

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, Monday marked the cut-off date for all seniors to sign up for the new Medicare prescription drug plan. And I am happy to announce that more than 38 million seniors, representing more than 90 percent of all seniors on Medicare, now have coverage for prescription drugs.

We created this program because seniors were having to choose between their prescriptions and paying their bills, and now they do not have to make those sacrifices to get the medicines that they need.

I also want to take a moment to thank the countless organizations who helped them and made sure that they signed up for the right plan. They walked them through the process, and I applaud them for that. It was very helpful. And, again, now more than 38 million seniors have coverage for prescription drugs. They have it because we made a promise, and we kept it.

#### DARFUR, SUDAN

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a tragedy of the highest magnitude exists in Darfur in Sudan, Africa.

Mr. Speaker, over 450,000 have died; 2.5 million have been displaced internally; 200,000 have fled to Chad; 3 million, Mr. Speaker, are living on emergency aid.

Mr. Speaker, this tragedy exists for two reasons: One, people of ill will, the actions of these people of ill will; and two, the inactions of people of goodwill.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for people of goodwill to take a stand and realize that injustice anywhere, as Dr. King put it, is a threat to justice everywhere. And injustice in Sudan in Africa is a threat to justice in America.

#### BORDER 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, the American people have reached a consensus on the border security issue; so I find it very hard to understand why we here in Washington are having trouble doing the same.

Outside the Beltway people think it is perfectly reasonable to build a wall to protect the border. They do not see a problem with installing surveillance technology to monitor the border. They do not support amnesty.

It is only here where the pundits rule, and in the New York newsrooms, that we see such hand wringing on the border security issue. An op-ed in The Washington Post called people concerned about illegal immigration "nativists." Apparently, worrying about border security and the rule of law

makes one a nativist. I find that it is a sad statement on the attitude of those opposed to beefing up our border security.

I ask my colleagues to join me to look past the pundits, past the liberal editorial pages, and do what the vast majority of Americans want done: Secure the border and do it without amnesty.

#### REPUBLICAN BUDGET INCREASES DEBT WITH NO PLAN TO BALANCE BUDGET

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

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, 6 years ago our Nation was in a secure financial position. We had a balanced budget, a pay-as-you-go system for funding government programs, and a record surplus of \$5.6 trillion.

Now after years of imposing their reckless fiscal policies on this country, the administration and Congress have squandered our reserves, and their policies have created a record \$3.2 trillion debt.

Not only that, but under this watch the cost of living for average Americans has gone up significantly. In just the last few years alone, gas prices have reached \$3 a gallon, fuel costs for farmers have gone up 113 percent, and the interest rate has risen more than 16 times.

But just when you think things cannot get any worse, the leaders of this body put forward a shameful budget resolution that makes no attempt to bring our Nation's finances back into balance. Instead, their irresponsible fiscal record continues full steam ahead. The proposed 2007 budget will increase the deficit even further with no plan to ever return to balance in the future.

Mr. Speaker, this budget resolution may be more of the same, but Americans know it is time for change.

#### IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. House last year in December did the right thing and passed a strong immigration reform bill that increases border security and takes amnesty off the table.

Now it is time for the Senate to respond to the growing problem of illegal immigration and do what is best for legal immigrants and citizens of this country.

I am encouraged by President Bush's plan to increase our security by positioning National Guard troops on our southern border. This will provide essential, but temporary, security along our porous and vulnerable borders.

However, the better alternative is to enact a comprehensive border security program like the House bill by con-

structing fences, bolstering our Border Patrols, and improving our surveillance capabilities.

Additionally, a guest worker program is nothing more than amnesty wearing makeup. It is easier to look at, but it is still ugly underneath. The simple truth is that if you break the law to come to this country, you will not respect it once you are here.

#### STROKE AWARENESS MONTH/STOP STROKE ACT

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to remind my colleagues today that May is Stroke Awareness Month.

Throughout this month we recognize the millions of Americans struggling with the effects of stroke, and we recommit ourselves to helping them. We also acknowledge the efforts of organizations, like the American Stroke Association, which provide leadership, helping all of us to prevent and treat stroke.

On average every 45 seconds, someone in the United States has a stroke, and someone dies from stroke every 3 minutes. Representative PICKERING and I have introduced the Stroke Treatment and Ongoing Prevention Stroke Act, H.R. 898, the STOP Stroke Act, which now has the support of 132 of our colleagues. This legislation will increase awareness, provide critical resources to implement stroke care systems. The legislation will help ensure that patients recognize the symptoms of stroke and treat it as a medical emergency. We want to ensure that hospitals and other health care providers provide timely, lifesaving treatment that reduces disability from stroke and the need for extensive rehabilitation.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and all efforts which address the scourge of stroke.

#### HYPOCRISY HAS CROSSED THE BORDER

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, hypocrisy has crossed the border. Mexico has its own serious illegal immigration problem. Hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants are coming across Mexico's southern border from Guatemala and other Central American countries.

What do Mexico's politicians say about it? They say these illegals are overcrowding Mexico's hospitals and schools. They say they are taking away jobs from Mexican citizens. They say it poses a security threat to Mexico.

In other words, they sound like the Minutemen.

What did Mexico do about it? Did they put out a welcome mat? Did they grant everyone citizenship? No. They got tough. Mexico put their military at the southern border to stop illegals.

Mexico deported 250,000 illegals last year. And Mexico criminalized illegal immigration, making it a felony punishable by 2 years in prison.

Now Mexico hypocritically criticizes our having National Guard troops on the border.

We have a saying in this country: Actions speak louder than words.

#### THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the do-nothing Congress is in session today to enact a sham budget.

Let me explain why I say that. There is a provision in that budget which raises the debt limit. Now, if you are balancing the budget, why are you implying you are going to go out and borrow more money? If one of your children said, "Well, Dad, I am making \$40,000 this year, but my wife and I have decided to take \$100,000 in a home equity loan so we can pay for whatever we want," you would tell your son or your daughter that was fiscally irresponsible.

What the Republicans are doing is borrowing more than \$300 billion from the Chinese, the Japanese, and anybody else who will give us money, and they are giving it in a tax cut to the people earning \$1 million a year. They are going to get over \$100,000 back from the borrowing. That is what this budget really does. It is a sham. It doesn't balance anything, and it should be rejected, both by the Congress and the people on election day in November.

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#### CONGRATULATING MARIETTA HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marietta High School in Cobb County, Georgia, on an outstanding accomplishment.

This past week, Marietta High School was honored as one of the top 5 percent of all high schools in America by Newsweek magazine. The magazine praised the school's commitment to student achievement and noted the high number of advanced placement and international baccalaureate students at Marietta.

When I served as chairman of the Marietta City School Board, I was always impressed by the school's deep commitment to student achievement. This award is certainly well deserved.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Principal Leigh Colburn, Assistant Principal Donna Thornton and all the faculty and staff at Marietta High School. They are doing an incredible job educating our children, and I

should know. After all, I am the proud parent of four former Marietta High School students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in congratulating Marietta High School on this impressive achievement, and in thanking the school for its dedication to developing the minds of our community's rising leaders.

#### HOUSE REPUBLICANS NEED TO STAND UP TO BUSH ADMINISTRATION AND HELP AMERICA'S SENIORS

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

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans have failed millions of American seniors by choosing once again to rubber-stamp the harmful policy of the Bush administration. Despite the fact that recent polls show only 55 percent of seniors knew about the May 15 sign-up deadline for a private prescription drug plan, House Republicans refused to join us in extending the deadline until the end of the year.

Now, millions of seniors who have yet to sign up cannot until the end of the year. House Republicans and the Bush administration will also penalize them when they sign up with at least a 7 percent tax on their premium, a tax that they will be forced to pay every month for the rest of their lives.

Our seniors are not to blame for this complicated and confusing prescription drug law. It is so confusing that the people who are attempting to answer the seniors' questions about the different plans are giving out wrong information more than half of the time.

Once again, the House Republicans have failed American seniors.

#### PROPOSED BUDGET REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO FISCAL DISCIPLINE AND REFORM

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, with record deficits and national debt, today the House of Representatives will take on one of our most important duties every year. We will consider a budget resolution.

Thanks to the leadership of Speaker DENNIS HASTERT, we will be bringing a budget to the floor that will reaffirm our commitment to fiscal discipline and reform. By holding the line on the President's number on domestic spending and by including a rainy day fund for the first time ever, Republicans will say to millions of Americans, troubled by a sea of red ink, we hear you and this Republican Congress is ready to make the hard choices to put our fiscal house in order.

I urge all of my colleagues to stand together today, Republicans and even

Democrats, to support this budget resolution.

#### PROPOSED BUDGET A FISCAL CATASTROPHE

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

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, the preceding 1 minute could not have been more false. Today's budget raises the debt limit again, today's budget will add deficits in each of the years of its operation, today's budget will bring the national debt to \$9.6 trillion, and to hear words on the floor of this House about this being a budget of fiscal discipline, this being a budget responding to the concerns of taxpayers worried about red ink, that is pure unadulterated hooey.

This budget is a fiscal catastrophe. It raises the debt limit in May, just after we raised the debt limit in March.

Anyone thinking that the Nation's finances have spun completely under control under the consolidated power of this administration and this Republican Congress needs only to look at this budget and only needs to look at the fact that they are back at the bank one more time, raising the debt limit, to understand the deep trouble that we are in.

#### THE BENEFITS OF THE MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I am excited about the benefits of the Medicare D prescription drug plan. I have two stories I would like to relate to you and to my colleagues.

I have one lady who is saving \$24,000 a year by now taking part in Medicare part D. For the first time in years, she now is back on the road driving because she couldn't afford to buy automobile insurance. So not only is she saving money, but she is now free again to take part in activities that she for so long put aside.

Another HIV-positive disabled individual is saving \$15,000 a year accessing the Medicare D prescription drug plan.

So it is a plan that is working. For those that did not sign up, I would encourage our seniors to continue to investigate it. At the most, it will be an additional \$25 premium if they sign up in May. And if you are low income, there is never a penalty. Low-income seniors who take access even now will never pay a Medicare D prescription drug penalty, because the program was designed for the poorest of all seniors so they wouldn't have to make a choice between food and prescription drugs.