

Congratulations to general manager John Schuerholz and to manager Bobby Cox for their remarkable leadership through thick and thin. Congratulations to the players, from seasoned veterans to rookie contributors. All of them have given Atlanta, Georgia, and America, the thrill and privilege of witnessing their wondrous exploits.

You have blessed us all with your skill and passion. Congratulations to the Atlanta Braves.

EXIT STRATEGY

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, whether or not Iraq soon votes for a constitution, whether or not the Sunnis and the Shiites soon achieve peace, we in this Congress must soon take action for our Nation, for our troops, for our national interests to plan an exit strategy from Iraq and to commence it by October of 2006.

That is the purpose of House Joint Resolution 55, a bipartisan resolution which requires the administration to create an exit strategy so we are not going to be in Iraq forever, so we do not put our sons' and daughters' lives on the line forever, so we have a defined strategy to get out.

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It is time for us to take whatever bipartisan energy there is in this Chamber and direct it towards a new direction in Iraq, to bring our troops home, to involve the world community, to put an end to this sorry chapter of U.S. occupation.

ACROSS-THE-BOARD SPENDING REDUCTIONS

(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, last week I received a call from a constituent, and she said, As you are looking at Hurricane Katrina, I want you to remember something. My grandmother used to say, Mind your pennies and your dollars will take care of themselves.

How very true, and in that regard, I filed three bills yesterday, one I think every Member of the House can decide they can support, H.R. 3903, H.R. 3904 and H.R. 3906. Each calls for across-the-board spending reductions in non-defense, non-homeland security discretionary spending.

H.R. 3903 is a 1 percent reduction which would be a \$4 billion savings for the year. Two percent is the H.R. 3904 bill. That is an \$8 billion savings. \$21.5 billion could be saved with H.R. 3906, which is a 5 percent reduction.

One of the things we know, Mr. Speaker, is that across-the-board reductions work. The bureaucrats in

buildings are called upon to be responsive to the taxpayers to account for how they are spending every single penny that they are being appropriated.

So I encourage all the Members of the body to join me in cosponsoring H.R. 3903, H.R. 3904 and H.R. 3906 and reduce our Federal outlays.

VAWA REAUTHORIZATION

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, I rise today to highlight the issue as it affects minority communities.

Although domestic violence is blind to race and ethnicity, racial and ethnic minority women, immigrant women, face unique challenges to reporting and getting help for domestic violence.

Just this morning, I learned that the manager's amendment to today's VAWA reauthorization bill strikes the language "racial and ethnic minorities" from the definition of underserved communities.

After all the bipartisan work that we have been conducting for the past year on this particular reauthorization, I am outraged that at the last minute, Republican leadership is shortchanging women of color who are victims of domestic violence.

We must acknowledge the devastating effect that domestic violence has on all communities, community of colors. That means African Americans, Latinos and Asians and all other ethnic groups.

Our efforts to educate the public about domestic violence must directly address factors like cultural differences, linguistic differences and immigration status. By removing this language, we are exacerbating the problem of domestic violence in communities of color.

My hope is that the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act is comprehensive and meets all the needs of all women in our country.

BUSINESS ACTIVITY TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bo Horne lives with his wife in Seneca, South Carolina, where they operate a small business from their home. It is their piece of the American dream.

In 1997, they sold a computer software license to a customer in New Jersey for \$695, and even though Mr. Horne has no employees or no real property in New Jersey, this one-time sale triggers a New Jersey State law requiring Mr. Horne to pay \$600 in taxes and fees every year on the software as long as it remains in use. This tax is stifling to

small business investments and entrepreneurs across the country.

Mr. Horne stated yesterday in his testimony before the House Committee on the Judiciary that he is speaking up because of thousands of small businesses that are totally unaware of the risks. Mr. Horne also highlighted a commonsense bill that I am a proud cosponsor of, H.R. 1956, the Business Activity Tax Simplification Act, as introduced by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE). It protects small businesses by requiring them to be physically present in the State before they are subject to taxes by the State.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for small businesses by supporting this important legislation, and I thank Mr. Horne for his hard work.

POLITICAL HACKS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. The Bush-Rove administration has delivered cronyism, incompetence and corruption in spades. Mike "you're-doing-a-heck-of-a-job-Brownie" Brown is the poster child for the hundreds of unqualified, often incompetent, political hacks chosen to head, to demean, demoralize and dismantle critical Federal agencies like FEMA.

Then there is the corruption side. Mr. Brown, as he was resigning, at the same time one of his buddies, David Safarian, the head of Federal procurement for the entire government of the United States, \$300 billion a year, is being led out of the White House in handcuffs for perjury, influence peddling and bribery, but he did his job till the end as a Bush political appointee. Before they drug him out in handcuffs, he let billions of dollars in no-bid contracts, awarded to Halliburton and other favorites of this administration.

Good job, Mr. Safarian. I hope prison is a good reward for you.

U.S. TROOPS DELIVER VICTORY AGAINST AL QAEDA

(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, Iraqi security forces and coalition soldiers this week delivered a striking blow to al Qaeda terrorists in Iraq. By killing Abu Azzam, a top aide to Abu al-Zarqawi, our troops have achieved yet another critical victory in the war on terrorism.

Azzam led the largest group of al Qaeda in Iraq fighters in Fallujah during autumn 2004 and directed current terrorist activity and operations in Baghdad. As a leader of the Iraq terrorist network, he served as the brains behind numerous attacks on our troops and Iraqi citizens. Not anymore.

The recent victory demonstrates that American soldiers are skilled, focused