

by Dale Douglas and his wife. The idea for the foundation stemmed from the experience of Douglas' father, H. E. Douglas, Sr., who was a poor fieldworker who did not own a new pair of shoes until he was sixteen years old.

Nine years ago, Dale and his wife decided to turn their annual Christmas party into a catalyst for community service by asking their guests to bring a new pair of shoes to give to needy children within the community. The effort continued to grow with each subsequent year and has challenged an entire community.

The New Shoes for Little Feet Foundation works with area schools to collect the correct shoe sizes of needy students so that they can be matched with the right pair of shoes. The foundation has also partnered with The Colony Police Department to increase its outreach. Last year, the organization collected and distributed 377 new pairs of shoes to area schoolchildren.

It is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize the H. E. Douglas, Sr. Memorial New Shoes for Little Feet Foundation. It is the dedication that is personified by this organization that makes us certain that the future is bright for our nation and for our communities.

THE FRED F. HOLMES AWARD

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the Fred F. Holmes award was established by the Veterans' Council of North Attleboro, Massachusetts, to recognize individuals who have had a positive effect on the lives of local veterans. On November 11, 2005, Veterans Day, it was my great pleasure to attend a ceremony honoring this year's recipient of the Holmes award, Mr. Joseph K. "Joey Irish" Clougherty.

Mr. Clougherty was born in Brookline, Massachusetts, in 1948. His family settled in South Boston, where he graduated from high school in 1966.

Mr. Clougherty enlisted in the United States Army in May 1967, and arrived in Vietnam later that November. Mr. Clougherty spent a year in Vietnam as part of the 5th Light Equipment Maintenance Company Long Binh and Headquarters Co. 185th Heavy Equipment Maintenance Battalion. After extending his stay in Vietnam for a total of twenty months, Mr. Clougherty returned to make his home in Dorchester, Massachusetts.

Mr. Clougherty spent ten years of service in the City of Boston Department of Public Works and Fire Department before eventually settling down in North Attleboro. Since 1995, Joe has served as the North Attleboro Assistant Veterans Agent, solving problems for the entire veteran community and their families.

Those who know Joe know he is a man of great compassion and loyalty, with an endless capacity for assisting those in need. This dedication is exemplified by the tremendous counseling and supportive services he has provided to the over 2,200 veterans of North Attleboro over the past decade.

The citizens of North Attleboro, and especially its veterans, are fortunate to have a person like Joe Clougherty in their midst. I know all my colleagues will join me in offering Mr. Clougherty our deep gratitude and heartfelt

congratulations as this year's recipient of the Fred F. Holmes award.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PASTOR ADRIAN ROGERS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the Lord knew what he was doing when he sent us Adrian Rogers. And we're so very thankful for that gift.

Dr. Rogers lived a life of service. He lived a life of grace. And we cannot help but be inspired by his accomplishments. For 32 years he preached a message of love, hope, and salvation. His inspirational leadership was on display each Sunday as anyone of the 30,000 Bellevue Baptist Church members can tell you.

Dr. Rogers not only reached out into his community, he reached out across America and this world to spread God's message. His years at Bellevue spreading the Word to millions through his Love Worth Finding ministry and his leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention will be remembered in the lives he changed and the example he set.

He was a great, great shepherd and a humble servant.

Regardless of the titles and leadership positions, we all know that Pastor Rogers was most proud to be a loving husband, father, and grandfather. On this day our prayers are with his family whom he loved so much. We thank the Rogers family for sharing him with us for all these years.

We will miss Pastor Rogers but we are grateful for his life. I rise today to mark the passing and recognize the service of a beloved Tennessean.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3058

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I support the Conference Committee Report on the Transportation, Treasury, HUD, Judiciary Appropriations Act 2006, which provides essential funding for important infrastructure projects in Oregon and the rest of the nation. The bill provides \$18 million to complete the Interstate MAX light rail project, which has been an incredible success in North Portland. Additionally, \$15 million for a commuter rail project between Wilsonville and Beaverton will provide further transportation alternatives in the region and anchor important development projects in each of these suburban cities.

I was heartened to see the \$1.3 billion set aside for Amtrak. I am concerned, however, that the bill separates Amtrak's operations funding from its capital funding, essentially allowing the Department of Transportation to serve as a steward for Amtrak's capital money, handing out grants for approved projects. I am wary of this being yet another attempt by the administration to dismantle America's passenger rail system.

I am relieved to see that the Conference Committee did not eliminate funding for valuable for HUD programs such as Community Development Block Grants and the HOPE VI program. I am concerned, however, that many of these programs continue to be underfunded. The many individuals and families displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita will increase demand for these valuable programs.

Despite these faults, the bill will fund important infrastructure improvements, create jobs, and make our communities safer, healthier and more economically secure.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4241, the Reconciliation Spending Cuts. This bill attempts to reduce the Republican-created budget deficit on the backs of those who can least afford it. H.R. 4241 does not reflect the values of Rhode Islanders and it takes from the poor to give tax cuts to the rich. As early as tomorrow, the same people who are voting to cut Medicaid, student loans, and food stamps will offer \$57 billion in additional tax cuts for the richest Americans.

While Republicans claim this bill is necessary to offset the costs incurred by Hurricane Katrina, their actions do not match their words. Months before Hurricane Katrina struck, Republicans in the House voted for a budget that cut \$15 billion more than the bill we are voting on today. The programs the Republicans are attempting to cut, like Medicaid and food stamps, are the very programs that benefit those who have been affected by the hurricanes. Not a single dollar cut in H.R. 4241 will actually go towards offsetting hurricane costs and reducing the deficit. Instead, today's cuts will fund the upcoming tax cut, but in typical Republican fashion, the spending cuts won't even cover the entire cost of the tax cuts they have planned.

While I am disappointed that we are voting on this bill at all, I am especially upset by a few specific provisions. First, this budget reconciliation will have a devastating impact on millions of low-income seniors, children, and people with disabilities across the country. This bill proposes billions in cuts to Medicaid, and Rhode Island alone will lose more than \$66 million. Ultimately, these cuts are paid for by raising prices for those on Medicaid. Imposing cost sharing requirements on people who simply can't afford them will not save money. Instead, these cuts will result in patients waiting longer to seek care, longer lines in our emergency rooms, and greater burdens on doctors and hospitals, who will struggle to provide for this population. In the end, we will all pay for this mistake in some form. The Medicaid program provides access to health services for more than 51 million Americans—most of whom are among the most vulnerable members of our society. Now is the time to strengthen America's safety net, not weaken it with arbitrary and harmful cuts.

I am also appalled by the message this bill sends to the millions of American students

who rely on financial aid and federal student loan programs to gain access to higher education. By cutting spending on student loan programs by more than \$10 billion, we are renegeing on a commitment to these young Americans. At a time when college costs are rising faster than inflation, the bill proposes the largest cut in the history of the student loan programs.

Food stamps are an important layer of protection to ensure the very poor are able to feed themselves and their families, the most basic necessity. However, today's bill will reduce food stamp assistance by approximately \$800 million over five years, and more than 200,000 people will lose their eligibility.

I am pleased to see that Republicans have removed the provision permitting drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. However, this was not a response to the public's overwhelming opposition to ruining this pristine wilderness area. Rather, it is a cynical ploy to gain a few votes from Members who would not otherwise vote for this bill.

I have outlined only a few of the many reasons every Member should oppose this legislation. So many of its other cuts would have negative impacts on our communities, such as reduced child support enforcement, which means more than \$50 million in lower payments for Rhode Island's single parents.

If Republicans want a balanced budget, which this bill does not even begin to provide, they should learn from the past and reinstate what works: PAYGO budget rules and responsible tax and spending policies. Together, America can do better. We should be working together to address true priorities, like access to health care and soaring energy prices. I urge my colleagues to reject this travesty and instead focus on meaningful deficit reduction based on fairness and shared sacrifice.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COLONY,
TX, FOR HOSTING THE WALL
THAT HEALS EXHIBIT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Colony, TX, for hosting the moving exhibit The Wall That Heals, honoring the 58,349 fallen soldiers of the Vietnam War who paid the ultimate price in service to our country. The exhibition features a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC.

"Bringing The Wall Home" to communities throughout our country allows the souls enshrined on the memorial to exist, once more, among family and friends in the peace and comfort of familiar surroundings. The traveling exhibit, known as The Wall That Heals, allows the many thousands of veterans who have been unable to cope with the prospect of "facing The Wall" to find the strength and courage to do so within their own communities, thus allowing the healing process to begin.

The Wall That Heals also features a Traveling Museum and Information Center providing a comprehensive educational component to enrich and complete visitors' experiences. The museum chronicles the Vietnam War era and the unique healing power of the

Vietnam Veterans Memorial, while the information center serves as a venue for people to learn about friends and loved ones lost in the war.

It is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize The Colony for hosting The Wall That Heals. I am proud to represent a city dedicated to promoting education about the impact of the Vietnam War.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN LEE

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note with sadness the passing of John Lee of Attleboro, MA. Mr. Lee died on October 22 at the age of 85.

John Lee was an academic and athletic star at Attleboro High School and later at Providence College. After serving his country in World War II as a captain in the Army Air Corps, he returned home to establish a successful, 53-year law practice. A towering pillar of his community, John Lee served as Attleboro city solicitor, legal counsel to the towns of Plainville and West Bridgewater and the Norton, Foxboro and Seekonk School Departments. He also served as a member of the Attleboro School Committee.

As Plainville Selectwoman Andrea Soucy recently said, Mr. Lee was not only a brilliant lawyer, but also a person of the highest character. "He had tremendous integrity. He had the highest of ethics. He was very, very special," Ms. Soucy said.

In addition to his beloved wife Muriel, Mr. Lee is survived by 7 of his children and 16 grandchildren. Mr. Lee could always be seen at his grandchildren's games and activities.

John Lee represented the very best of citizenship, honor and integrity. I know that all of my colleagues in the House join me in sending our condolences to Muriel, the entire Lee family and all of those who knew and loved him.

HONORING THE 278TH REGIMENTAL
COMBAT TEAM OF THE
TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, few words sound as good as "welcome home."

This is especially true for our men and women in uniform returning from the Middle East where they've been battling terrorism.

In Tennessee we're celebrating the return of our State's 278th Regimental Combat Team. We couldn't be prouder of them, and we want them to know how grateful we are.

Their service and dedication should inspire us all. They placed others above themselves. They fought not to conquer but to free. They fought to put right a terrible evil in this world. They fought so that others might know hope and freedom.

And they fought so that future generations of Americans would not have to live with the terror that we know all too well.

Their deeds placed them among the elite few in American history—in world history.

As Tennesseans, we know the separation has been rough and the days have seemed longer with them so far from us.

Their return has answered our prayers and we're so glad to have them back where they belong.

We are proud of the brave and noble thing they have done for us, and for our country. And we can't thank them enough. We will never forget those 10 among them who aren't returning, those 10 who made the ultimate sacrifice. They will live on in the freedom they've helped preserve. Their families and friends are in our thoughts and prayers.

From a grateful, grateful Nation we salute them, and we salute their families.

God Bless America and our 278th.

NORTH AMERICAN POLLINATOR
PROTECTION CAMPAIGN

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank certain organizations and individuals for their outstanding work on the important, but often overlooked, issue of pollinators. As you know, pollinators are vital to food and medicine production, and their irreplaceable ecosystem services and declining populations merit attention and protection.

I am happy to say that significant progress is being made. On October 21, the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign, NAPPC, signed a joint memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The agreement proposes protecting pollinators on the nearly 100 million acres of habitat over which the Fish and Wildlife Service has jurisdiction. These lands, combined with another 200 million acres protected by the U.S. Forest Service, attest to the growing momentum behind this issue.

The successes of these organizations are impressive and encouraging, as is the dedication of certain individuals. On October 20, four such individuals were awarded the First Annual NAPPC Pollinator Advocate Award.

Don Pedro Cahun Uh, of Mexico, was recognized for his outstanding efforts to preserve not only traditional Mayan culture, but also the declining populations of the Yucatan Peninsula's native stingless bees.

Dale Bosworth, chief of the USDA Forest Service, pioneered pollinator awareness among U.S. Government agencies and paved the way for the protection of native plants and their pollinators on almost 200 million acres of land.

Bruce Knight, chief of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, exhibited exemplary leadership in the creation of a highly successful pollinator habitat program.

Ron Krystynak, of the Canadian Embassy, was recognized for taking a lead role in North American pollinator conservation, and for his holistic approach to sustainable agriculture and ecology.

These individuals represent a variety of perspectives and a singularly effective leadership on this issue. Their achievements will carry us closer to the goal of sustainable ecosystems and communities.