

S. 2277. An act to amend the Act of November 2, 1966 (80 Stat. 1112), to allow binding arbitration clauses to be included in all contracts affecting the land within the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Reservation.

S. 2385. An act to designate the United States courthouse at South Federal Place in Santa Fe, New Mexico, as the "Santiago E. Campos United States Courthouse".

S. 2398. An act to designate the Federal building located at 324 Twenty-Fifth Street in Ogden, Utah, as the James V. Hansen Federal Building.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 10 requests for 1-minute speeches.

CELEBRATING SOUTH CAROLINA'S LOW COUNTRY

(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, since 1956, residents of South Carolina's low country have gathered around the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park in Beaufort for a Southern celebration. This year's 49th Annual Beaufort Water Festival will attract people from all over the world to come and enjoy sailboat races, sport tournaments, arts, crafts, music and other events which display the best of South Carolina's culture.

Beaufort is South Carolina's second oldest city, is a picturesque port town with a rich history. Its beautiful views of waterways bordered by oak trees with Spanish moss and pre-Revolutionary homes have been featured in countless motion pictures and have made Beaufort a world-class vacation destination.

I look forward to joining Beaufortians this weekend in the Water Festival Parade, which moves along historic Bay Street.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking this year's commodore, Marvin Morrison, and his team of coordinators for their efforts in making the 49th Beaufort Water Festival a great success.

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

TAX CUTS SHORTCHANGE COPS PROGRAM

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, we are now almost 3 months past the deadline for Congress to pass a Federal budget. At this point, it is likely that Congress will not pass one at all. The cause of this breakdown is the ongoing misguided policies of the administration which have put irresponsible tax cuts ahead of the programs that Americans rely on to move our country forward.

One such program is COPS, or Community Oriented Policing Services. Since its inception, COPS has put more than 140,000 police officers on the streets. In Los Angeles, my hometown, that meant 240 new officers last year alone. But despite all of the talk about supporting local police, Republicans are starving the COPS program of funds. Because of their marriage to big tax cuts, Republicans have proposed cutting this vital program by over \$100 million. That means about half as many new police on the streets next year.

RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I would just remind the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that this body passed its budget in March of this year. We are waiting for across the rotunda as usual.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the Medicare Modernization Act which we passed last year. I wanted to discuss the fact that employers have been dropping health care benefits for retirees for 2 decades. This is prior to our passing the Medicare bill. A Kaiser Foundation survey notes that the percentage of all large firms offering retiree health benefits has declined from 66 percent in 1988 to 34 percent in 2002.

Rather than worsening the situation, the Medicare Modernization Act works to stop the trend of employers dropping retiree coverage. We achieve this goal by providing incentives to employers to continue offering health care to their retired employees. Employers offering retirees coverage that at least equals the Medicare benefit will receive a tax-free direct subsidy.

The Congressional Budget Office has predicted that substantially fewer employers will drop or reduce coverage under the Medicare conference report.

KERRY-EDWARDS OFFER UPLIFTING MESSAGE

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the middle-class values and positive vision for our country that JOHN KERRY and JOHN EDWARDS are offering America.

Yesterday, Senator EDWARDS brought the ticket's Front Porch Tour to the Triangle region of North Carolina. My North Carolina neighbors are excited about the uplifting message that the Senator presents for a better tomorrow. The Kerry-Edwards ticket offers real hope to make America stronger at home and respected throughout the world.

Unfortunately, Republicans in Washington are so afraid of running on their

record, they have launched a ferocious negative attack on JOHN EDWARDS. Just yesterday, Roll Call ran an article quoting a Republican leader saying, "It is now critical to brand JOHN EDWARDS." After 4 years of running this country into the ground, the Republican regime has nothing to offer but attack politics.

Democrats offer a better alternative. Senator JOHN KERRY plans to fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act that the Republican leadership has short-changed by \$27 billion. Senator KERRY also supports school construction legislation to build new schools and get children out of trailers. As the first member of his family to go to college, JOHN EDWARDS will work to make sure that families have opportunities for higher education.

CHARLEE PROGRAM MAKES VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Marilyn March, Mary Cagle, and the entire staff of the CHARLEE Program for their valuable contribution to the abused and neglected children in my hometown of Miami, Florida.

CHARLEE stands for Children Have All Rights, Legal, Educational and Emotional. It was established in 1983 through the efforts of the Junior League of Miami, the National Council of Jewish Women, and the Episcopal Diocese of southeast Florida.

It has an extensive history of providing critical services such as foster care and treatment services for Miami-Dade counties' neediest children.

As a mother of two teenage daughters, I realize the profound impact that a positive relationship with one's primary caregiver can have on the development of our most precious resource, our young people.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the work CHARLEE does, and I wish all of CHARLEE'S volunteers much future success in helping our precious children.

NATIONAL DEBT RISES

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, it has been 1,167 days since President Bush and the Republican Party embarked on their economic plan for our country. During that time, the national debt has increased by \$1,663,467,070,131.85.

According to the Web site for the Bureau of Public Debt at the Treasury Department, yesterday the Nation's outstanding privately held debt was \$4,228,533,122,486.63.

Foreign holdings of U.S. privately held debt now total \$1.75 trillion. This