

Our budget is a reflection of our values and priorities. Our seniors deserve the very best from us, and it is incumbent upon us to keep them in mind when determining our budget allocations.

SALUTING THE BRAVERY OF BORDER PATROL AGENTS

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to salute the bravery of Border Patrol agents working along the Mexican border. I recently returned from a week-long trip to the Mexican-California border, where I had the opportunity to ride along with our Border Patrol agents.

I was impressed by the bravery of the Border Patrol agents who escorted me. We personally saw a Border Patrol supervisor pull an illegal alien off a 10-foot wall and arrest him despite his violent attempts to resist arrest. I witnessed another Border Patrol agent scale a 5,000-foot mountain at 2 in the morning in freezing 30-degree weather and single-handedly arrest and handcuff eight illegal aliens.

The Border Patrol agent I rode with told me that he had been shot at on several occasions. Twenty-three of his colleagues have been killed in the line of duty since 1990. For example, Border Patrol agents Susan Rodriguez and Ricardo Salinas were gunned down by a murder suspect. Agent Jefferson Barr was shot to death by a drug trafficker.

I have a message for these brave Border Patrol agents: the U.S. Congress knows you are there. We appreciate your service, and help is on the way.

CONGRATULATING THE NCAA FOOTBALL CHAMPION TEXAS LONGHORNS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for the second time in a row, the University of Texas has won the Rose Bowl. By any definition, the 2006 victory was a classic and made the Longhorns the national champions.

Led by quarterback Vince Young, the Longhorns fought their way to a stunning 41-38 victory over the top-ranked University of Southern California Trojans.

Vince Young ran for 200 yards, passed for 267 and scored the winning touchdown with 19 seconds left on the clock. It does not get much better than that, which is why Vince Young won the Most Valuable Player trophy.

UT Coach Mack Brown and the entire Longhorn football team have a special place deep in the hearts of all Texans. Through hard work, determination and teamwork, the Longhorns beat the odds and became an example for all of us of what sportsmanship really means.

Today, appropriately, the Longhorns were honored at the White House by

President and Texan George Bush. Please join me in congratulating the Longhorns on their championship season. Hook 'Em Horns.

OLYMPIAN AND TEXAN CHAD HEDRICK

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, there is a Texas-sized force to be reckoned with in Italy. Chad Hedrick, the 28-year-old former inline skating icon from Spring, Texas, is speed skating his way to victory.

In the first day of Olympic competition, he has already garnered gold, the first for him and the United States in these Olympics. Chad's love for skating started at age 2 in roller skates at his parents' roller skating rink in Spring, Texas.

He grew up and became one of the world's most famous inline skaters, but he switched to speed skating only 4 years ago. Chad Hedrick is a contender for four more medals in the games in Italy, and he is off to a spectacular start.

Although the rink and the type of skates have changed, this hometown hero's passion and talents have only gotten stronger throughout the years, and his passion was shown when he became teary eyed when the Star Spangled Banner played as he was awarded the gold medal.

The entire State of Texas and the Nation congratulate Chad on this astounding accomplishment, and we will be cheering for him for the remainder of the games. As we say in Texas, get 'er done, Chad. And that's the way it is.

CUTS TO ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise because I am deeply concerned with respect to the President's budget, his proposed cuts to women and children. In particular, the budget of fiscal year 2007 fails on all accounts and provides insufficient funding for our Nation's greatest investment, its children.

Domestic programs, as we know, are vital to women and children, particularly the WIC program, which will see its funding decline by almost \$5 billion over the next 5 years. For low-income families who rely solely on WIC to feed their children and keep them healthy, these cuts are simply unacceptable.

We will see a continued rise in poverty and food shortage among these families. The President's budget is also hurting women who work to provide for their families by cutting back on their health care.

Despite the huge budget cuts made already to the Medicaid program in the budget reconciliation bill, the President proposes to slash another \$17 bil-

lion over the next 5 years. Medicaid, as many of you know, helps women and children, the most vulnerable in our population. I urge the Congress to reject this morally irresponsible budget.

MORAL SECURITY

(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, our constituents expect us to not only guard the economic and national security of this Nation; they expect us to preserve the moral security that has made this Nation great. Just the other day, I had the chance to deliver the keynote address at an event for the Tennessee Boy Scouts.

Mr. Speaker, in this job we do as Members of Congress, there are times when you speak to a group and you can just feel that they are doing the right things. The Boy Scouts fit in that category. They are teaching our boys what it means to serve their community.

We are a Nation built on shared moral values. Families across the country know that our communities are strong and that this country is strong when those values are respected and protected and preserved for future generations. House Republicans know this, and we will be working here each and every day to protect this Nation's security.

STUDENT AID

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

Mr. DOGGETT. I have just returned from a joyful celebration at the White House, not one about red or blue States, but about burnt orange, branded into the pages of sports history.

As much as all of us can come together to celebrate the dramatic UT National Championship, I think that supporting Longhorns and supporting university students means much more. It means providing a Federal financial commitment to our students to let them achieve their individual greatness.

When qualified students cannot afford to attend a university, all of us lose. This President's budget, as far as I can tell, is one big fumble. Because once again, added on top of the \$12 billion that Republicans have just cut in Federal student financial assistance, are additional cuts to Perkins loans and to GEAR UP for those who are trying to get into college.

For the students that I represent at the University of Texas-Pan American, who already face big financial challenges, this burden is going to be a great one. One in four of the students have dependent children and more than 75 percent are first-generation students. I hope that we can make substantial changes and show a real commitment to Longhorns and students everywhere.