

We have done our best to secure the safety of the people of Iraq. Now we need to take steps to bring our troops home safely. We need to begin the end of the war in Iraq. Support House Joint Resolution 55 to bring our troops home.

#### BUDGET DEFICIT SHRINKS

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I am holding up today's Washington Post. There is an article here, "Revenue Surge Shrinks the Deficit." Well, every day this week, I have come to the floor to talk about how tax reductions work and the growth that we are seeing in the economy.

Over the past 25 months, we have seen an average of 146,000 jobs created each month. We have near historic lows in unemployment. The GDP has been revised upward, and we are going to see a deficit that is about \$100 billion less than projected. It just goes to show, when you give about 92 million Americans a tax cut, good things happen. They keep more money in their pockets, and we see jobs growth, economic growth, and we also see the deficit shrink.

#### UPPER MISSISSIPPI NAVIGATIONAL LOCKS PROJECT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, we begin debate on the Water Resources Development Act, a serious effort by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) to start fixing a seriously broken system with almost \$60 billion in construction backlog which includes projects which range from the good to the bad to the ugly and the obsolete.

Since the corps is overwhelmed with projects and labors under outmoded principles and guidelines which Congress and the corps have not updated in over 20 years, the process is inherently, intensely political.

The poster child for that is the upper Mississippi lock project, the most expensive navigation project in history, the dinosaur of these projects. An inspector general found that the Corps cooked the books and fired somebody trying to do his job telling the truth.

The Blumenauer-Flake amendment will provide a safety valve to ensure that the project will not go forward unless it is economically justified, and will speed the long overdue process of reforming the operation of the Army Corps of Engineers so it can be about the important water resources projects our country needs.

#### PERSONAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

(Mr. DOOLITTLE asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, in crafting Social Security legislation, we must offer workers the ability to own a portion of their retirement through personal accounts.

President Roosevelt, the author of Social Security, was the first to suggest that, in order to provide for the country's retirement needs, Social Security would need to be supplemented by personal savings accounts. Personal accounts would allow workers to set aside part of their payroll taxes in a nest egg that the government cannot take away and that can be passed on to children and grandchildren.

As Americans, we can choose where we work and live, what we drive, which insurance plan is best for us, so why can we not give workers a choice when it comes to their retirement?

President Bush has said, "If you own something, you have a vital stake in the future of our country. The more ownership there is in America, the more vitality there is in America, and the more people have a vital stake in the future of this country."

Americans take pride in what they own. Establishing personal accounts within Social Security is an important part of encouraging an ownership society.

#### WOMEN SUFFRAGISTS DAY

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be joined today on the House floor by two exceptional soon-to-be fourth graders from Southern Nevada, Hannah Low and Destiny Carroll.

These young women were inspired after reading about the women's suffrage movement and began a petition drive seeking to create a holiday honoring America's suffragists.

Hannah and Destiny presented this petition to me with hundreds of signatures that they obtained in my Las Vegas office. I am so proud of Hannah and Destiny, and I am honored to introduce a resolution to establish a day to commemorate America's suffragists. While it may seem unbelievable today, it was not very long ago that women were not able to vote in this country. I hope that by creating a holiday honoring the suffragists, we will keep alive the memory of the struggle to win this important right for women.

I thank Hannah and Destiny for serving as an inspiration for my resolution, and for being here on this very important day. I hope it is a moment that they will long remember, and I hope that they continue working to make a difference in their community and make a difference in our world and make it a better place to be.

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#### TEACHER INCENTIVE FUND

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Americans love their teachers, and they want to reward the best. For too long, teachers have been shackled by outdated performance systems that do not necessarily recognize effective teaching. Americans want to reward the best teachers for the work they do.

Yesterday, I introduced a new initiative, the Teacher Incentive Fund, to reward these hardworking educators. This innovative program will allow teachers to be compensated based on performance and accomplishments and how well they are helping students learn and achieve. These voluntary grants would provide incentives for States and local school districts to develop, implement, and maintain systems that reward teachers and principals who deliver on student achievement. The Teacher Incentive Fund will work to put the focus on the most important component in our education, and that is the children. Evidence shows that children achieve most when taught by high-quality teachers.

Most of us remember the teachers who affected us in a remarkable way. For me it was one of my high school teachers, Dr. Welch; and I will never forget how he challenged me to excel. Now let us reward those teachers who reside in every congressional district and challenge our children to excel every day.

#### WOMEN AND THE SUPREME COURT

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, Members on both sides of the aisle and Americans of all political persuasions are heaping praise on Sandra Day O'Connor for her distinguished service on the Supreme Court. Finding a fair-minded, evenhanded Justice to replace her, someone who will receive similar bipartisan accolades when all is said and done, should be our goal. And I know she is out there somewhere.

Will the President make it a priority to maintain women's representation on the Court at a paltry 22 percent? Or are we bound to a dismal 11 percent? We do not need a return to token representation.

In the President's campaign, he used the slogan, W is for women; but anyone familiar with his administration's record on equal pay, child care, reproductive freedom, and enforcing discrimination laws knows that W is for woeful on women's issues.

#### KARL ROVE

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats' witch-hunt of the week is aimed at my friend Karl Rove. I have had the pleasure of knowing Karl for over 20 years. I believe he is a man of honesty and integrity who loves his country and serves it well. He was also a key player in the President's reelection and clearly Democrats want revenge.

Based solely upon their partisan interpretation of selected press reports, some Democrats are now calling for his resignation. Mr. Speaker, if trial by headline is the standard in the Nation's capital, I have some other headlines I would be happy to share, and we know that they suggest that some Democrats may have been involved in illegal activities. Yet I do not hear my Democrat colleagues calling for their resignations.

Let us abide by the American standard that all are innocent until proven guilty. Democrats should end their trial by headline, their character assassination, and their constant Bush bashing. Instead, I hope that they will choose to work with Republicans on a bipartisan basis to save Social Security, win the war on terror, and create more jobs for American workers.

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#### KARL ROVE

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, over and over again President Bush has expressed his commitment to fighting terrorism. But how is it possible when a top administration official, Deputy White House Chief of Staff Karl Rove, leaked classified information and undermined U.S. security? Karl Rove identified a covert CIA agent in an orchestrated effort to discredit an opponent of the administration's use of intelligence for the Iraq war.

Karl Rove has top-level national security clearance in his position. Yet, clearly, he cannot be trusted with information. President Bush cannot allow his administration and top advisers to undermine the war on terror.

In October 2003, President Bush stated: "If someone did leak classified information, I'd like to know it. And we'll take the appropriate action." Mr. President, it is time to take action now. Karl Rove should resign. President Bush pledged to restore honor and integrity to the White House and to the Presidency. Removing Karl Rove from his duties and position would be an appropriate first step.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Members are advised to direct their comments to the Chair and not to the President.

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#### SUCCESS IN IRAQ CONTINUES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, though the triumphs go largely unreported by the media, our men and women in uniform and the Iraqi people are making tremendous progress every day in Iraq. An example is the Army Corps of Engineers is currently building 150 new primary health care facilities that will provide Iraqis with basic medical care, maternity and emergency services, and medical training. As families throughout Iraq welcome these facilities to their communities, our troops know they are greatly improving the lives of the Iraqi citizens. As a 31-year veteran of the National Guard with a son who has served a year in Iraq and two additional sons in the military, I know firsthand of the military's competence and success.

Last month I along with the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) and over 118 other Members established the Victory in Iraq Caucus to ensure that more people are aware of the great achievements which protect American families. Today, the caucus announced a weekly e-mail service that will deliver the good news from Iraq. As our soldiers continue to fulfill their mission, we applaud them on the path to victory to win the war on terrorism.

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

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#### KARL ROVE

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, we need to ask, why did Karl Rove, the President's Deputy Chief of Staff, reveal the identity of a CIA agent? The Republican National Committee has issued furiously spun talking points that suggest that Karl Rove was merely trying to keep an inaccurate story out of the paper. That is absolutely preposterous. Should the government start giving out secret information to reporters as background information? Of course not. No, the real reason Karl Rove outed a CIA agent was because the administration did not like the story. They did not like that they were being caught perpetuating a false story about nuclear materials from Niger in order to justify their run-up to war, so they tried to change the subject.

Karl Rove only knows one way to change the subject, attack the messenger. Normally these are just despicable political dirty tricks, but in this case it was a threat to national security by deliberately outing a CIA agent. Karl Rove has demonstrated that he is not beyond using classified information to further his political agenda, and it is time for him to be stripped of his security clearance and shown the door.

#### DEPUTY CONSTABLE NEHEMIAH PICKENS

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, on the hot humid night of July 6, 2005, in Houston, Texas, a police chase occurred. After midnight, a car driven by a criminal was fleeing from the police. His vehicle crashed into the gate of an apartment complex. The suspect, a Justin Doyle, jumped from his car and took off on foot fleeing from the law during the darkness. Deputy Constable Nehemiah Pickens had with others joined the police chase to capture this individual. Eventually, a shootout occurred and Deputy Pickens was killed while assisting in the pursuit of Doyle.

Nehemiah Pickens was a member of the Harris County Constable's Unit, Precinct 6. He was 33 years of age. He is remembered as a hardworking family man who worked multiple security jobs in addition to his work as a police officer to support his wife and his three daughters. He was working a part-time security job when he was killed to obtain money for a new home. Tomorrow, he will be buried in Houston, Texas. In the wake of this tragedy, we are reminded that we must never take for granted the police officers of America that work every day to enforce the law.

Deputy Pickens died doing what was his duty to protect, serve, and defend the people. As hundreds of police officers and law enforcement personnel, friends and family gather tomorrow for his funeral, our prayers go out to his family for allowing his life to be sacrificed for the rest of us.

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#### REMEMBERING TWA FLIGHT 800

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

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, this coming Saturday marks the ninth anniversary of an American tragedy, the loss of 230 souls aboard TWA Flight 800. Bound for Paris, France, flight 800 fell from the sky just south of Moriches, Long Island, only minutes after its departure from JFK International Airport. Many of us recall exactly where we were on that evening of July 17, 1996, an indelible memory of when we felt the tremendous shock, fright, and sadness upon learning all aboard Flight 800 had perished.

But from great sorrow and hope new beginnings can rise. The overwhelming outpouring of support and good will after Flight 800 spoke volumes of America's compassion, resolve, and greatness.

On this solemn occasion, we extend our thoughts and prayers to the families of the passengers aboard Flight 800. We will always remember the profound loss that each of them continues to live with in the long years since that terrible night 9 years ago.