts on the ground.

Number one, this new Iraq government has no ability to protect itself or its citizens or defend against the violent insurgency. All of the security requirements remain on American troops, approaching 140,000 American troops, and the sad fact is we have yet to stabilize that country. We have not been able to contain the insurgency.

The highest suggested number of people in that insurgency, the highest estimate is 10,000, and 10,000 violent insurgents have not been controlled, cannot yet be contained by 140,000 brave American troops. The reality is we do not have enough troops to stabilize Iraq; we have not had enough; we do not have the international troops; and we do not have the Arab League troops that we should have.

This new sovereign government does not seem so sovereign. They are also not in control of their own reconstruction. The \$20 billion of American funds appropriated by this Congress for reconstruction, the gentleman is absolutely correct, has not yet been spent, and, when it is spent, it will be controlled by the American embassy. This is probably the right thing, because it is American dollars, but it is an all-American list of contractors, many of them picked with no-bid contracts, no-bid awards, like Halliburton, and the so-called sovereign government of Iraq will have no control over that money.

Thirdly, they were talking the other day about delaying elections. The White House said no, you are not. We are going to have elections, whether you are ready or not, in January of 2005.

I do not want to see elections delayed either. I would like to see them moved up even sooner. But here is this Iraqi sovereign government that does not control its own security, does not control the reconstruction in Iraq, cannot even decide when to have elections, and yet the President wants to continue

this fiction that we have established a sovereign nation of Iraq.

It has not happened yet because we do not have security. Fundamentally we do not have security. We cannot meet our shared goals. I think every member of the Iraq Watch, today and for the last 15 months we have been doing this, has agreed with the President's goals of a stable, peaceful Iraq that is pluralistic and hopefully democratic. None of those goals can be reached without security. We cannot have reconstruction without security; we cannot have a sovereign nation under a new government without security; we cannot have elections without security.

This President has been unable to attract the international troops, the NATO troops, the Western European troops, the Arab League nation troops, that clearly need to be added to our brave American troops to get up to the several hundred thousand troops that Army Chief of Staff Shinseki quite rightly said a year and a half ago would be needed.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, I think Secretary Powell, as it was reported in the book just recently released by the Pulitzer Prize winner Bob Woodward, my memory of the quote is that if you go to Iraq, Mr. President, you own it.

Well, the truth is, we do own it. I was interested in hearing from our colleagues and friends on the other side of the aisle, particularly the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, when he acknowledged that it is really the American soldier that is doing the work today in Iraq. Yes, we have allies there, the British obviously have made a commitment and there are some Australians, but other than that, there are very few substantial commitments to preserving security in Iraq today.

As our colleague the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) just noted, we hear from some quarters that everything is fine, and we know that is not true. I think it is important that the American people understand that we are far past making this a partisan issue. This is not about Republicans and Democrats, this is truly about the direction of where this country is going, and it is absolutely essential that we be clear and honest and forthright with the American people.

Let me just quote one very famous, highly regarded, well-respected traditional conservative, William Buckley. We all know William Buckley. He certainly has contributed through the years to discourse, to the public discourse on major issues in this country. As we all know, he recently resigned, retired, if you will, from the publication that he brought forth many years ago. But even a traditional conservative Republican like William Buckley expresses amazement about what is occurring in terms of the stories and the fantasy that is coming from this administration, particularly the White House.

He recently said that the White House has a dismaying capacity to believe their own PR, and until we finally acknowledge what the reality on the ground is, we cannot have a debate.

I am always brought back to that very famous statement by David Kay. Now, David Kay, as we all know, and as I am sure many who are listening to our conversation tonight are fully aware, was a former United Nations inspector, an American, who earned an excellent reputation for integrity, for knowledge, during the work done by the United Nations in terms of ensuring compliance by the Saddam Hussein regime with a variety of United Nations sanctions relative to the weapons of mass destruction.

Prior to the war, he stated that he was convinced, from what he heard from the administration, that in fact the Iraqi government possessed weapons of mass destruction. He was assigned by this administration, by this President, to lead a group to go to Iraq and conduct a survey and do a thorough, exhaustive, extensive search for those weapons of mass destruction.

When he came back, he made that famous statement before a Senate committee, saying we were all wrong, and here it is depicted on the cover of Newsweek Magazine. And as time has gone on, he continues to express his concern that we are losing our credibility in the world and that our role, our prestige, our claim to moral authority is eroding on a daily basis, and he pleads with the administration to come clean.

So let me just suggest that until that occurs, that until there is honesty on the part of this White House and frankness and candor, and not just simply press releases and flyovers of Baghdad, we all know that our troops are doing a job that reflects well, not only on them, their families, but our country, but the truth is too that their morale has eroded. And yet we never hear anything from this White House and this administration about that reality, about the reality that a survey was done by Stars and Stripes, a military magazine, that established that 52 percent of Army personnel describe morale as low.

That is dangerous. Let us respect them for what they do, let us acknowledge their heroism, but let us not paint an unrealistic picture, or we do the American people and the American military a disservice.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I wanted to yield to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON).

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Hawaii, and most of all I want to thank the esteemed Members who have participated week in and week out in the Iraqi Watch. I think you do a service to the country.

As the gentleman from Massachusetts was saying, our troops have performed extraordinary under unbeliev-

able circumstances. I, like many of you, have traveled to the Middle East three times, twice to Baghdad in the last 9 months. I can recall vividly when Tommy Franks was before our committee and I asked him about the policies of preemption and unilateralism and how he felt about that. The general paused and looked at me and said, "Well, Congressman, that is above my pay grade." He says, "But we have long learned in my service to the country that we are able to distinguish between those who wave the flag in Washington and those who have to salute it and follow orders."

As the Iraqi Watch has done throughout this, commending our troops for their valiant effort, but as our leader NANCY PELOSI says, our troops in many respects need policies that are worthy of our sacrifice. It is clear to me that the Pentagon, the civilian Pentagon's ideological reach has exceeded our military grasp and has, as has been pointed out here this evening, has placed our men and women in harm's way.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), a valued colleague of ours, in describing the ongoing turf battle between the Department of Defense and the Department of State, concludes that there were plans that were separately conceived, poorly coordinated, based on false assumptions, poor intelligence and outright lies from Ahmed Chalabi, that have placed our men and women in the situation that we find ourselves today.

Because of your nightly efforts, and I assure you, people in my State of Connecticut and throughout my district, the First Congressional District in Hartford, have heard. I have conducted several forums back in my district, and I find them incredibly informative in the sense that people want to come out and speak out about this issue, because, as the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) has pointed out, this is not a partisan issue. This is about the soul of the country and who we are and what direction we plan to go. And it is important, as the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) said earlier this evening, that we have this open dialogue and debate, a real dialogue with the American people, about our future, about our brave men and women, and how we intend to proceed now that we find ourselves in this quagmire called Iraq, moving forward.

Yes, it can be acknowledged that it was a good thing to be rid of Saddam Hussein.

□ 2130

But in traveling to the Middle East and talking to Ambassador Jordan in Saudi Arabia a year before the outbreak of the war, he warned prophetically that if we unilaterally and preemptively strike Saddam Hussein, that what we will do is unwittingly, unwittingly accomplish what Osama bin Laden failed to do and create a united Islamic jihad against the United

States. We find that our brave men and women now who are over in Iraq are faced with people pouring over the borders answering the call to jihad.

The United States has to proceed in a manner, as the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL) pointed out, that allows us to stand up, in as timely a fashion as we possibly can, the Iraqi Army, civil defense, and police. But as the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) also points out, if the Iraqi people do not embrace democracy as much as we want them to, it is up to them ultimately to embrace this democracy. And if our presence there only inhibits that, then there has to be an ongoing examination and dialogue of an appropriate exit strategy for us that is strategic in its thinking.

Tactically, the United States and our men and women who wear the uniform have performed brilliantly, but we have not strategically had a plan that will allow this government to stand up the way all of us want to see it happen.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming the time, on that note of our analysis of what the domestic questions are that need to be answered in Iraq, it is probably appropriate that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) comes to us at this time, because if anybody is in the heartland of where domestic issues are in the forefront, I would say that it is the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND), his district and his State; and I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Hawaii, my friend, for yielding; and I want to thank each of my colleagues for talking about this important subject.

I do come from Ohio, the heartland of our country. I have so many veterans in my district, people who are intensely patriotic, people who honor our country by service, and they have historically. The people in my district are concerned. They are concerned about the continuing deaths that are occurring in Iraq. Well over 850 of our American soldiers have now lost their lives. Many thousands, 4,000 seriously injured, many more injured with less serious situations.

But the fact is that we just went through the celebration of the 4th of July; and throughout my district as I went to parades and festivals and celebrations, I talked with a lot of veterans. Many of these guys are old World War II guys. They know what war is like. Many of them are so deeply troubled by what is happening to our soldiers. The fact that we sent them to battle without adequate equipment, the fact that even tonight, I would emphasize as we stand here in the safety and security of this hallowed hall of the House of Representatives, we have American soldiers in Iraq and they are continuing to drive unarmored Humvees well after more than a year, certainly, when they should have been equipped.

So as was said earlier, the planning that went into this war was so inadequate and inept and, quite frankly, the immaturity of the decisionmakers. I am talking about from the Vice President on down to Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz and Richard Pearl and others. They were so naive. These folks who were so intent on sending our young men and women into battle; had these assumptions that were so inadequate and incorrect and, as a result, we sent soldiers to battle without adequate equipment, without adequate planning; and it is a tragic result, an absolute tragic result. Every precious life that has been lost affects families, children, spouses, moms and dads, aunts and uncles, and the community that that person has come from.

It just seems to me that we have an administration that somehow does not understand what is happening. Maybe it is because they know of no one who is personally involved. It has been pointed out that out of the 435 Members of the House and 100 Senators, that only one of us, out of the 535 of us, only one of us has a son who is an active duty soldier engaged in this conflict. So many of us who serve here do not know anyone who is a soldier in Iraq or in Afghanistan. We do not know of anyone who has lost a son or a daughter. So it seems to be something that is removed.

I would like to say just one thing before I yield to my colleagues, and I say this to the parents in my district; and I think the parents across this country need to be aware of this. We are now calling up soldiers for further duties who have already fulfilled their contractual obligation as soldiers, and the reason we are doing that is that our military is spread so thin. What would we do if there was an episode that resulted in the overthrow of the regime in Saudi Arabia, for example? What would we do? We do not have the soldiers we need to meet our obligations.

Many parents who listen to these proceedings here in the Chamber may not feel personally involved in this war effort. They may feel like that is the President's decision, and we are going to trust the President. But if they have children, 14, 15, 16, 17 years of age, they should be paying attention, because if this administration continues in office and does not change its policies, I think it is inevitable that we will have a mandatory military draft.

Now, I think that is a fact of life. The President may not want to admit it. The Secretary of Defense may not want to own up to it. But I think the facts are that we cannot continue to meet our military obligations without a military draft under the policies that are being pursued by this administration.

So the moms and dads in this country who have children may ought to pay attention.

I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT).

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, the evidence that supports that premise is

the reality that within the past week or two there has been a call-up of the so-called "ready reserve," almost 6,000. Now, these are men and women who performed for their country, who obviously did their active duty, did their active reserve, have returned to civilian life, and in some cases for years have been civilians, and now, out of the blue, they are back into the active military on their way to Iraq.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, because just before I came back, let me give my colleagues something so that it is not abstract. I will tell my colleagues exactly what I had to deal with and what came up while we were away on our holiday.

My staff representing my delegation was briefed by Major General Lee, the adjutant general of the State of Hawaii, on the situation of the 29th Brigade, Hawaii Army National Guard. The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Army approved the alert of the 29th Brigade for deployment to Iraq. Earlier indications were, of course, that the 29th would be deployed to Afghanistan; but the situation on the ground in Iraq now requires additional soldiers from the 120,000 now there, and the enhanced 29th Brigade is needed.

Now, this is happening all across the country; and if anybody thinks for a second that the 5,000 or 6,000 that are going to be involved in this current recall-up, involuntary call-up is going to solve it, I think they are dreaming.

The 29th is one of the two remaining National Guard brigades not yet activated. It will perform reinforcing missions.

Remember when I indicated here before that when this so-called sovereignty occurred, the United States military would be set adrift on a desert sea.

They will perform reinforcing missions, whatever in God's name that means. The expected deployment will be 12 months. The brigade will have to travel off-island to train up, because the normal training entity, the 25th division, of course, is now deployed itself. The brigade may go to Fort Bliss, et cetera; expect the deployment to Iraq to take place shortly.

Then what do we have to do? The adjutant general then had to brief all of the mayors that once the alert notice was released in Washington, we had to then discuss what the impact would be on homeland defense and natural disaster impacts back in Hawaii, because the Guard normally is going to address those situations. The National Guard is, of course, the primary backup to civilian authority. Now we are going to have to rely on the Air National Guard since most of the Army National Guard is going to be deployed. Now, this is just in Hawaii.

Now, we can imagine what is taking place elsewhere all around the country? Part of our problem area in Hawaii is that the police and fire departments are going to be adversely af-

ected because a major portion of the Army guard are police officers and firefighters and teachers. So there will be about 2,500 soldiers from Hawaii and about 3,500 coming from American Samoa, Guam, and California. Now, that is just one instance; and that is the reality.

I want to conclude by saying the impacts on this are considerable, because the employers, whether they are public employers or private employers, have to take into account the absence of these folks at this particular time. What is happening right now is we are denying what the realities of the necessities for troops are in Iraq and Afghanistan and are masking it over with Guard and Reserve deployments; and we are going to have to pay a fearful price for that.

I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to ask the question why we are in this fatal, mortal, disastrous situation in Iraq. Why are we in this situation where we are calling up people whose military service was essentially over? Why? We have put two of the training brigades that act as the enemy at various forts around this country, they pose as the enemy, and that is why we have such a well-trained Army. We have three of those Army units, and two of them have now been sent to Iraq to fight the Iraqi insurgents. We are not training our soldiers adequately.

Why are we in this debacle? I want to suggest it is just a continuation of the movie "South Pacific." Those World War II veterans remember that there was a song called "Happy Talk," happy, happy, happy talk; and that is what this administration has planned a war over was happy talk.

Look at Paul Wolfowitz, the Assistant Secretary of Defense who came to us and told us that the American taxpayers would not have to pay a dollar for this operation. Remember those predictions?

Mr. DELAHUNT. And that by this time, I say to the gentleman, there would be less than 30,000 troops in Iraq.

Mr. INSLEE. That is right. He said the Iraqi oil is going to pay for all of this. Look what he said the other day when he was asked what happened. He said, "I think there was probably too great a willingness to believe that once we got to 55 people on the black list, the rest of those killers would stop fighting."

Talk about rose-colored glasses, where people are committing suicide bombings to think that the next day, they were going to join the chamber of commerce, when we decided there was a new government in town. This was happy talk that is resulting in the deaths of our soldiers today and the incapacitation of the greatest military on Earth.

Just to give an example of how bad it is, I will tell my colleagues, if I were a soldier holding a 50-caliber on the top

of a Humvee, I would be proud of the people I serve with; but I would not be very proud of the civilian folks who have gotten me in this predicament on the streets of Baghdad.

Look at this answer from General Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, about the civilians of the intelligence community and the lack of intelligence that our soldiers have been given. He was asked recently during Senate testimony whether the Iraqi insurgency was being coordinated from a central hub, and he responded, "The intelligence community as far as I know will not give you an answer because they can't give me an answer."

So we have these young men and women posted on streets in Iraq and the civilian folks have not given them intelligence to figure out if this is even a centrally planned insurgency. This is a huge, ineffective, incapable, negligent planning of a war; and we have not even started talking about how we got into the war.

□ 2145

Mr. STRICKLAND. Those who listen to these proceedings may rightly ask the question, why are we talking about the failures of the past? Why are we not talking about what we are going to do in the future?

I think it is relevant to remind ourselves that the very people who made such blunders of judgment, who deceived the American people, who promoted this war based on false assumptions, they are the people who are still in charge. They are the people who are continuing to make the day-to-day decisions which are resulting in these terrible miscalculations and terrible blunders. And what is the result? The result is we are continuing to lose precious American lives.

Now, we had a perfunctory turnover supposedly of authority to the Iraqis, but every American knows that it is the American soldier that is continuing to be the target. It is the American soldier that is continuing to provide whatever security exists in that country, and it is the blood of the American soldier that is being shed.

I get a little tired of all of this talk about coalitions. The fact is that it is the American soldier that is bearing the burden. It is the American taxpayer that is paying the bill, and we need to end that, and it is going to continue that way until we have a change in policy.

Now, the President has got some answers to give us. I mean, the American people deserve to know are we going to have the continuation of bad judgment, bad decisions that is going to just perpetuated this thing for 1, 2, 3, 5, 10 years. We need to have some answers from the administration.

Mr. HOEFFEL. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is absolutely right about this. And one of the important reasons that we are talking about the mistakes that were made is to make sure that it does not happen

again. We do not want history to repeat itself.

I think every member of Iraq Watch would agree that in the age of terror that we find ourselves, it may be necessary in the future to use our American force preemptively to protect America. The days of the armada, of an opposing enemy forming off our harbors or an army amassing on our borders, are probably over and we may need to quickly use preemptive force in the future. That is the Bush doctrine, preemptive use of force, but it has certain requirements that were not present this time.

First, you need accurate intelligence. You need an honest assessment of what is happening on the ground and the need for the President to level with the American people, and you have to be willing to use that force only as a last resort, not on a basis before necessary. We see in this case the President exaggerated the existence of weapons of mass destruction. He has fabricated a relationship between Hussein, al Qaeda and 9/11. He failed to exhaust diplomatic options.

What would have happened if he had allowed those international arms inspectors the extra 3 months they were requesting after their first 2 months found no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq? He failed to put together a meaningful coalition, as all of us said tonight. Ninety percent of the troops in Iraq, 90 percent of the money is American. And he has failed to commit enough troops. We have got 140,000 brave Americans in Iraq today, but it is not enough to contain this violent, deadly insurgency, and they were sent there with inadequate equipment, as my friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND), has been telling us for 15 months during Iraq Watch.

And what confidence do we have that this group of political leaders in the White House and the civilian leaders in the Pentagon will not do this thing again and again and again? They do not seem to understand their mistake. They will not admit their mistakes, and we have got to bring this to the attention of the American people.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) has to his immediate left what amounts to a poster, a picture on the cover of Newsweek, "How Dick Cheney Sold the War" is the overall title. And in that context I would daresay the answer to the gentleman's observations and questions are that unless there is a change in the leadership that is unlikely to occur. His questions will not be answered except in the negative. His observations will continue, because that gentleman whose picture appears there again to the left of the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) is the same gentleman whose company and associated companies are the administration, are the ones that are in charge of helping to put this infrastructure together, that is being defended by the American troops.

Yet, as a story recently in the Washington Post points out, and I read the headline to you, a story about Ariana Cha appearing July 1, "Underclass of Workers Created in Iraq, Many Foreign Laborers Receive Inferior Pay, Food and Shelter."

It may come as a shock not to members of Iraq Watch, but it may come as a shock to the American taxpayer and perhaps some of our American colleagues that what construction is taking place in Iraq is taking place under the auspices of American companies, many of whom receive single source contracts for hundreds of millions of dollars, who are not even hiring Iraqis, who may be hiring some Americans but are, in fact, bringing in wage slaves from the rest of the world and then not even paying them, cheating them at the same time. Not only are the American taxpayers being cheated by American companies but American workers and Iraqi workers are being cheated.

Mr. STRICKLAND. One of my constituents, a young West Point graduate, a gung-ho Army guy, a guy who loves the Army and who would write me these e-mails and say, I am so proud of what my soldiers are doing here in Iraq. So he is not a disgruntled Army guy. But he tells me that Halliburton is importing Filipinos and paying them very little to do work that was previously done by the American soldier. So that is an example of what the gentleman is saying.

This company, Halliburton, my goodness, when are we going to face the facts? It has been reported, by the way, in an editorial in the Columbus, Ohio Dispatch that insiders have now said that Halliburton is housing some of their employees in hotels that cost \$10,000 per night, \$10,000 per night, but that is what you can do when you have a cost plus contract. There is no incentive to hold down cost. They were paying \$100 to get a laundry bag of clothing washed, \$100 a bag; \$10,000 a night for a hotel room. And it is the American taxpayer that is paying that kind of exceedingly high cost.

We are being gouged by Halliburton, the company that Vice President DICK CHENEY was the CEO of. We all know it. The American people know it. This company is taking the American taxpayer for a ride. And I believe this administration needs to step up and say, we are going to put a stop to it.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I will elucidate a bit more on that.

In the story that I indicated I have that I was referring to, the Underclass of Workers Created in Iraq, the opening sentence is, "The war in Iraq has been a windfall for Kellogg Brown Root, Inc., the company that has a multi-million dollar contract to provide support services for U.S. troops." "KBR, a subsidiary of Halliburton Corporation," came to employ Indian workers, from India, that is to say, not Native American workers, "through 5 levels of subcontractors and employment

agents. The company, which employs 30,000 workers from 38 countries in support of the U.S. military, said it had been unaware of the workers' concerns until recently."

This is the kind of thing, Kellogg Brown, Halliburton, is always unaware of, workers problems, because they are too busy having their accountants going to work on the excessive profits they are making.

It brings to mind the work that was done by one Senator Harry Truman when, during World War II, he had his committee on a bipartisan basis looking into the question of excessive profit-making from World War II. This is not something that is invented for this time and place by members of the Democratic Party. This is something that was headed up by a Democratic Senator, who was in charge in the United States Senate, on a bipartisan basis, to see to it that profiteering does not take place at the expense of the American soldiers or the expense of the American taxpayer.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to note that the Democratic minority in this House attempted to add an enhancement of the penalties for fraud and abuse and profiteering, and yet the majority in this House and in the Senate denied that proposal.

I would like to conclude, and I will be very brief because I think we have got to go back to the initial question I think that was raised by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE), how did we get here?

If we are to believe Richard Clark, who led the anti-terrorism effort under both Presidents Clinton and Bush until his retirement 2 years into the Bush administration, if we are to believe the highly respected, again, Republican conservative, who initiated the term of this administration as Secretary of the Treasury, Paul O'Neill, it was one week, one week after the inauguration that there was a meeting of the National Security Council and what was discussed there was the need for regime change in Iraq. Nothing about terrorism. And again, 6 weeks later, according to Paul O'Neill, there was a meeting of the National Security Council where it was discussed how the oil fields in Iraq were to be divvied up and divided among nations and corporations. That is according to Paul O'Neill and that is according to Dick Clark.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. There is an important article that was written in Harper's Magazine by David Armstrong back just before the outbreak of the war. The title of the article was "DICK CHENEY'S Song for America." In there he goes back and talks about the concept for this plan being hatched by the then-Secretary of Defense and the two Under Secretaries which at the time were Paul Wolfowitz and Richard Perle. The goal was to be the lone force in the Middle East. The plan that was put forward was a bold one: To go forward and overtake Baghdad.

It was rejected at the time. It was rejected by Colin Powell. It was rejected by Bush the elder. It was rejected by the most outspoken people against this war back in 2002 in this invasion and that was Jim Baker, Brent Scowcroft and Eagleburger.

So as the gentleman said at the beginning, this is not a partisan effort. This is an understanding of the wrong turn the Nation has taken with respect to foreign policy. Again, I commend the members of the Iraq Watch for their vigilance.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. I want to indicate I think we are down to our last 2 minutes. I would yield to the gentleman from Washington to close.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to note getting back to the war on terrorism, where is Osama bin Laden? Where is Osama bin Laden? Why is the President not talking about Osama bin Laden, who is free tonight threatening our citizens where they live in our neighborhoods?

We found out last week that this administration is spending five times more money tracking people who travel to Cuba than they are trying to interdict the money going to Osama bin Laden, who is continuing a threat to this country.

This is one example of this administration taking their eye off the ball of the guy who killed almost 3,000 Americans. We are going to continue this discussion.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I believe we are down to our last minute or so. I do want to indicate to members of Iraq Watch that are here tonight that the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services in the previous hour indicated that he and perhaps other Members might be interested in having a dialogue with us and perhaps even combining hours, if that is acceptable under the House rules, perhaps this week or as soon as possible. And if it is okay with everybody, I wanted to pursue that, and I have indicated to the Speaker as we began the hour that that was contemplated and we will try to pursue that with the leadership.

□ 2200

Mr. Speaker, I believe we have come to essentially the end of our hour.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GINGREY). Members are reminded that it is not in order in debate to engage in personal abuse of the President.

#### THANKING MEMBERS INVOLVED IN IRAQ WATCH

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Georgia for the oppor-

tunity to speak for 5 minutes. Two of our esteemed colleagues are en route here, and I would like to take this 5 minutes to further thank the Members who have been involved in the Iraq Watch.

I say so from the bottom of my heart because I think at the end of the day there has been a great discussion that has been going on within this body, but unfortunately, in so many respects, it has not fully reached the American people, or it has in drips and drabs; and I commend our colleagues on the other side of the aisle who were down here in the previous hour.

I think, as the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) has suggested, we need to have that kind of frank discussion and debate that all too often really does not take place on this floor. It is an important dialogue that the American public needs to hear.

I believe in the final analysis it is not the shock and awe of our military and the strength that it has that determines America's greatness, but rather, the strength of our ideas and our ability to express those ideas not only here on the floor but for citizens who are out there listening, for them to partake and ultimately put in their own words, with their own voice, from their own heart and head, their feelings about these issues.

So often I go back to my district and so many of them will ask why is no one speaking out about these issues, and not understanding the workings of the House of Representatives and not understanding that so many times meetings are actually going on in committees that do not happen to make it on to C-SPAN, but also wondering where the voice and conscience of the country is, and the Iraq Watch has done an outstanding job in terms of making sure that there has been this opportunity to reach out to the American public and inform them in a nonpartisan way about these issues and raise these questions that are so important for the American people to digest, especially as we face upcoming elections that will determine the fate and course of the Nation.

If we consider that in the previous election, less than 50 percent of the American people voted and understanding that in the aftermath of September 11 there has been a great outpouring of patriotism and citizenship, and what better way to express that than by going out and voting and immersing and involving one's self in the issues of the day, it is our responsibility as Members of Congress to make sure that we inform and educate the general public; but it is equally responsible that the public have an opportunity to express their concerns.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Connecticut for yielding, and I think he is so on the mark, if you will.

People are thirsting for respectful discourse about these issues because they are so profoundly important, and I want to thank the gentleman for the kudos. I know that each of us has benefited from appearing here on a weekly basis, having this conversation; and I think what has also amazed us is the level of interest, the response that we have received so that there is no doubt that there is a deep need out there for, again, the kind of dialogue that goes on here, at least once a week, and that the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) mentioned earlier even should be expanded so that there can be a variety of perspectives expressed, because it is important.

My colleague mentioned Ahmed Chalabi earlier. How many people in this Chamber, in this country, know of Ahmed Chalabi; and yet many, many in the world, in the intelligence community, believe that he is as responsible as any single individual for the faulty intelligence that led us into this war, a man, by the way, who is a convicted felon, who was an individual who was convicted of embezzlement in Jordan and reports now indicate is being investigated for the dissemination of sensitive information to a potential adversary in Iran.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for his comments. I see that our time has expired and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) has arrived.

### 30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to come before the House of Representatives tonight and the American people and this great house of democracy that we serve in day in and day out. It is an honor to serve, and every day that we have an opportunity to serve it is important that we share important information with the American people and also with Members of the House.

Once again, our 30-something Working Group that consists of 14 Members on the Democratic side of the House, we come together to share with Americans things that are going good. We call it the good, bad and ugly; but at the same time, we work towards constructive change, and as my colleagues know, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) and I have been coming to the floor, along with other Members of this House, to address issues such as education, issues that are facing young Americans from the ages of 18 to 30-something. That covers a supermajority of individuals that are not exercising their right to vote at this particular time, but I believe now, because we are reaching out to those individuals, they will find a reason to go out

and register to vote or to use that voter registration card to work towards good for their family and also for their future.

There is a lot happening to young Americans now versus poor young Americans, and this is the 30-something hour that the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the minority leader, has organized. Those of us in the House that are living the 30-something right now or that recently went through 20-something come and give voice to those individuals on the floor, and I think this reaches out to even a larger demographic, a demographic of parents that are paying for their loved ones to go to college, a demographic of individuals who were not able to go to college immediately after high school or completion of a vocational training program. Some are in community colleges that are trying to make a way. Either they did not have an opportunity to go to college immediately after high school, one, they could not afford it; two, they had to help their family. Many Americans have to make that choice, and it is okay to make that choice.

It is about family. It is about values. It is about religion. It is about definitely individuals that have strong morals and outright patriots in our country that would like to see their children and grandchildren have a better opportunity than what they have.

I think it also addresses grandparents. I am not one, obviously. I have two children and a wife; and I would tell my colleague that I look forward, if God is willing, to allow me to become a grandparent one day. I am pretty sure my goal would be to make sure my children are able to provide for their children and that their children have a better opportunity than the generations that were before them.

So we come to the floor to be able to share with the American people and give response to some of their e-mails. We welcome e-mails to the 30-something group, and we will be giving that e-mail address out; and I will tell my colleagues week after week, we have received a number every week. We are receiving more and more e-mails. It is very encouraging.

Some Americans have questions that they need answered. We try to provide those answers to the best of our ability. Some Americans are saying, hey, it is great, I am a Republican, I am glad you are giving voice to the issue of student loans, and the fact that more people are graduating from college that are in debt now than it was in the previous generation and the opportunity for Pell grants that were promised, and even those who went through college in the early 1970s, I mean we have less of an opportunity for financially challenged individuals that work every day, individuals who did what we told them to do, go to high school, get that vocational training, that we will be there to be able to assist you. There was a commitment made by the Presi-

dent to raise the Pell grant commitment a little bit up to \$5,000, but he has not yet been able to do so. Not because the resources have not been there. It is because the priority has not been there, which then takes us back to being able to have individuals ready for the workforce, that small businesses and businesses need in this country; and it is so very, very important we pay very close attention to that because that is serious business, the business of making sure that we have a workforce ready to step up and meet the challenge to be able to make America strong.

If we are going to have these individuals graduating from college in debt before they can invest in the American dream of being able to buy a home, being able to invest in this economy, it is very important that we do not put them in debt prior to that opportunity.

Some believe in this Congress that we should have variable student loans. Well, one may argue, well, it is the lower interest payment now; but guess what, they will be forever paying those student loans. Being someone that was once on a college campus, offered a credit card, I will tell my colleagues I am a victim. I put my hands out. I was on my campus.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, pull it out.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, well, I do not want to pull my credit card out. I have a couple of credit cards here, but that is later on in the program. We have our whole David Letterman, Top 10 thing that we have to do, and we have to read some e-mails that we received in the previous weeks. We had last week off.

I can tell the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), I missed him.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I missed my colleague.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. We come together. We have this thing here on the floor. We have special guests sometimes from the 30-something Working Group. I like the new haircut that the gentleman has going on there.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. My wife made me get it.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, let me tell my colleague, if it was not for our wives, I do not know where we would be, to be honest with him; and I thank God. Coming up October 12, it will be 13 years for me; and, amen, I got married young.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. August 22 it will be 1 year for me.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Is that not something? What a country.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. God bless.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. What a country. Let me just, if the gentleman would start, I started out with some opening comments, just to kind of share with the American people and the Members of the House our purpose for being here.

Once again, we pay all respect and opportunity to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Democratic leader, that has made a commitment that young people in America

will have a time on this floor. This is just an hour. They are going to have time they have not had in the past so we can raise those issues to the level of the national debate, have people here in this Congress pay respect and treat 30-somethings on down to 18 or 16 or 15, those that are looking to participate in this democracy that we serve under, have them use their power that they have as it relates to voter registration cards, have them use their power in talking with their Member of Congress, to let it be known that throughout they have issues, they have concerns.

I also made the correlation between the parents and grandparents. I mean, obviously, parents want their children to do well. Grandparents especially want their grandkids to do well and make sure they are able to have a better and safer America for the future.

So I just wanted to tell my colleague once again I look forward to this. We were talking earlier today when we were going through some of the subjects we are going to talk about here today because we try to be as factual as possible, also come out with solutions; but guess what, there was a great announcement today. Maybe the gentleman wants to talk about that.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I think all of us were very excited about the announcement of Senator EDWARDS to join Senator KERRY on the ticket, and I think it illustrates the kind of excitement that is going to be around in the fall. I mean, I think it is going to be an exciting election, and we have to celebrate not only what party we stand for but I think process in general, the fact that there is going to be a great election; and Americans are going to get to decide whether or not the President who has been in charge for the last 4 years is going to get re-elected, or if he is going to get "Donald Trumped," and we are going to ask somebody else to come in and take over and set us in another direction.

I think what we have been trying to do here is try to articulate for a lot of the people, not only those people who are 30 or 20 or in college or in high school or affected by the No Child Left Behind, but also to say to other Americans who are concerned about the future of this country that we are going to have real debate.

□ 2215

And I think, from the e-mails we have received, and from the comments that we have heard and the calls we get at our office, people have appreciated the fact that my colleague and I are not personalizing this. This is not personal, this is business. This is my colleague and I discussing issues that we believe in and the direction we think the country should go in, as opposed to the direction that I think the Republican Congress, the House and the Senate and the Republican White House right now, wishes the country to go in. I think there will never be a clearer choice in any election as to where we

want to go and where the Republicans want to go.

This is our e-mail here: 30somethingdems@mail.House.gov. That is the number 30, the word something, the word dems, D-E-M-S, at mail dot House dot gov. We have been getting some great e-mails, from both of the parties.

I listened to my colleague's opening statement and the one issue I think we need to touch on, there was an article today in The New York Times. Paul Krugman did an opinion editorial and he talked a little about the Bush boom and how the tax cuts that President Bush initiated and passed and pushed through this chamber and also through the Senate has peaked. And I thought it was very interesting.

We had moments in November, December, January, February, some early parts of this year where we actually thought we had some job growth. Things were starting to come along and we thought the economy was starting to turn around. Now we have recognized that the job growth has slowed. It is still growing, but it has slowed from previous months. And not only has it slowed down, but the unemployment rate is still at 5.6 percent. So it has not changed. There are still thousands of people who are no longer actively seeking to find work because they know the job market is so slow.

So here is the point I want to make. We had two choices in this country after 9/11 with all the tax cuts. We had two choices: Are we going to try to get some short-term political gain with this trickle-down theory of economics that was proven that did not work in the 1980s, or were we going to continue with the Clinton-era balanced budget, invest in education, invest in health care, invest in the American people and allow them to go out and grow the economy? We chose the former, which meant tax cuts, tax cuts, tax cuts, and primarily to the top 1 and 2 percent of the people in the country.

The theory was that they would begin to take those tax cuts and put it back into the economy. But when we look at the statistics, corporate profits after tax are at the highest level compared to the GDP of the economy than they were since 1929, since they started keeping track of this stuff. So if you are a major player in a corporation, you are doing great, sending jobs to China, move the headquarters to Bermuda, where they do not pay any taxes there, they pay no wages in China, and they take the money and put it in their pocket.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, my colleague mentioned Bermuda, and I cannot help but think of the largest Homeland Security contract that was given to an offshore company. Now, this was once a U.S. company.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And what do they pay in taxes?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Nothing. Zero. Mr. RYAN of Ohio. So the company that gets the most money from the homeland security budget.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. The largest agency in the history of the world, Federal Government agency created by this Congress, the largest contract they have given out thus far has gone to an offshore company. No taxes, no benefit to the American people, no benefit of helping to pay for education, no benefit to be able to provide for alternative fuel sources or towards a health care program.

Hopefully, my colleague, we can share with the American people, and we always say this is not the Tim Ryan/Kendrick Meek Report, this is facts. We spend at least 7 days prior to what we are going to talk about in the upcoming week getting the facts. So anyone that wants to line up on the other side of the aisle and start refuting or just saying, well, that is not true, this is not true, well, we have the facts. And folks who want to e-mail, we will send them the facts.

A lot of this is hard to digest and a lot of it is hard to believe. And, to be brutally honest with you, we are all wrapped up in patriotism and we understand that we have to protect the homeland, but yet we give the largest contract from the Department of Homeland Security to an offshore company. Now, I am from the South. I am from Florida. We have people in South Carolina, in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama, and Mississippi who are sitting around not because they want to sit at home watching cable television. They want a job. They need a job. But they do not have a job because we are sending the jobs overseas.

And who am I to talk, because my colleague is from Ohio.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Yes, and it is the same exact situation. We have given these companies free rein. We do not object to people wanting to make money. If you can go out in the economy and do well for yourself, God bless you. That is what America is all about. However, you are not here to manipulate the system, and that is what is happening right now.

We have these corporations, as we said, they move the headquarters to Bermuda, they do not pay any taxes, they move the production manufacturing site to China, they do not pay anything in wages or in environmental. OSHA. There is no OSHA in China. There is no safety and occupational hazard prevention in China. That does not exist. So you take advantage of the workers there, you take advantage of the tax system here, and you reap the benefits of the profits. Then you take the profits and you put them into this place, into the Congress, and you keep getting the same kind of deals over and over and over. And who is losing? The average people who used to be able to make a middle class wage in the country. They used to be able to afford health care.

I want to mention to my colleague a study that the Toledo Blade paper in Ohio, in Toledo, Ohio, has been doing.

They noted for the average American family, with a median household income of \$42,409, average median income \$42,409, that they have seen increases in their premium payments, this is a family of four, go from \$6,348 to \$9,086, which is a \$2,738 increase from the year 2000.

Now, I know a lot of companies back in my district that are now renegotiating their contracts and their proposals are zero percent increase in wages in the first year, zero percent wages increase in the second year, zero percent wage increase in the third year, and then maybe in the fourth and fifth year there will be some increase. But imagine if you are in a family of four that is making \$42,000 a year, very little disposable income, and you may be trying to send your kids to college and over the last 3 or 4 years you have an extra \$3,000 a year after taxes that you have to pay in health care increases.

This Congress has done nothing to address health care. And if there is an issue that needs to be talked about this fall for this election, it is health care. We have done nothing to control the prices of prescription drugs. Two things we tried to do during the Medicare bill, and I realize this will not affect everybody, but the Democrat proposal was we wanted to negotiate health care prices with these big major drug companies. We wanted the Secretary of Health and Human Services to go to Pfizer and all the big drug companies and say to them, if you want the Medicare contract and the \$500 billion that we are going to spend, you better sit down and talk price with us. We want a discount for the taxpayer, for God sake. Right? We wanted that.

And then we wanted reimportation. Let us free trade pharmaceuticals. We free trade cars, textile, steel, everything in the world we want free trade, but when we tried to impose at 3 o'clock in the morning the free trade pharmaceuticals, no one wanted to talk about it. So we are not controlling prices, we are asking the taxpayers to spend an extra \$500 billion, and we have done nothing in the market to somehow try to fix a \$2,700 increase for a family of four making \$42,000 a year. Nothing.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, that is something to be outright mad about, but I can tell you one thing I find comfort in. I have the opportunity, I am Baptist, and I have the opportunity to do something we call pray, and we pray for days when things will get better for real people, people who understand what it means to take a 15-minute break in the morning and a 15-minute break in the afternoon, and a solid 30 minutes for lunch. These are people who know what it means to punch in and punch out. They know that if you punch in five minutes late that you have to punch out five minutes late. Those individuals.

These are the individuals who come home, and I am not just talking about

hardworking men that have the steel toes sitting next to their chair watching their favorite sitcom when they get home, if they can stay awake through it. I am talking about every day working men and women in this country. And also young people that are having to pull a little extra wait because the money is not coming in like it used to.

So if a family tries to get health care, someone has to sacrifice. The person that has the lowest premiums has to pay that out of their paychecks. This is hard, particularly in a single-family household. And I will tell my colleague that I came up in a single-parent household, and there is nothing wrong with that. I want my colleagues to know that right now. I commend those single parents out there doing what they have to do on behalf of their children. Whatever your faith may be, whatever your religion, it is the same thing. The responsibility of taking care of one's child is priority number one. It is close to what we call in the Baptist and Christian faith, when you think about God, agape, love. It is important we do that and we practice that.

Now, what I see, because I am not a pessimist, I am a person that feels that tomorrow will bring about a different day, a brighter day for Americans. And that means Democrats, Republicans, Independents, Green Party or what have you. When it comes down to health care, and you talk about emergency room health care, no one asks for a party affiliation. No one says, well, Republicans over here, Democrats over here, Independents over there. We are going to take the majority party first. They do not do that. They treat you equally. That means 3 to 4 hours in the emergency room.

Why does it have to come to that? Why do we not have 41 million Americans working? I am not talking about individuals looking at want ads, not even trying to get a job and saying the job situation looks sad. I am talking about individuals who go in and punch out or sign in and out every day. Those individuals who cannot walk away from their job, or say, hey, guess what boss, I am leaving.

Or what about a small businessperson? These businesses that have 100, 200 good hard-working Americans, be they citizens or noncitizens, working in their companies, they are not offshoring it. They are right here in America paying their fair share. They are the American Dream.

I want to make sure Americans understand and the Members of the House understand that we are talking about super-duper corporations. I mean the folks who publicly traded on the stock market. I am talking about individuals who do not even say hello to the individuals that we are talking about here. And the reason why we are here, at 10-plus o'clock at night, taking away from our families, is to be able to say there can be a brighter day.

And I am glad that even though we did not have the vision or foresight or

power to put us on the floor for an hour every week, I thank God for the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Democratic leader. She has been here for some time, along with the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), and they have seen this happen.

So I can say that we have been about the solution on this side of the aisle as it relates to Democrats. And guess what, there have been some good Republicans that wanted to do it, but could not. They could not do it because they felt there would be repercussions for them manning up and womaning up and lea dering it up to be able to say you are wrong. But, guess what? Some have said it. And the record speaks for itself.

Once again, this is not the Tim Ryan report or the Kendrick Meek report. This is fact. We talked about prescription drug plan. The bottom line is, Americans get drugs cheaper under the Democratic proposal. Bottom line. I am sorry. No one can debate that or dispute that.

Now we have the AARP coming out and saying we need the Democratic proposal. I prayed that the leadership here in Washington, at the time that the issue was here on the floor at 3 a.m. in the morning, would have said without that that they would not support it. But that is the past, and we are talking about the future.

□ 2230

At the same time, when we talk about folks taking money home, and what I would like to see and for us to continue to let the American people know just because we are Democrats, and there are a number of Americans that are out there, and they are not all Democrats, they are Independents, Republicans, they voted for leadership, to make sure they get their voices heard in this democracy in this House; and they are going to get it. The bottom line is if given the opportunity, if we are able to have as the Speaker the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) in the 109th Congress, that this will happen. If we are able to have new leadership in the White House, this administration has had their chance. The Democrats did not impede them from doing what they wanted to do. The Democrats are not in the majority. We did not appoint the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Commerce. We did not appoint these individuals, the national security person, the Attorney General. The Bush administration did.

They cannot say well, the liberal Democrats ran the deficit up to the highest level in the history of the Republic. They cannot blame that on the Democrats. That game is over.

Or the reason we do not have health care is because of the Democrats. I am sorry, the last I checked at 1600 Pennsylvania, there was a Republican President there.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And we have to listen to some Members from the other

side of the aisle, they are talking about how the Democrats, they want to keep spending. The Democrats are tax and spenders, and we sit here and scratch our heads because if Members have been paying attention, Republicans took control of this Chamber in 1994 with Newt Gingrich. They have had the Senate and have had the White House for 3½ years. They are spending like drunken sailors, and all they can say is look at the Democrats spend; all they do is tax and spend. It is not us.

Mr. Speaker, we were the ones trying to pass the pay-go provisions which mean if we increase spending, we have to raise taxes on millionaires or we have to find another program you want to cut. Pay as you go. We were trying to get that in here. It was the Clinton budget in 1993 that balanced the budget, that invested in the proper programs.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, that budget was balanced without one Republican vote in this House. I want to make sure that we are clear on that because 3½ years ago, we were talking about how we were going to spend the surplus.

Are we going to save Social Security? And I want to say this to our older Americans and future Americans that will be eligible for Social Security, the little thing on their paycheck, Social Security deduction, think about that. We were go to be able to put money into the trust fund.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. President Clinton said "save Social Security first" from that very podium. Play it smart, do not spend money you do not have. I think that is one of the issues that we have talked about early on, and more so last year than this year, but all of these tax cuts that we have been given which are great, and I know a lot of people who have benefited from the tax cuts, and God bless them. But when we look at the government's financial position, we have borrowed that money. We did not have that money. There was not a surplus here that we said we have billions of dollars, let us give it back and let the American people have it. We went out and borrowed that money. So we borrowed it and gave it to primarily the top 1 or 2 percent. Then we have to pay interest on it. So really we borrowed it, we are paying interest on it and gave it to rich people who are not investing it back into the economy for the most part. Because we borrowed it, we have to pay the interest on it so there is not really a tax cut, there is a tax shift. So the next generation of Americans, they are going to have to pay this bill that we have left here.

We have almost a \$600 billion annual deficit for the past year. That is getting rolled into our \$7 trillion debt that we have. So almost 20 percent of our annual budget that we pay down here is interest on the debt that we have. So if you keep accruing this big debt, you have to keep taking tax money to pay it off. Who is lending us the money? Japan and China are lending us the

money. So it is not bad enough that we are borrowing it to give it to the top 1 percent, it is not bad enough that we are borrowing it and paying interest on it, we are borrowing it from the Chinese and the Japanese who are taking the interest money, and they invest it in their factories because a lot of their factories are state owned.

So the state takes the money that we borrow from them, and they invest it back into their company and steal our manufacturing jobs. Their economy is booming, and they are doing it with our tax dollars. It makes no sense. Until we get it right down here, we are going to continue to erode the middle class of the United States of America, our cities, like Youngstown, Ohio; Warren, Ohio; Akron, Ohio; Cleveland, Ohio; Toledo, Ohio, these areas which have seen their manufacturing base erode. They have to keep passing police and fire levies. They do not have the tax base. Mental health levies keep going down. We have people that need mental health treatment but they cannot get it because we cannot pass a tax.

All I am trying to say here is let us be responsible, let us take a step back, look at the big picture, not self-interest but what is in the best interest of our society. I believe if we would have taken the Bush tax cut, made sure, like Senator KERRY wants to do, take billions of that and give it to the States where they have to use it at the universities to lower tuition prices, double Pell grants, this is long-term economic planning for us. We do not have it right now. It is frustrating.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, let me say quickly, we talked a couple of weeks ago, and I want to segue into what is happening in the workforce, and before we leave here we have to read some of the e-mails that we have received so our viewers will be able to know we hear them and are responding to them. We get a number of hits on the 30-something Web site, and a lot of people are very interested in this. They are not just young people, they are older people, they are Republicans and Democrats.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I have one here from 40-something.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. God willing, I will be there one day.

We talk about a devolution of taxation, and that is when the Federal Government cuts the Federal commitment to the States, and the States do not have the privilege that we have. See, here in Congress we have the opportunity to put it on the U.S. Treasury. Oh, we can take that credit card out any day of the week and we do on the minute. Then every 3 weeks we knock on the bank of China or Japan and ask for more money to pay down our own interest on debt. The States do not have that luxury. The States have to balance their budget. How do they balance it, well, they do not balance it out of thin air. They raise tuition prices, raise fees on hunting and fish-

ing licenses, they raise the driver's license fee, and simple services to local government. Then they cut their commitment to local governments and school districts. When they do that, the school districts do not have their credit card. They have to balance their budget. When they balance their budget, the senior feeding program that everyone counts on to be able to provide a warm meal for seniors, the after-school program for kids, and I am not just talking about poor minority kids, I am talking about kids in rural America, where families have to work two, three jobs to make ends meet, these sorts of things take place. The quality of life of our communities is just not a priority here.

So when we say well, we are sending you a \$150 check, in the final analysis it is going to end up being a lot more. And gas prices are on their way back up again. I do not want to get started on that.

Let me mention quickly what 30 somethings will be handed if we do not make drastic changes here in Washington. We talk about the good, bad and ugly, and we will give credit where credit is due, but we will also point out where there is trickery in what they are sharing with us.

On July 2, the Labor Department announced that in the month of June, 11,000 manufacturing jobs were lost and only 12,000 jobs were created in June for the total population of America, less than half of what was widely expected. So what the Labor Department is doing, they will make these projections, these grandiose projections and then they will fall short.

The President had to explain himself by saying we are not necessarily gaining jobs, but we are steady and the economy is solid. It is all in the words. Thank God for institutions such as the Children's Defense Fund which also announced that almost 60 percent of teenagers lost their job last month, and that is the highest June jobless rate since the data was first collected in 1949. The gentleman from Ohio and I were not even on earth in 1949, but this should not happen in America in 2004 as it relates to young people. I do not even want to get started on the minority numbers. It is 77 percent, even more. So when we look at it and we look at individuals that need jobs and summer jobs, even in Florida where you have Walt Disney World and Busch Gardens and Universal Studios and all of these fine amusement parks, there was a big thing in Florida, there was an uptick in jobs, but many jobs are summer jobs. Some 5,000 are summer jobs, and they provide very little health care benefits, if any at all. When you start looking at a healthy America, it is not necessarily the case.

It is almost like some of these infocommercials, buy this and it will help you lose weight. You wait on the UPS guy to show up, and the bottle is not as big as it looked on television. I will tell you right now, Americans, we

have to understand that we have an opportunity, we cannot change it, we can do all we can in this great House and we give respect to this House, no matter what control it may be under at a particular time, but guess what, we are all Americans and we have to uphold the American dream.

Part of that dream is a better tomorrow, and that is just the bottom line. If given the opportunity, and I am talking about Democrats, if given the opportunity, to be able to set the agenda, to say health care is a priority in this House, real health care; making sure that your child is educated, that is a priority.

Senator KERRY says he wants to give a \$4,000 education tax credit every year to make sure there is money in your pocket to pay for tuition. When we see tuition prices going up, that is a tax, in my opinion. That is a tax on young Americans and working Americans. I cannot tell you how many parents that are my age, I am 38 years old, that actually are having to do the prepay college deal. Oh, I have to put this money away because there is no guarantee that my children will be able to educate themselves. At the same time, they are trying to provide health care. We do not want any handouts, but we want to make sure that they have a fair shake at what previous generations have had.

Mr. Speaker, 3 months ago at birth, a child born already owes the Federal Government over \$23,000. So now we are a part of this Congress that oversees the highest deficit in the history of the Republic. I want to say that again. Since we have been the United States of America, today, this year of 2004, this Congress is overseeing the highest deficit in the history of the country.

□ 2245

Now, I am going to tell you I do not take any great pride in that nor privilege. The fact that we have men and women that are over in Iraq right now, sand in their teeth trying to do the best that they can and will fight on behalf of this country as long as this country asks them to fight, but the individuals that are here in shirts and ties are making bad decisions. So we need to make sure that we have the kind of leadership that is going to make the right decisions, make sure that we are fiscally responsible. I want to say that again, to make sure that we are fiscally responsible, making sure that we are spending the taxpayer dollar in the right way, not just saying that I have a couple of friends, happen to know the CEO of super mega company X, and they are happy. That is their constituent, their base.

Our base is individuals who punch in and punch out every day; and I encourage every American, because I am only one vote, maybe I can influence a few others, but I am only one vote and you are one vote. Okay. But they have to do their part, that they have to re-evaluate the leadership, that they have

to be tough on their Congressman and Congresswoman and they have to be tough on their local elected officials. They have to be heard, because if they are not heard, ladies and gentlemen, you think the last 4 years was a super-roller coaster ride, what will happen in the future when there is really no accountability from this administration to do the right thing on behalf of every-day working people?

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And this is a clear difference of opinion, and I think the administration has clearly articulated where they want the country to go. And I want to share a statistic that I think I have shared here before.

When I was in the State Senate in Ohio, the University of Akron did a study; and the study was amazing what the impact of State support for higher education was. And the study came back, and it said for every dollar, because in Ohio we were going through the same kind of budget cuts as everyone else, and the legislature at that time and the Governor at that time, still do, are going after the big pot of money that is going to the universities.

So the study came back. The University of Akron did a study. It said for every dollar that the State of Ohio invested in the higher education, they would get almost \$2 back in tax money, basically because a high school diploma, a worker with a high school diploma would make about \$20,000 a year average. Someone with a college diploma, with a BA or a BS, would make on average 35 or \$40,000 a year. So this person who had the college diploma would pay double in taxes and then go on probably to get a master's or something else, and then you would pay even more in taxes, income tax, sales tax, property tax, the whole nine yards.

So from the State's position, every dollar you invest, you get almost \$2 back in tax money. That is a good deal. That is a good deal, because you are investing in the long-term growth of your economy. It is that person with the bachelor's degree. For the most part, there is always exceptions, and I am not saying you have to go to college to be successful, because you do not, or have a college degree to be successful, because you do not; but on average those people will be out in the economy creating jobs, being entrepreneurs, developing the new technology, the new economy that needs to grow, which we do not even know what it is yet.

And so the best thing that we can do now is just educate a lot of people and let them go out into the economy, support them with business incubators, worker retraining, small business loans; let them go out into the economy and create and manage new, alternative energies and on and on and on and on. That is a whole other story, but my point is that what do you want? If you are sitting at home right now in Ohio or somewhere across the country,

what do you want? What would you rather have, a government that is saying we are going to invest in you and in your children, in their college education so that they will eventually become taxpayers? Or do you want a check for \$300 from the Bush tax cut, while your property tax goes up, while they have to pass a police and fire levy in your city, while your tuition increases go up. I know in Ohio they have gone up 9, 10 percent, 3, \$4,000 over the last couple of years.

And then when you look at the health care, up \$3,000. There are certain things that we can do together as a country, as a people, as a Congress, that we cannot do on our own. You cannot build a hospital on your own. You cannot build a road on your own. You cannot build a school on your own. There are certain things that we need to do as a country, and one of the things that we need to do is to make sure that everybody has an opportunity to go to college, because it will benefit everybody, and in the long term we are all going to benefit.

What I want the American people to know from my perspective is that the difference is the short-term, \$300, here is your check, government is, you know, giving you something back, which is great and I think a lot of middle-income people need that, and I think we should support the child tax credits and eliminate the marriage penalty, my own opinion; but to give millionaires a hundred thousand dollars back at the expense of veterans, investments in education and all these other things.

I mean, for example, and I am going to finish here, when we tried to come here about maybe a couple of weeks ago, maybe 3, 4 weeks ago, and we wanted to say the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the ranking Democrat on the Committee on Appropriations, tried to pass an amendment, and he is the Democrat. We tried to pass an amendment that would rescind the tax cuts for millionaires. The millionaire worker would still get \$23,000 back from the Bush tax cut. So we did not completely eliminate the tax cut for him, but we reduced it in order to fully fund veterans, fully fund No Child Left Behind, fully fund college education, reduce the cost of tuition, double the Pell grants, the whole nine yards, invest in health care, provide more coverage for children, and it went down.

And I think that, if there is one vote over the last 2 years for this Congress, that will be the vote. Were you going to stand here and vote for millionaires and make sure that these programs are not funded, or are you willing to say we need a certain percentage of that tax cut back, because the long-term interests of the country are at stake? And I think those are going to be clear votes that a lot of people will hear about, and I just think it was an opportunity for all of us to straighten up this budget, the problems that we have been having, and invest in our country. And we did not do it, unfortunately.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Well, there are a few Republicans that joined us in that philosophy, those individuals who raised their right hand at the beginning of this Congress.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And this is not a partisan issue.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. This is about who is for real and who is willing to put their future in the House on the line on behalf of what they believe in. That is what it is about. And guess what? We have elections here in this House every two years. And guess what? Any American can run for office when they are ready.

And another thing that we have to do, we have to do and we have to live through the day, because guess what, tomorrow is not promised. As it relates to doing the right thing, the right thing is making sure the Americans get their fair shake out of this Congress.

I am going to talk about a few statistical issues, talk about the voter suppression, and if you can do your e-mail thing. See, I do not want to even give the e-mail address out, because that is your thing. David Letterman has his Top 10. You have the e-mail address. You have a couple of e-mails after you read the e-mail address. This is what I like watching you do, because you do it so well.

You mentioned something as it relates to the tax cut and really what it means to working Americans. Health care premiums are escalating, middle-class tax increase, I must add. Health care costs increased by 13.9 percent nationwide last year, the third year in a row double-digit increases and the largest increase since 1990. Florida, the State that I am in, the Florida region health care insurance premiums have increased by 65 percent since the beginning of the Bush administration.

Nationally, the increase in family health care insurance premiums over the past 3 years has tripled. The amount of the tax cut that is ongoing for middle-class income families over 4 years, now, that is fact. Okay.

Also you have the college education issue. We talked about that. We talked about raising taxes on college. These are raising tax on middle-class working families. Guess what? Millionaires and billionaires, they do not have to worry about paying for college, because nine times out of 10, their kids are welcomed into the university and their grandchildren are welcomed there because of the legacy, because they have given money to the institution. But guess what? Those individuals, I mean, we may not know their story, we are not saying that we are upset with them. We are just saying that we should not have two Americas. We should have an America that everyone has a fair shake at a fair opportunity towards higher education.

When we look at the whole situation, and I cannot help but continue to talk about Florida, because it is the reality in many of the States that are out

there, the cost of college education has increased by 29 percent in Florida's region since the beginning of the Bush administration.

At the same time, Republicans are refusing to increase funding for Pell grants and also for Perkins loans to defray the costs of higher education. The cost of college has increased steadily in the Florida region. Tuition for a 4-year public college education has increased by \$852 over the past 3 years.

I will tell you, this is from the college board. There are a number of issues that are out there, but I just want to say that it is important that we share this information with the American people. It is important that they understand that they do have a choice in the matter. It is important that they know that Democrats in this House are willing to be able to carry a bucket of heavy water on their behalf, because we look forward to the opportunity.

Matter of fact, we pray for the opportunity to be able to govern, to be able to make a better situation and home-front as it relates to health care costs, health care access, making sure that we have a stronger America in the future, that our children when they graduate and they walk across that stage with that diploma, or as an individual walk across the stage, at a technical high school, that they are guaranteed a future in this America, that they do not have to move offshore for the job that they have trained and hopefully educated themselves for, that this it will be here for them and that this government will not have them in debt, leaving a 4-year institution and even those individuals that are fortunate enough to qualify for future student loans to get through a graduate program.

This is about America. This is not about what the people of Iraq want or what people of another country want. This is about making sure what Americans want. I can tell you, there is no partisanship there. I mean, so leadership is important, and we need it and we need it desperately.

Last point, and I want you to do the e-mail and read the e-mails and do the e-mail address, we want to give a big shot out to Rock the Vote. We are getting a lot of response from the voter suppression issue. I just want to share with the Americans we had supervisors of elections telling people that they could not register to vote if they go to school. Right now we have a lot of young people that are in school, summer school right now. The fall semester will start in mid-August.

Ladies and gentlemen, when you go back, you can register where you are going to be in September or late August, and definitely in November you can register to vote there. There is a 1975 Supreme Court decision that was made saying that if you are registered in school, even if you are from Sioux City, Iowa, and you are going to school in Georgia, you can register in Georgia.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And let us be clear. Go to the board of elections, and they will tell you you cannot and you say, yes, I can. Do not take no for an answer when you go to the election board, because they just do not know. They are misinformed.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Rockthevote.com.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Rockthevote.com.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. That can give you more information on voter suppression. I want to thank those individuals that have sent us e-mails and said, listen, we thank you for letting us know. We had one young man who had to go and get a lawyer to register to vote in America. Can you believe it?

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Well, I want to say, too, you were talking about college education, and we only have a few minutes left. One of the studies that was done here, they are calling it the "Boomerang," and this article was on "CNN Money." It says study hard, get into a good college. Graduate. Move back in with Mom and Dad; 61 percent of college seniors plan to return to their family home after graduation, according to a survey taken this spring by monster.com. Sixty-one percent. So I think that illustrates the trouble we are having with the job market, the failure to invest, the failure to invest in science, the box that this administration has put us in.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I know you have to give the address out and then read the e-mails.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. You said you wanted me to say it, but now you are cutting me off.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. You said you were looking at the e-mails, and I thought you were going to read those. What you are saying as it relates to 61 percent, we will have more Americans writing their name on the orange juice at home after they graduate.

□ 2300

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Yes. Have you seen that one Cellular One commercial, with the first kid in their class to get a job, and all the other ones are home not working yet. It is a funny commercial. Pay attention. You need to see that.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I will, when I have time.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. It is good. 30somethingdems@mail.house.gov. Send us an e-mail.

I am going to read you one real quick from a Daniel Spitsburgh in Pennsylvania. He says, "I saw the e-mail address on CSPAN on June 22. My name is Dan Spitsburgh and I am a registered Republican. I fall into the 1 percent sub-class of voters who are totally undecided and will probably decide who to vote for immediately before the election." He is a Penn State student, considers himself right down the middle, "waiting for someone to go out and grab our vote."

They are concerned about the present circumstances in the Middle East.

“Don’t forget the college voter. They are often the most spirited, live most densely around others and are most able to attract support. We are concerned that we just want the best for our country. Thank you, Representative MEEK and RYAN. If there is any way to get involved in the election process or any literature, please let me know.” Signed Dan.

We also have one here, “I am a 40-something conservative Republican, who watches you and I, which is interesting, is it not? A 40-something.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Some demographic.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. “Thank you both for speaking honestly and not being mean-spirited in the talk about our President and other Republicans. The growth of Federal spending also concerns me. I agree in general concept with your ideas you spoke about. We all want what is best.” But a Republican concerned about Federal spending.

The one I want to end on here, “Dear Members, this is a note to ask for help in getting a state of emergency declared for the unemployed.” State of emergency. He is a union member. “Talented trades and craft union people are proud, hard-working, well-trained people who seem to always have work. Things have really slowed all over the country or gone to low paying, no benefit, nonunion contractors. We serve 4 to 5 year apprenticeships to learn our jobs properly as well as yearly updates to stay current, and we don’t need to retrain.” He says, and this is interesting, “I wish you would look into this matter, as time is crucial. We need your support right now. We union folk are in great numbers and a little help from you could mean a lot.”

These are people that are out struggling. And the CEO of Aetna, and I do not know if you saw this quote, the CEO of Aetna said, “We are pretty sure that the jobs that are going to be created will not have health care benefits associated with them.”

So talk about two Americas. I mean, literally, you are going to have millions and millions more than we have now of people who are going to be without health care. There is not a bigger stress that you could have as a parent than thinking, I cannot take my kid to the clinic, I cannot take my kid to the doctor, to the hospital, because I cannot afford it, and then when you do go, you go to the emergency room. That is no way.

I think we do have universal health care in this country, but it is just administered through the emergency rooms, and that is the worst way to do it, it is the most inefficient way to do it, and it is the most costly way to do it. Instead of providing the prevention up front, which would save everybody money in the long run, we wait. Instead of going to the doctor with a cold, you go to the emergency room with pneumonia, and it costs the tax-

payers a lot more money. It just is a bad way to administer. So, 30somethingdems@mail.house.gov, wrapping up another edition.

I want to say hello to my cousins that are in town, actually aunt and uncle, Jimmy and Tammy Schick, who are here, who took me out to dinner tonight, it was very nice, my wife Julie’s aunt and uncle.

So, that is it.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. There is nothing like family. Nothing like family.

I say to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), it was an outstanding pleasure once again. God has made it able for us to come back again to be able to speak to the American people and Members of the House.

Mr. Speaker, we appreciate the opportunity to address the American people and Members of the House tonight.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Ms. CARSON of Indiana (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of personal reasons.

Mr. ENGEL (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a death in the family.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of official business.

Mr. HINCHEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of an injury.

Mr. HONDA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and July 7 and 8 on account of official business.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and July 7 on account of personal reasons.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of illness.

Ms. SLAUGHTER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

Ms. SOLIS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. EMANUEL) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LIPINSKI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOLT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BURGESS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. COLE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ISAKSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, July 7, 8, and 9.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, July 7 and 8.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan, for 5 minutes, today and July 8.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, for 5 minutes, today.

#### SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. PENCE, announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 2507. An act to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to provide children with increased access to food and nutrition assistance, to simplify program operations and improve program management, to reauthorize child nutrition programs, and for other purposes.

#### BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on July 1, 2004, he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 4103. To extend and modify the trade benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o’clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, July 7, 2004, at 10 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

872. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General and the classified annex for the period October 1, 2003 — March 31, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Armed Services.

873. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-460, “National Capital Revitalization Corporation Eminent Domain

Clarification and Skyland Eminent Domain Approval Temporary Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

8874. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-458, "Closing of a Portion of a Public Alley in Square 235, S.O. 03-2526, Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

8875. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-455, "Youth Pollworker Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

8876. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-456, "Office of Employee Appeals Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

8877. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-457, "Advisory Commission on Sentencing Structured Sentencing System Pilot Program Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

8878. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-442, "Omnibus Alcoholic Beverage Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

8879. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-463, "Omnibus Public Safety Agency Reform Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

8880. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-459, "Removal of the Permanent System of Highways, a Portion of 22nd Street, S.E., and the Dedication of Land for Street Purposes (S.O. 00-89) Technical Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

8881. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the designation as "foreign terrorist organizations" pursuant to Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, pursuant to 8 U.S.C. 1189; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8882. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model EC 155 B and B1 Helicopters [Docket No. 2004-SW-05-AD; Amendment 39-13665; AD 2004-12-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8883. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Hamilton Sundstrand Corporation (formerly Hamilton Standard Division) Model 568F Propellers [Docket No. 2003-NE-48-AD; Amendment 39-13669; AD 2004-12-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8884. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Cessna Model 500, 501, 550, and 551 Airplanes [Docket No. 2000-NM-65-AD; Amendment 39-13594; AD 2004-09-

05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8885. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 757 Series Airplanes Equipped with Rolls Royce RB211 Engines [Docket No. 2000-NM-376-AD; Amendment 39-13666; AD 2004-12-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8886. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-100, -200, -200C, -300, -400, and -500 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2004-NM-29-AD; Amendment 39-13673; AD 2004-03-34 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8887. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model EMB-120 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2003-NM-79-AD; Amendment 39-13671; AD 2004-12-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8888. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Models PC-12 and PC-12/45 Airplanes [Docket No. 2004-CE-08-AD; Amendment 39-13670; AD 2004-12-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8889. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Des Moines, IA. [Docket No. FAA-2004-17145; Airspace Docket No. 04-ACE-11] received June 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8890. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Mount Comfort, IN; Revocation of Class E Airspace; Indianapolis-Brookside, IN; Modification of Legal Description; Indianapolis-Terry, IN. [Docket No. FAA-2003-16059; Airspace Docket No. 03-AGL-16] received June 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8891. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; King Cove, AK [Docket No. FAA-2003-13833; Airspace Docket No. 03-AAL-26] received June 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8892. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D, E2 and E4 Airspace; Columbus Lawson AAF, GA, and Class E5 Airspace; Columbus, GA [Docket No. FAA-2003-16596; Airspace Docket No. 03-ASO-20] received June 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8893. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace;

Beckwourth, CA. [Docket No. FAA-14849; Airspace Docket No. 03-AWP-7] received June 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8894. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 767 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2004-NM-17-AD; Amendment 39-13505; AD 2004-05-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8895. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Aeropatlale Model ATR42-500 and ATR72-212A Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2002-NM-301-AD; Amendment 39-13672; AD 2004-12-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8896. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model DC-10-30 Airplane [Docket No. 2002-NM-237-AD; Amendment 39-13642; AD 2004-10-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8897. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Model BAe 146 and Avro 146-RJ Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2002-NM-343-AD; Amendment 39-13641; AD 2004-10-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8898. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Model BAe 146 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2003-NM-171-AD; Amendment 39-13639; AD 2004-10-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8899. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; NARCO Avionics Inc. AT150 Transponders [Docket No. 2002-NE-32-AD; Amendment 39-13586; AD 2004-08-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8900. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Eagle Aircraft (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd Model Eagle 150B Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2004-17890; Directorate Identifier 2004-CE-14-AD; Amendment 39-13649; AD 2004-11-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8901. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Defense and Space Group Model 234 Helicopters [Docket No. 2004-SW-09-AD; Amendment 39-13651; AD 2004-06-51] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8902. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation,

transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. Model A109E Helicopters [Docket No. 2003-SW-32-AD; Amendment 39-13652; AD 2004-11-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8903. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747-400 and -400F Series Airplanes Equipped with Rolls Royce Engines [Docket No. 2003-NM-202-AD; Amendment 39-13648; AD 2004-11-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8904. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Model BAe.125 series 800A (including C-29A and U-125 Variant) and 800B Airplanes; and Model Hawker 800 (including U-125A Variant) and 800XP Airplanes [Docket No. 2003-NM-216-AD; Amendment 39-13646; AD 2004-11-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8905. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dornier Model 328-100 and -300 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2003-NM-120-AD; Amendment 39-13606; AD 2004-09-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8906. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a description of the changes to existing laws, prepared by the Administration, that would be required to bring the United States into compliance with the United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement, as signed by the United States Trade Representative on behalf of the United States on May 18, 2004, pursuant to Public Law 107-210, section 2105 (a)(1)(B); (H. Doc. No. 108-198); to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

8907. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Medicare Program; Medicare Ambulance MMA Temporary Rate Increases Beginning July 1, 2004 [CMS-1492-IFC] (RIN: 0938-AN24) received July 1, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

*[Omitted from the Record of June 25, 2004]*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 3936. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the principal office of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to be at any location in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, rather than only in the District of Columbia, and expressing the sense of Congress that a dedicated Veterans Courthouse and Justice Center should be provided for that Court and those it serves and should be located, if feasible, at a site owned by the United States that is part of or proximate to

the Pentagon Reservation, and for other purposes (Rept. 108-574 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

*[Pursuant to the order of the House on June 25, 2004 the following report was filed on June 28, 2004]*

Mr. BOEHLERT: Committee on Science. H.R. 3980. A bill to establish a National Windstorm Impact Reduction Programs; with an amendment (Rept. 108-575 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

*[The following action occurred on June 30, 2004]*

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 3247. A bill to provide consistent enforcement authority to the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service to respond to violations of regulations regarding the management, use, and protection of public lands under the jurisdiction of these agencies, to clarify the purposes for which collected fines may be used, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 108-511 Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

*[Pursuant to the order of the House on June 25, 2004, the following reports were filed on July 1, 2004]*

Mr. WOLF: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 4754. A bill Making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes (Rept. 108-576). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. KINGSTON: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 4755. A bill Making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes (Rept. 108-577). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. BOEHLERT: Committee on Science. H.R. 4516. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to carry out a program of research and development to advance high-end computing; with an amendment (Rept. 108-578). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. BOEHLERT: Committee on Science. H.R. 3890. A bill to reauthorize the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988; with an amendment (Rept. 108-579). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. BOEHLERT: Committee on Science. H.R. 4218. A bill to amend the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (Rept. 108-580). Referred to the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. BOEHLERT: Committee on Science. H.R. 3598. A bill to establish an interagency committee to coordinate Federal manufacturing research and development efforts in manufacturing, strengthen existing programs to assist manufacturing innovation and education, and expand outreach programs for small and medium-sized manufacturers, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 108-581). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

*[Submitted July 6, 2004]*

Mr. THOMAS: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 1914. A bill to provide for the issuance of a coin to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown settlement; with an amendment (Rept. 108-472 Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. THOMAS: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 2768. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in com-

memoration of Chief Justice John Marshall; with an amendment (Rept. 108-473 Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. THOMAS: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3277. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 230th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, and to support construction of the Marine Corps Heritage Center; with an amendment (Rept. 108-474 Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 4362. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to accept a parcel of Federal land in the State of Washington in trust for the Nisqually Tribe, to ensure that the acceptance of such land does not adversely affect the Bonneville Power Administration, and for other purposes (Rept. 108-582 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. LINDER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 701. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4754) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes (Rept. 108-583). Referred to the House Calendar.

#### DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

*[Omitted from the Record of June 25, 2004]*

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committee on Armed Services discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3936 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

*[The following action occurred on June 28, 2004]*

Pursuant to clause of rule XII the Committee on Armed Services discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3980 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

*[The following action occurred on June 30, 2004]*

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2966 committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed.

*[The following action occurred on July 6, 2004]*

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committee on Armed Services discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4362 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

#### TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the following action was taken by the Speaker:

*[Omitted from the Record of June 25, 2004]*

H.R. 3936. Referral to the Committee on Armed Services extended for a period ending not later than June 25, 2004.

*[The following action occurred on July 28, 2004]*

H.R. 3980. Referral to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure extended for a period ending not later than June 28, 2004.

*[The following action occurred on June 6, 2004]*

H.R. 4011. Referral to the Committee on the Judiciary extended for a period ending not later than July 16, 2004.

H.R. 4362. Referral to the Committee on Armed Services extended for a period ending not later than July 6, 2004.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CLAY:

H.R. 4756. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the Soldiers' Memorial Military Museum located in St. Louis, Missouri, as a unit of the National Park System; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. STEARNS (for himself and Mr. BOUCHER):

H.R. 4757. A bill to promote deployment of and investment in advanced Internet communications services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WEXLER:

H.R. 4758. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to prohibit States from removing individuals from the official list of eligible voters for Federal elections in the State by reason of criminal conviction unless the removal is carried out in accordance with standards providing notice and an opportunity for an appeal, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. DELAY (for himself and Mr. RANGEL) (both by request):

H.R. 4759. A bill to implement the United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BURTON of Indiana (for himself and Mr. PALLONE):

H.R. 4760. A bill to ensure that the goals of the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 are met by authorizing appropriations to fully enforce and implement such Act and the amendments made by such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DAVIS of Florida:

H.R. 4761. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to extend the pilot program for alternative water source projects; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 4762. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure that the public is provided adequate notice and education on the effects of exposure to mercury through the development of health advisories and by requiring that such appropriate advisories be posted, or made readily available, at all businesses that sell fresh, frozen, and canned fish and seafood where the potential for mercury exposure exists; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RAHALL:

H.R. 4763. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend eligibility for pension benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to veterans who served during certain periods of time in specified locations; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. RAHALL:

H.R. 4764. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to extend eligibility for pension benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to veterans who received an expeditionary medal during a period of military service other than a period of war; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. WOOLSEY:

H.R. 4765. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to local educational agencies to encourage girls to pursue studies and careers in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. PENCE, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. McCOTTER, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. WELLER, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. HOFFEL, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. BALLENGER):

H. Con. Res. 469. Concurrent resolution condemning the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 1994 and expressing the concern of the United States regarding the continuing, decade-long delay in the resolution of this case; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. DINGELL (for himself and Mr. EHLERS):

H. Res. 702. Resolution honoring former President Gerald R. Ford on the occasion of his 91st birthday and extending the best wishes of the House of Representatives to former President Ford and his family; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. HART, Mr. WOLF, Mr. GRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. HOFFEL, Mr. SHERWOOD, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. PITTS, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MURTHA, and Mr. KANJORSKI):

H. Res. 703. Resolution congratulating the Pennsylvania State University on 150 years of service and commending Pennsylvania's designation of the University as Pennsylvania's land-grant institution; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. COX, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, and Mr. ROHRBACHER):

H. Res. 704. Resolution congratulating the California State University, Fullerton Titans baseball team for winning the 2004 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I College World Series; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

[The following were submitted July 1, 2004]

H.R. 4218: Mr. SMITH of Michigan and Mr. GORDON.

H.R. 4516: Mr. GORDON.

[Submitted July 6, 2004]

H.R. 126: Mr. BOSWELL.  
H.R. 195: Mrs. CAPITO.  
H.R. 623: Mr. EHLERS.  
H.R. 717: Ms. WOOLSEY.  
H.R. 814: Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota.  
H.R. 857: Mr. LEVIN.  
H.R. 1029: Mr. PALLONE.  
H.R. 1285: Mr. GONZALEZ.  
H.R. 1489: Mr. GINGREY.  
H.R. 1565: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.  
H.R. 1582: Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota.  
H.R. 1587: Mr. FILNER.  
H.R. 1657: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN and Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 1726: Mr. DELAHUNT.  
H.R. 1818: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1824: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.  
H.R. 1861: Mr. GRIJALVA.  
H.R. 1995: Mr. BOHLERT.  
H.R. 2023: Mr. HOLT, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H.R. 2071: Mr. KUCINICH.  
H.R. 2158: Mr. NUNES and Mr. DOOLEY of California.

H.R. 2173: Mr. LAMPSON and Mr. HOLDEN.  
H.R. 2198: Mr. UDALL of New Mexico.  
H.R. 2727: Mr. MEEHAN and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 2868: Mr. WOLF, Mr. NOWROOD, Mr. BURNS, Mr. JOHN, and Mr. JEFFERSON.  
H.R. 3127: Mr. OWENS, Mr. MOORE, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FROST, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. FARR, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 3193: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.  
H.R. 3293: Mr. ANDREWS.  
H.R. 3324: Mr. KUCINICH.  
H.R. 3350: Mr. ANDREWS.  
H.R. 3352: Mr. GUTIERREZ.  
H.R. 3474: Mr. GERLACH, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. KANJORSKI, Ms. MAJETTE, and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.

H.R. 3800: Mr. CALVERT.  
H.R. 3803: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.  
H.R. 3831: Mr. LIPINSKI and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 3834: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 4026: Mr. FERGUSON and Mr. GUTKNECHT.

H.R. 4057: Mr. RAMSTAD.  
H.R. 4107: Mr. MARKEY, Mr. HILL, Mr. REHBERG, Ms. CORINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Ms. LEE.

H.R. 4140: Mr. UDALL of New Mexico.  
H.R. 4205: Mr. WYNN.  
H.R. 4261: Mr. PALLONE.  
H.R. 4264: Mr. HONDA.  
H.R. 4284: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. POMBO, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. WELDON of Florida, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 4312: Mr. MCINTYRE and Mr. ANDREWS.  
H.R. 4325: Mr. PAYNE.  
H.R. 4341: Mr. MICHAUD.  
H.R. 4358: Mr. TERRY.  
H.R. 4370: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois and Ms. LEE.

H.R. 4391: Ms. SOLIS, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. DEUTSCH, Ms. WATERS, and Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 4420: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. CARTER.  
H.R. 4440: Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. FEENEY, and Mr. AKIN.

H.R. 4463: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Ms. BALDWIN.  
H.R. 4472: Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania and Mr. ETHERIDGE.

H.R. 4521: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.  
H.R. 4595: Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. LEE, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 4600: Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.

H.R. 4610: Mr. REYES, Mr. FROST, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. HOLDEN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 4628: Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 4634: Mr. TERRY, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. GORDON, and Mr. WOLF.

H.R. 4662: Mrs. NORTHUP.  
H.R. 4677: Mr. HAYES and Mr. GOODE.  
H.R. 4688: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.  
H.R. 4728: Mr. SERRANO and Mr. SKELTON.  
H.J. Res. 56: Mr. PUTNAM.

H.J. Res. 99: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. REGULA.

H. Con. Res. 247: Mr. TIBERI.  
H. Con. Res. 371: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
H. Res. 129: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.  
H. Res. 466: Mr. LIPINSKI and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H. Res. 570: Mr. LANTOS.

H. Res. 642: Mr. UDALL of New Mexico.  
 H. Res. 666: Ms. DUNN.  
 H. Res. 667: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. GOODLATTE.  
 H. Res. 673: Mr. RANGEL.  
 H. Res. 687: Ms. KAPTUR.  
 H. Res. 688: Mr. TOOMEY.  
 H. Res. 690: Ms. WATERS, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. COOPER, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. FATTAH, Mrs. CAPPS, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. OBERSTAR, and Mr. KLECZKA.  
 H. Res. 699: Mr. MEEHAN.  
 H. Res. 700: Mr. MEEHAN and Mr. McDERMOTT.

### AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 4754

OFFERED BY: MR. SANDERS

AMENDMENT NO. 1: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new title:

#### TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to make an application under section 501 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1861) for an order requiring the production of library circulation records, library patron lists, library Internet records, bookseller sales records, or bookseller customer lists.

H.R. 4754

OFFERED BY: MR. SANDERS

AMENDMENT NO. 2: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new title:

#### TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to make an application under section 501 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1861) for an order requiring the production of library circulation records, library patron lists, library Internet records, book sales records, or book customer lists.

H.R. 4754

OFFERED BY: MR. SANDERS

AMENDMENT NO. 3: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new title:

#### TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to make an application under section 501 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1861) for an order requiring the production of library circulation records, library patron lists, library Internet records, bookseller sales records, or bookseller customer lists.

H.R. 4754

OFFERED BY: MR. OTTER

AMENDMENT NO. 4: Insert before the short title at the end the following:

#### TITLE VIII—NOTICE OF SEARCH WARRANTS

SEC. 801. Section 3103a of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “may have an adverse result (as defined in section 2705)” and inserting “will endanger the life or physical safety of an individual, result in flight from prosecution, or result in the destruc-

tion of or tampering with the evidence sought under the warrant”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “a reasonable period” and all that follows and inserting “seven calendar days, which period, upon application of the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, or an Associate Attorney General, may thereafter be extended by the court for additional periods of up to seven calendar days each if the court finds, for each application, reasonable cause to believe that notice of the execution of the warrant will endanger the life or physical safety of an individual, result in flight from prosecution, or result in the destruction of or tampering with the evidence sought under the warrant.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) REPORTS.—(1) On a semiannual basis, the Attorney General shall transmit to Congress and make public a report concerning all requests for delays of notice, and for extensions of delays of notice, with respect to warrants under subsection (b).

“(2) Each report under paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to the preceding six-month period—

“(A) the total number of requests for delays of notice with respect to warrants under subsection (b);

“(B) the total number of such requests granted or denied; and

“(C) for each request for delayed notice that was granted, the total number of applications for extensions of the delay of notice and the total number of such extensions granted or denied.”.

H.R. 4754

OFFERED BY: MR. TANCREDO

AMENDMENT NO. 5: At the end of the bill, insert after the last section (preceding the short title) the following:

#### TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE—OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS—STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE” may be used in contravention of section 642(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1373).

H.R. 4754

OFFERED BY: MR. FARR

AMENDMENT NO. 6: Insert before the short title at the end the following:

#### TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act to the Department of Justice may be used to prevent the States of Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont, or Washington from implementing State laws authorizing the use of medical marijuana in those States.

H.R. 4754

OFFERED BY: MR. PAUL

AMENDMENT NO. 7: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

#### TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for the American Community Survey.

H.R. 4754

OFFERED BY: MR. PAUL

AMENDMENT NO. 8: Insert before the short title at the end of the bill the following title:

#### TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act to the Department of Justice may be used—

(1) to take any legal action against a physician for prescribing or administering a drug not included in schedule I of the schedules of controlled substances under section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act for the purpose of relieving or managing pain; or

(2) to threaten legal action in order to prevent a physician from prescribing or administering such a drug for such purpose.

(b) None of the funds made available in this Act to the Department of Justice may be used—

(1) to take any legal action against a person for acts relating to the prescribing or administering by a physician of such a drug for such purpose; or

(2) to threaten any legal action against a person in order to prevent the person from engaging in acts relating to the prescribing or administering by a physician of such a drug for such purpose.

H.R. 4754

OFFERED BY: MR. PAUL

AMENDMENT NO. 9: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

#### TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to pay expenses for any United States contribution to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

H.R. 4754

OFFERED BY: MR. PAUL

AMENDMENT NO. 10: At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following:

#### TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to pay any United States contribution to the United Nations or any affiliated agency of the United Nations.

H.R. 4754

OFFERED BY: MR. KUCINICH

AMENDMENT NO. 11: Page 57, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert the following: “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

H.R. 4754

OFFERED BY: MR. KUCINICH

AMENDMENT NO. 12: Page 57, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert the following: “(reduced by \$250,000) (increased by \$250,000)”.

H.R. 4754

OFFERED BY: MR. KUCINICH

AMENDMENT NO. 13: Page 57, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert the following: “(reduced by \$50,000) (increased by \$50,000)”.

H.R. 4754

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT NO. 14: Page 2, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 84, line 11, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

H.R. 4754

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT NO. 15: Page 2, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert the following: “(reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 26, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert the following: “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 28, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert the following: “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

H.R. 4754

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT NO. 16: Page 8, beginning on line 4, strike "Attorneys." and insert "Attorneys: *Provided further*, That in using funds made available under this heading to prosecute crimes described in section 274(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324(a)), priority shall be given to cases in which the offense was part of an ongoing commercial organization or enterprise; the aliens were transported in groups of 10 or more; and the aliens were transported in a manner that endangered their lives or the aliens presented a life-threatening health risk to people in the United States."

H.R. 4754

OFFERED BY: MR. OXLEY

AMENDMENT NO. 17: Page 5, line 20, after the first dollar amount, insert the following: ", of which \$2,605,000 shall be for 25 positions to investigate and prosecute adult obscenity and child exploitation crimes,".

H.R. 4754

OFFERED BY: MR. OXLEY

AMENDMENT NO. 18: Page 5, line 20, after the first dollar amount, insert the following: ", of which \$2,605,000 shall be for the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section,".

H.R. 4754

OFFERED BY: MR. OXLEY

AMENDMENT NO. 19: Page 5, line 20, after the first dollar amount, insert the following:

“(reduced by \$2,605,000) (increased by \$2,605,000)”.

H.R. 4754

OFFERED BY: MR. AKIN

AMENDMENT NO. 20: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in contravention of the provisions of subsections (e) and (f) of section 301 of the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-25; 22 U.S.C. 7631(e) and (f)).