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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 12, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT B. ADERHOLT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

TRADE DEFICIT AND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to talk about a statistic that came out last week that says a lot about the direction of the United States of America, and that was the trade deficit for April. That is the deficit between what the United States exported and what we imported from overseas. Essentially, when we run a deficit, we are borrowing money to buy things that are made overseas. That has long-term implications in terms of U.S. indebtedness to foreign nations, particularly China which is growing more rapidly than our debt to any other nation, and the loss of the jobs that comes from that. The trade deficit for April was 63.4 billion jobs.

Now, the Commerce Department, the Bush Commerce Department likes to tout our trade policy and talk about how it creates jobs, and they say for every billion dollars of trade, you create 20,000 jobs. Well, if you are running a deficit, then that must mean you are running a negative number in terms of the creation of jobs. In this case, that would be about 12 million jobs lost in 1 month's trade deficit. Three million of those are manufacturing jobs. We are outsourcing all of the United States industrial base to China. That also has national security along with economic implications in the future. But down at the Bush White House and at the Bush Commerce Department and the Bush appointees at the Federal Reserve, they say this is great. It shows how strong our economy is that the world is willing to finance our borrowing to buy things that they make that we used to make that we don't make anymore.

Now, what world do they live in? Americans are losing jobs. Wages are being driven down. They think that is good actually. The President did have an economic adviser last year who said the exported jobs was just the greatest new manifestation of the benefits of trade, outsourcing of jobs. So they are totally sanguine about a $63.4 billion trade deficit, about the fact that we are borrowing $2 billion a day from foreign countries to buy things made elsewhere in the world. That is not a sustainable model. It now exceeds over 6 percent of our total gross domestic product. That is worse than Argentina before they collapsed in a heap a few years ago. This is not sustainable. It is ultimately going to lead to a crash in the dollar and a huge run-up in interest rates here in the United States that make the Jimmy Carter interest rates of 16 and 17 percent look like a bargain.

But the Bush administration says, no, it is working just fine. It is working just fine for a bunch of corporate CEOs and a few boards of directors and other preferred people in this country. It is not working well for American workers, and the American consumers are getting a Faustian bargain here. We may see some cheaper prices in the short term, but long term things are going to get much more expensive.

It also reflects a failed or, let us say, a lack of any energy policy on the part of the United States of America. $24 billion of the April deficit was due to oil imports. So while we fund Saudi Arabia and other countries that harbor and have harbored and created terrorists that attack the United States of America with billions of dollars every month, the Bush administration, totally enthralled to Big Oil, wants to continue to just say, no, let the markets, let Big Oil solve our energy problems. After all, they are making a pile of money. ExxonMobil made $100 million a day last year. Things are working really well in the energy markets. Yet, if we look a little south to Brazil, 30 years ago when there was an oil crisis, Brazil said they were going to become energy independent, and they have. If the people of Brazil can become energy independent, I believe the people of America could if we were well led, if we had an energy policy that determined to lead us toward energy independence instead of being in hock to Big Oil and OPEC and Saudi Arabia and other hostile interests around the world.

We could do much better for ourselves and we could have long-term stable and more affordable energy, but it is going to require an investment. It is also going to require standing up to Big Oil. Short term, we have got to take on the price gouging and the profits and the manipulation of markets by

Big Oil and bring the price down while we transition to a more sustainable model, and then we have got to invest in the new technologies that will lead us to energy independence and efficiency.

But, sadly, the Republican majority and the Bush White House have no interest in taking America in that direction. The petroleum industry is a very, very generous campaign contributor. Eighty-five percent of their massive contributions out of that obscene profit flowed to the Republican Party and the Bush White House last year, and they are not going to take them on. Well, we should take them on for the interest of America and the American people. And I tell you, this is one Member, and I believe there are other Members on this side and even a few on that side who are willing to take them on. We have to deal with the trade deficit, and part of that is getting a sustainable energy policy.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Alan N. Keiran, Chief of Staff, Office of the Senate Chaplain, offered the following prayer:

Eternal Father, creator of the universe, we come to You today believing that You hear our prayers and are concerned about the details of our lives. We thank You, O God, for the right to lift up Your holy name in this setting.

Today we not only seek blessings from Your omnipotent hands, we seek to honor You in thought, word and deed.

As we open this legislative week, we ask that Your sovereign presence fill this Chamber and equip the Members of this august body with wisdom beyond their years, courage to do great things, and a deep sense of satisfaction in honorably serving our Nation.

Grant each Member good health, vibrant faith and hope that their tireless labors will one day achieve a grand purpose.

Bless their families, especially those battling illness. Bless their staff members as they labor long hours far from home. Bless those who so willingly protect and support all who serve on Capitol Hill. And, Dear Lord, bless our Nation's noble warriors and their leaders at home and abroad, on land, at sea, and in the air.

I pray in the name that is above all names. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the whole number of the House is adjusted to 432.

MATRICULA CONSULAR CARD

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, when Generalissimo Fox leaves office this year, the illegal Mexican citizens in America better hope they find someone who cares as much about them as he does. Since the Sly Fox cannot take care of his own people, he makes his problem our problem.

He has encouraged their careers by sending them north to the United States so they can have a career; and when they had no ID in our foreign land, his answer, the matricula consular card, a Mexican ID card for illegals in the United States.

Then this Fox of Mexico started creating a vast network of American businesses and banks that will accept these cards so his illegals can open up a U.S. bank account and wire money home, that is right, back to Mexico.

Ironically, even Mexican banks do not accept this matricula card. But U.S. banks do, and they help illegal immigrants send home more than $12 billion every year, money that the United States Government ought to consider charging a 10 percent fee on, keep some of that money in America.

Mr. Speaker, be that as it may, the banks and businesses that do this are doing nothing more than encouraging illegal entry into the United States.

The Mexican Government may be controlling the United States immigration policy. In fact, since they are issuing IDs for people in our country from their country and making sure it is accepted, it is just like American Express, the matricula card is everywhere you want to be, without that yearly fee.

That's just the way it is.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

AMENDING RECLAMATION PROJECTS AUTHORIZATION AND ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1992

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4013) to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to provide for conjunctive use of surface and groundwater in Juab County, Utah.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4013

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONJUNCTIVE USE OF SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER IN JUAB COUNTY, UTAH.

Section 202(a)(2) of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–575) is amended by inserting ''Juab,'' after ''Davis,''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4013, introduced by Congressman CHRIS CANNON, allows Juab County in Utah to become eligible for specific water supply funding under the Central Utah Project.

Currently, there are five counties in the State that are eligible to receive such funding, and this legislation adds Juab to this list. Water is scarce in southern Utah, and allowing Juab County to receive these funds will help maximize surface water flows and groundwater sources through what is known in the water arena as conjunctive use.

This practice is commonly used in our parched Western States, and its popularity increases each year. I commend Mr. CANNON of Utah for introducing this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support this noncontroversial and timely bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. HERSETH asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the aisle support passage of H.R. 4013. This bill would provide the opportunity for conjunctive use of surface and groundwater in Juab County, Utah. The Central Utah Project, as it was originally planned, would have provided Juab County with sufficient water supplies.

However, this project has evolved over time; and under current plans, Central Utah Project water would not be available to east Juab County. The pending legislation resolves this issue and would provide the county with an opportunity to develop needed water resources.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4013.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 2005

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4162) to provide for an exchange of lands between the Secretary of Agriculture and the United Water Conservation District of California to eliminate certain private inholdings in the Los Padres National Forest, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4162

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Los Padres National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2005''.

SEC. 2. LAND EXCHANGE, LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST, CALIFORNIA.

(a) EXCHANGE REQUIRED.—If the United Water Conservation District of California (in this section referred to as the ''District'') conveys to the Secretary of Agriculture all right, title, and interest of the District in and to the lands described in subsection (b), the Secretary shall convey to the District, in exchange for such lands, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the National Forest System lands described in subsection (c). The conveyance of National Forest System lands under this section shall be subject to valid existing rights and to such terms, conditions, and reservations as may be required by this section or considered necessary by the Secretary.

(b) LANDS TO BE CONVEYED BY DISTRICT.—The lands to be conveyed by the District under subsection (a) consist of approximately 340 acres located within township 5 north, range 18 west, San Bernardino base and meridian and are more fully described as follows:

(1) ''Tract A''—SE1/4NE1/4 of section 16 (approximately 40 acres).

(2) ''Tract B''—NE1/4SE1/4 of section 16 (approximately 40 acres).

(3) ''Tract C''—S1/2SE1/4 of section 16 (approximately 80 acres).

(4) ''Tract D''—NE1/4 of section 21 (approximately 160 acres).

(5) ''Tract E''—N1/2SW1/4SW1/4 of section 15 (approximately 20 acres).

(c) LANDS TO BE CONVEYED BY SECRETARY.—The National Forest System lands to be conveyed by the Secretary under subsection (a) consist of approximately 440 acres located within township 5 north, range 18 west, San Bernardino base and meridian and are more fully described as follows:

(1) ''Tract 1''—E1/2SW1/4 of section 10 (approximately 80 acres).

(2) ''Tract 2''—NE1/4NW1/4 of section 15 (approximately 40 acres).

(3) ''Tract 3''—S1/2SW1/4SW1/4SE1/4 of section 15 (approximately 5 acres).

(4) ''Tract 4''—N1/2S1/2S1/2SE1/4 of section 15 (approximately 20 acres).

(5) ''Tract 5''—S1/2N1/2SW1/4SE1/4 of section 15 (approximately 10 acres).

(6) ''Tract 6''—N1/2NW1/4SW1/4SE1/4 of section 15 (approximately 5 acres).

(7) ''Tract 7''—SW1/4SE1/4 of section 15 (approximately 2.5 acres).

(8) ''Tract 8''—S1/2NW1/4SE1/4SE1/4 of section 15 (approximately 5 acres).

(9) ''Tract 9''—SW1/4NE1/4SE1/4SE1/4 of section 15 (approximately 2.5 acres).

(10) ''Tract 10''—W1/2W1/2NW1/4SE1/4 of section 15 (approximately 10 acres).

(11) ''Tract 11''—SE1/4SW1/4NW1/4SE1/4 of section 15 (approximately 2.5 acres).

(12) ''Tract 12''—SW1/4SE1/4NW1/4SE1/4 of section 15 (approximately 2.5 acres).

(13) ''Tract 13''—W1/2W1/2SW1/4NE1/4 of section 15 (approximately 10 acres).

(14) ''Tract 14''—SW1/4SW1/4NE1/4 of section 22 (approximately 10 acres).

(15) ''Tract 15''—NW1/4NW1/4NW1/4NE1/4 of section 22 (approximately 2.5 acres).

(16) ''Tract 16''—SW1/4NW1/4SW1/4NE1/4 of section 22 (approximately 2.5 acres).

(17) ''Tract 17''—W1/2NW1/4SE1/4 of section 22 (approximately 20 acres).

(18) ''Tract 18''—SW1/4SE1/4 of section 22 (approximately 40 acres).

(19) ''Tract 19''—E1/2SW1/4 of section 22 (approximately 80 acres).

(20) ''Tract 20''—N1/2NW1/4SW1/4 of section 22 (approximately 20 acres).

(21) ''Tract 21''—W1/2NE1/4 of section 27 (approximately 60 acres).

(22) ''Tract 22''—NE1/4SW1/4NW1/4 of section 27 (approximately 10 acres).

(d) MAPS AND CORRECTIONS AUTHORITY.—The lands to be exchanged under this section are depicted on maps entitled ''Los Padres National Forest Land Exchange'' and dated June 1, 2005. The maps shall be on file and available for public inspection in appropriate offices of the Forest Service until completion of the land exchange. By mutual agreement, the Secretary and the District may adjust the legal descriptions specified in subsections (b) and (c) and the boundaries depicted on the maps based upon survey or a determination that a modification would be in the public interest to correct errors or make minor adjustments in the lands to be exchanged under this section.

(e) PROCESSING OF LAND EXCHANGE.—

(1) EQUAL VALUE EXCHANGE.—The land exchange under this section shall be conducted on an equal value basis, as determined by the appraisal done in conformity with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Lands Standards for Acquisition and Forest Service appraisal instructions.

(2) TITLE STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall require that title to the District lands to be acquired by the Secretary under this section is in conformity with the title standards of the Attorney General.

(3) COMPLETION.—The Secretary shall endeavor to complete the land exchange under this section within one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) EASEMENTS AND ACCESS.—

(1) RESERVATION.—In the conveyance of the National Forest System lands under this section, the Secretary shall reserve easements for all roads and trails that the Secretary considers to be necessary or desirable to provide for administrative purposes and to ensure public access to National Forest System lands. In particular, the Secretary shall reserve perpetual unrestricted rights of pedestrian and equestrian access over all existing roads and trails.

(2) CONSTRUCTION OF PARKING LOT.—As a condition on the receipt of National Forest System lands under this section, the District shall agree to construct a gravel parking area upon District lands to provide access to the Potholes trail of the Los Padres National Forest. The site design for the parking area shall be subject to the approval by the Secretary. The District may reasonably regulate vehicular access to the parking area in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated in accordance with applicable law.

(g) PARTIAL REVOCATION OF WITHDRAWALS.—The public lands withdrawals provided by the Act of May 29, 1928 (Chapter 868; 45 Stat. 956), Power Site Classification No. 414–USGS, June 22, 1951, FERC Power Project No. 2153, January 15, 1957, and Forest Service Land Order No. 3338, February 28, 1964, are hereby revoked insofar as they effect the National Forest System lands conveyed under this section.

(h) WATER RIGHTS.—The land exchange under this section does not include any water rights owned by the District or the United States.

(i) CASH EQUALIZATION.—

(1) LIMITS WAIVED.—The values of the lands to be exchanged under this section may be equalized through the payment of a cash equalization payment in an amount in excess of the statutory limit specified in section 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716).

(2) DISPOSITION AND USE OF FUNDS.—Any cash equalization payment received by the Secretary under this section shall be deposited into the fund established by Public Law 90–171 (commonly known as the Sisk Act; 16 U.S.C. 484a). The payment shall be available to the Secretary for expenditure, without further appropriation and until expended, for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of administrative or recreational facilities for the Los Padres National Forest in Ventura County, Santa Barbara County, and San Luis Obispo County, California, or for the acquisition of land or interests in land in such counties.

(j) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The costs of conducting the land exchange under this section shall be shared equally by the District and the Secretary. The costs to be shared include expenditures incurred for survey, mapping, appraisals, closing costs, recording fees, and similar expenditures, but do not include staff salaries, administrative overhead,

attorney fees, the cost of construction required by subsection (f)(2), or the costs to cure any title defects.

(k) EFFECT OF EXCHANGE; MANAGEMENT OF ACQUIRED LANDS.—For purposes of section 7 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601–9), the boundaries of the Los Padres National Forest, as adjusted as a result of the land exchange under this section, shall be considered to be the boundaries of that national forest as of January 1, 1965. The District lands acquired by the Secretary under this section shall be added to and administered as part of the Los Padres National Forest in accordance with the laws and regulations applicable to that national forest.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4162 would provide for the exchange of lands between the Los Padres National Forest in the State of California and the United Water Conservation District of California.

Mr. Speaker, the land exchange will eliminate some private inholdings within the national forest and would also aid the local water district by consolidating land it needs to more easily deliver water to its users.

More specifically, the conservation district would receive approximately 440 acres and the Los Padres National Forest would receive approximately 340 acres. The lands to be exchanged are of approximate equal value.

The amendment proposed deletes a portion of the bill concerning environmental analysis objected to by the minority. With this change there is no objection to the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this important noncontroversial legislation, which was considered by the House of Representatives during the 108th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. HERSETH asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) explained, H.R. 4162, the Los Padres National Forest Land Exchange Act, provides for the exchange of lands between the Secretary of Agriculture and the United Water Conservation District of California.

The legislation consolidates the land ownership surrounding Lake Piru in Congressman GALLEGLY's district.

We note with appreciation that the bill, as amended, does not include language that would have exempted this land exchange from the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Mr. Speaker, we have no objection to the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4162, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PACTOLA RESERVOIR REALLOCATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2006

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3967) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to reallocate costs of the Pactola Dam and Reservoir, South Dakota, to reflect increased demands for municipal, industrial, and fish and wildlife purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3967

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Pactola Reservoir Reallocation Authorization Act of 2006''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) it is appropriate to reallocate the costs of the Pactola Dam and Reservoir, South Dakota, to reflect increased demands for municipal, industrial, and fish and wildlife purposes; and

(2) section 302 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7152) prohibits such a reallocation of costs without congressional approval.

SEC. 3. REALLOCATION OF COSTS OF PACTOLA DAM AND RESERVOIR, SOUTH DAKOTA.

The Secretary of the Interior may, as provided in the contract of August 2001 entered into between Rapid City, South Dakota, and the Rapid Valley Conservancy District, reallocate, in a manner consistent with Federal reclamation law (the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093), and Acts supplemental to and amendatory of that Act (43 U.S.C. 371 et seq.)), the construction costs of Pactola Dam and Reservoir, Rapid Valley Unit, Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, South Dakota, from irrigation purposes to municipal, industrial, and fish and wildlife purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

□ 1415

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 3967, introduced by my colleague, Congresswoman STEPHANIE HERSETH of South Dakota, reallocates costs to the Pactola Dam and Reservoir to reflect growing municipal needs for water. As Rapid City, South Dakota's municipal water needs continue to grow and demand for local irrigation water continues to decrease, this legislation appropriately reallocates the costs associated with the change in water deliveries.

This bill is a win for the citizens of Rapid City and a win for the American taxpayer. I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. HERSETH asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, this is a very important bill for the district I represent. I certainly thank Mr. RENZI and the committee and subcommittee leadership on both sides of the aisle for their support of this important legislation.

H.R. 3967 shifts Pactola Reservoir water from declining irrigation use to municipal and industrial use where it is sorely needed. This legislation reflects an agreement reached by the Bureau of Reclamation, the local irrigation users and local municipal and industrial water users to adapt to the changing water needs of the larger Rapid City community.

I would like to thank Director Jabloski of the Rapid City Public Works and Rapid City Mayor Jim Shaw for their hard work on this issue. I am proud to sponsor and to support this legislation that will help satisfy the water needs of Rapid City's growing population.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I also want to commend my colleague from South Dakota for her leadership on this issue, particularly as water out in the West is such a valuable commodity.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the

rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3967, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE 17TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACRE IN TIANANMEN SQUARE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 794) recognizing the 17th anniversary of the massacre in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, in the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 794

Whereas freedom of expression, assembly, association, and religion are fundamental human rights that belong to all people and are recognized as such under the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

Whereas the demonstrations in Tiananmen Square were the manifestation of a peaceful democratic movement throughout China calling for the establishment of a dialogue with government and party leaders on democratic reforms, including freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, and the elimination of corruption;

Whereas on June 3–4, 1989, Chinese authorities ordered the People's Liberation Army and other security forces to use lethal force to disperse demonstrators in Beijing, especially around Tiananmen Square;

Whereas independent observers report that hundreds, perhaps thousands, were killed and wounded in 1989 by the People's Liberation Army soldiers and other security forces;

Whereas 20,000 people throughout China suspected of taking part in the democracy movement were arrested and sentenced without trial to prison or reeducation through labor, and many were reportedly tortured;

Whereas credible sources estimate that the Communist Government of China continues to imprison hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of Tiananmen Square activists, such as United States permanent resident Yang Jianli, and denies such activists their basic human rights;

Whereas the Communist Government of China undertakes active measures to deny its citizens the truth about the Tiananmen Square massacre, including the blocking of uncensored Internet sites and weblogs, and the placement of misleading information on the events of June 3–4, 1989 on Internet sites available in China, often with the collusion and cooperation of United States Internet companies such as Yahoo, Google, Microsoft, and Cisco;

Whereas the Communist Government of China continues to suppress dissent by imprisoning pro-democracy activists, lawyers, journalists, labor union leaders, religious believers, members of ethnic minority rights organizations, and other individuals in China and Tibet who seek to express their political or religious views in a peaceful manner;

Whereas the Communist Government of China kidnapped long-time democracy activist Dr. Wang Bingzhang, a United States permanent resident, and sentenced him to life imprisonment for espionage and terrorism;

Whereas the Communist Government of China continues its extraordinarily brutal persecution of the peaceful spiritual movement of Falun Gong;

Whereas the Communist Government of China continues its reprehensible policies of organ harvesting of executed prisoners; maintenance of hundreds, perhaps thousands of slave labor camps; coercive sterilization and forced abortions resulting in sex-selective abortions, female infanticide, and trafficking in persons; and forcible repatriation of thousands of refugees to North Korea to face persecution, imprisonment, and death in violation of its international commitments; and

Whereas June 4, 2006, is the 17th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses sympathy to the families of those killed, tortured, and imprisoned as a result of their participation in the democracy protests of June 3–4, 1989, in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, in the People's Republic of China, and to all those persons who have suffered for their efforts to keep that struggle alive during the past 17 years, and to all the people of China who lack fundamental human rights;

(2) commends all peaceful advocates for democracy and human rights in China;

(3) calls upon those nations planning to participate in the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing to insist that China comply with the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights; and

(4) condemns the ongoing and egregious human rights abuses by the Communist Government of China and calls on that Government to—

(A) release all prisoners of conscience, including those persons still in prison as a result of their participation in the peaceful pro-democracy protests of 1989 and put an immediate end to the harassment, detention, and imprisonment of all Chinese citizens exercising their legitimate freedoms of expression, association, and religion;

(B) end its censorship of legitimate free speech on the Internet, and its persecution of Internet dissidents;

(C) end its persecution of Falun Gong;

(D) end organ harvesting and ensure that its organ donor programs proceed only on a purely voluntary and non-commercial basis;

(E) end its coercive one-child policy;

(F) grant the United Nations High Commission on Refugees access to all refugees, and end forcible repatriations of refugees, particularly to North Korea;

(G) close its ''re-education through labor'' camps, respect the rights of workers, and end police detention without trial;

(H) release United States permanent resident Dr. Yang Jianli, a participant in the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989, who has been illegally detained by the Communist Government of China since April 26, 2002, and whose wife and two children are United States citizens; and

(I) release United States permanent resident Dr. Wang Bingzhang, long-time peaceful democracy activist, who was abducted in June 2002, and illegally imprisoned for life on false charges of espionage and terrorism, and whose sister, son, and daughter are United States citizens.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that every one of us remembers the events that occurred in Tiananmen Square on June 3 and June 4, 1989. We may be hazy on the dates, but the images are as fresh today as they were then. We all remember the Chinese version of the Statue of Liberty being erected by thousands of peaceful, well-behaved demonstrators, mostly students.

□ 1430

We remember peaceful protests in Beijing and throughout China calling for the establishment of a dialogue with the government and party leaders on democratic reforms, including freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, and respect for workers' rights and the elimination of corruption by government officials.

All over the Communist world, from Berlin to Beijing, there was a tremendous outpouring of hope that year, hope that freedom and democracy would soon triumph. Exhausted, obsolete, and morally bankrupt Communist regimes were turning on the people in the last desperate effort to retain their control and the enormous privileges such control gave them and to the party elites.

Later that year, the Berlin Wall, symbol of the physical, mental, and moral prisons that held over a billion people in chains, fell. We all remember the incredible joy felt throughout the world when this happened.

Also burned for all time in our memory is the image of the lone protestor on Tiananmen Square who held up the tanks sent to crush the demonstrators. Yet we also remember that the police grabbed that heroic figure and swept him away, like so many others, to an unknown fate. Those tanks, under orders of the Communist government of China, then crushed under their treads the movement for democracy in China. The Communist government killed, tortured and imprisoned thousands for daring to question its illegal monopoly on power. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, are still imprisoned and persecuted for exercising the rights guaranteed to them by their Constitution and the rules of all civilized societies. While millions in Europe now enjoy freedom, that right is still denied to Chinese people.

Right after Tiananmen Square, Mr. Speaker, FRANK WOLF and I went to Beijing and visited Beijing Prison No. 1, a prison where some 40 Tiananmen Square prisoners were being held. They were like modern-day Nazi concentration camps, and these victims with their heads shaved were asking peacefully that the government allow some basic liberties that we all take for granted in the U.S. and in many other nations of the world. They were hunted down, tortured and jailed.

China declared war not only on the protestors but on history itself. The Communist government undertakes active measures to deny its citizens the truth even today about what happened

in Tiananmen Square. In December of 1996, Mr. Speaker, here in Washington at the invitation of President Bill Clinton, General Chi Haotian, the defense minister of the People's Republic of China, the general who was the operational commander of the soldiers who slaughtered pro-democracy demonstrators in and around Tiananmen Square in June 1989, said, ''Not a single person lost his life in Tiananmen Square.'' According to General Chi, the Chinese Army did nothing more violent than the ''pushing of people.''

To counter that big lie, I quickly put together and chaired a hearing of eyewitnesses to Tiananmen who definitively refuted General Chi's brazen lies, but then again, what did he care? General Chi got the red carpet treatment at the Clinton White House and full military honors. I believe he should have been charged with crimes against humanity.

Most Chinese today, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately have no accurate knowledge of what happened in Tiananmen Square. China blocks even today uncensored Internet sites and Web logs and places misleading information on Internet sites available in China, often with the collusion and cooperation of U.S. Internet companies such as Yahoo and Google. As part and parcel of its Tiananmen Square cover-up, the Communist government sentenced journalist Shi Tao to 10 years in prison, using information provided by Yahoo, for using his Yahoo e-mail account to send foreigners a copy of a Chinese Government memo warning of possible trouble during the 15th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

We all know that torture does not stop with those who demand political freedoms. It is appropriate on this occasion to remember and seek freedom for all prisoners of conscience, all believers, democrats, and human rights activists who will one day triumph in China, but who now suffer grievously. There is ongoing aggressive repression of those who want to practice their faith as they see fit.

Matter of fact, it has gotten worse in the last few years. Falun Gong practitioners, for example, are routinely rounded up and beaten and abused, and hundreds have been tortured to death while held in captivity. Catholics loyal to the Pope and members of the Protestant house church movements are harassed, tortured and imprisoned. The Communist government of China subjects Buddhist Tibetans and Muslim Uighurs to cultural and physical genocide.

China also makes brothers and sisters illegal. China's coercive one-child-per-couple policy not only subjects millions of women to forced abortions and sterilizations; it has encouraged a massive increase in sex-selective abortions and female infanticide. The result is up to 100 million missing girls or women and one of the worst human trafficking problems now in the world. Matter of fact, it has been said by one China demographer that by the year 2020 as many as 40 million men will be looking for wives in China and will not be able to find them as a direct result of the one-child-per-couple policy.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Mao Hengfeng, a long-time activist to end this evil policy, was rearrested just a few days ago as part of a new crackdown on pro-democracy protests related to the Tiananmen Square anniversary. The Chinese Communists know, even if many Westerners still do not understand it, that democracy and the right to life are intrinsically connected. I held a hearing a year and a half ago on Mrs. Mao, and I continue to admire her incredible courage. Today, I pray for her and her family and will work again for her early release.

Two other prisoners, Madam Speaker, especially Dr. Yang Jianli and Dr. Wang Bingzhang, deserve special recognition as well today. They are both American permanent residents. Their families are U.S. citizens, and they have for many years peacefully worked for freedom and democracy in the People's Republic of China. In a country with thousands of prisoners, their cases are particularly egregious examples of China's human rights violations. This bill calls for their immediate release, as well as the immediate release of all prisoners of conscience.

Madam Speaker, we cannot forget these people. Had the hopes of the Tiananmen Square been realized, we would not need to pass such a resolution as we do today. The more than 25 hearings that I have held on this subject would not have been needed and many resolutions, including two more that will follow this one to make a record three resolutions on China's egregious human rights abuse being considered on the House floor today.

Alas, all of this is necessary until China agrees to observe the fundamental human rights that belong to all people and are recognized as such under the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. We must not collaborate with the Chinese Communists to erase history. We must honor the memory of those who protested and did so so valiantly.

This amendment in the nature of a substitute that we offer today has been updated to more tightly focus on the denial of fundamental human rights in China symbolized by the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance our time.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. May I express my deep respect for my friend and colleague from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for his indefatigable fight for human rights in China.

I hope, Madam Speaker, you will have occasion to visit my office, because in the reception room you will find a large poster of a young unarmed Chinese student facing down a row of Chinese tanks on Tiananmen Square. This poster and this image is the indelible record of what happened at Tiananmen Square 17 years ago.

That day, China's senior leaders huddled behind the walls of their compound near the Forbidden City. They had a critically important decision to make, whether to reach out to the students, like the one who is depicted in my poster, to the students and to the workers gathered in Tiananmen Square and address their concerns about party corruption and the lack of democracy, or whether they would seek to quash the movement with violent and vicious force if necessary.

Sadly for the cause of freedom and justice, and for the lives of thousands of young Chinese citizens, the leadership of China made the wrong choice. Instead of entering into a meaningful dialogue with those gathered in the square, they launched a brutal crackdown on the democracy movement, killing thousands and imprisoning many more.

The Chinese leadership hoped that the world would soon forget the Tiananmen Square massacre. Our job in Congress is to ensure that we never forget those who lost their lives in Tiananmen Square that day or the pro-democracy cause for which they fought.

While the list of ongoing human rights violations in China is long, today I would like to focus on the Chinese Government control of the Internet.

Despite its enormous power and wealth, China's ruling elite remains absolutely petrified that the free flow of information will undermine its political legitimacy, particularly among China's younger generation. The rulers in Beijing reason that if an average Chinese person can find out the truth about the Tiananmen massacre or the repression of the Falun Gong with a few key strokes on the computer, it is only a matter of time before the Chinese public will demand fundamental change in China.

So rather than face the bitter truth, China has placed severe restrictions on the Internet and enlisted America's high-tech companies as their Internet police.

In America's open and democratic system, based on our constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression, these high-tech firms have thrived and their founders have amassed enormous wealth, running into the billions, great influence and prestige.

But instead of using their power and creativity to bring greater openness and democracy to China, they have yielded to Beijing's outrageous demands simply for the sake of profits. Google, Microsoft and Yahoo should be developing new technologies to bypass government sensors and barriers to the Internet; but instead, they agreed to guard the gates themselves.

Let me start with Yahoo. As we meet today, a Chinese citizen who had the

courage to speak his mind on the Internet is in prison because Yahoo chose to share his name and address with the Chinese Government. It is bad enough that Beijing is so petrified of dissent that it throws dissidents behind bars for years on end and blacklists their families; but it is simply beyond comprehension, Madam Speaker, that an American company would play an active role in the Chinese suppression apparatus.

Yahoo insists that it has no choice but to follow national laws and cites its adherence to modern German laws that prohibit neo-Nazi propaganda. This argument literally sickens me. Germany is a mature democracy, and its freely elected leaders have determined that they wish to prohibit the most severe forms of hate-mongering.

China has a rubber-stamp parliament; and the Chinese Government places severe, far-reaching restrictions on freedom of speech and religious liberty. For an American firm such as Yahoo to comply willingly with laws that send someone to jail for simply expressing his views is unconscionable.

□ 1445

Google and Microsoft similarly argue that they must comply with Chinese laws that prohibit on-line discussions and searching of certain ''sensitive'' subjects. So they have elected to become surrogate government censors, removing content and blocking information that offends the political sensitivities of the ruling elite in Beijing.

They apparently have no moral problems with censoring the Tibetans and Falun Gong, both persecuted minorities in China. Do these companies have any standards at all? If Iran demands that Google block all information related to Jews except anti-Semitic propaganda, will it comply? What about a Sudanese request to censor information on the ongoing genocide in Darfur?

Madam Speaker, several pieces of legislation have been introduced to stop American complicity with China's crackdown on the Internet. We must move forward with these bills expeditiously not only because it is good policy but because it would honor the memory of those who died in Tiananmen Square 17 years ago today, Madam Speaker, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Miss MCMORRIS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 794, recognizing the 17th anniversary of the massacre in Tiananmen Square.

I would like to thank Chairman HENRY HYDE, Ranking Member TOM LANTOS and Congressman CHRIS SMITH of the House International Relations Committee, as well as the International Relations Committee staff, for their work on this bill.

House Resolution 794 rightfully commends all persons who are peacefully advocating for democracy and human rights in China. The resolution condemns the ongoing human rights abuses by the government of the People's Republic of China, and calls on that government to cease the inhumane treatment of pro-democracy activists, prisoners of conscience, minorities, and religious groups.

The resolution includes language regarding Dr. Wang Bingzhang, a family member of constituents from the great city of La Puente, CA. In June of 2002, Dr. Wang was abducted in Vietnam by Chinese authorities and held in solitary confinement in China for six months, during which time the Chinese government denied any knowledge of his whereabouts. In December of the same year, the Chinese government reversed itself and acknowledged he had been in their custody. Dr. Wang was then issued a life sentence after a closed, half-day trial.

Dr. Wang has been refused a fair trial, and the Chinese government has refused to release any evidence to substantiate Dr. Wang's alleged crimes. Dr. Wang is currently being held in Shaoguan prison in Guangdong Province, where he is on a hunger strike. Prison authorities continue to deny Dr. Wang access to Western medicine which he needs for his serious health issues.

I thank the Members of the International Relations Committee who supported this bipartisan resolution. I look forward to the committee's continued work to end the deplorable, appalling and unjust treatment of dissidents by Chinese authorities.

My staff and I will continue to work on this critical issue, and I look forward to Dr. Wang's release and return to his family.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, it has been 17 years since the Chinese government unleashed the People's Liberation Army on its own defenseless people in Tiananmen Square. Today, the House of Representatives pays tribute to the brave souls who stood up for freedom, only to be met with a hail of bullets and a new era of repression.

The forward march of freedom has often been advanced by people who defied the powers of their day to demand the liberties and human rights to which all people everywhere are entitled.

We remember how Chinese students, workers, and citizens marched in peace; how they raised a Goddess of Democracy in the image of our own Statue of Liberty; how they quoted our own Founding Fathers.

Seventeen years later, almost every independent organization monitoring human rights believes the situation in China has not significantly improved.

In fact, we know the Chinese government is becoming even more sophisticated, using new technology to monitor and apprehend those who criticize the regime or worship freely. Web service providers are required to censor information. Sadly, they are complying instead of using their leverage to push for change.

Religious believers continue to be a target of the Chinese government, subjected to harassment and detention for only practicing their faith.

Chinese authorities require Tibetans to denounce the Dalai Lama as their spiritual leader and imprison individuals for simply owning pictures of the Dalai Lama.

Bush Administration officials say they hope China will become a ''responsible stakeholder'' in world affairs. We should avoid wishful thinking about the intentions of the Chinese government.

In addition to the deplorable human rights conditions, the Chinese government is providing military technology to countries that threaten international security including Iran and North Korea, threatening Taiwan with a military attack, and violating its trade agreements.

Certainly we need to engage China, but it should be sustainable engagement that enables us to sustain our values, sustain our economic growth, and sustain our national security.

Today, we once again call on Beijing to release the thousands of prisoners whose only crime is to demand their basic human rights.

We call on the Chinese government to open up the Laogai prison system to the International Red Cross so the world can see what really is going on.

The spirit of Tiananmen endures and inspires. Tanks and troops may crush a protest, but they can never extinguish the flame of freedom that bums in every human heart.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 794, Recognizing the 17th anniversary of the massacre in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes. The People's Republic of China has a long record of human rights violations. By supporting H. Res. 794, we call upon the People's Republic of China to adopt desperately needed democratic reforms. In addition, by supporting this resolution, we honor individuals who have endured imprisonment, torture, and sometimes even death to advance the cause of democracy in China.

The United States is a country founded on the principle that each individual is entitled to basic human rights. We must pressure China to improve its human rights record and to abide by internationally agreed upon standards for human rights. Additionally, we must pressure China to adopt democratic reforms.

The United States has an obligation to aid in the progressive struggle to topple oppression and to sow the seeds of democracy worldwide. The disturbing events of June 3–4, 1989 in Tiananmen Square revealed the opposition of the Communist regime to political expression by the people of China, a most basic human freedom. The People's Republic of China's denial of universal suffrage in Hong Kong, despite the massive protests in 2003, its imprisonment of perhaps thousands of prodemocracy activists like Yang Jianli, and its brutal persecution of peaceful Falun Gong practitioners are further representative of the regime's oppression of its people.

H. Res. 794 calls upon the People's Republic of China to refrain from oppressing its people. Additionally, the United States reaffirms its commitment to the promotion and advancement of democratic principles in China by recognizing the 17th anniversary of the massacre in Tiananmen Square.

I strongly support this resolution. I urge my colleagues' support.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I urge support of the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 794, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

CONDEMNING THE UNAUTHORIZED, INAPPROPRIATE, AND COERCED ORDINATION OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 804) condemning the unauthorized, inappropriate, and coerced ordination of Catholic bishops by the People's Republic of China, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 804

Whereas the Catholic Patriotic Association of China is a government-sanctioned organization that does not represent the majority of Chinese Catholics, and has been used by the Government of the People's Republic of China to oppress Catholics who choose to remain loyal to the Pope as their spiritual leader;

Whereas on April 30, 2006, the Chinese Government-sanctioned Catholic Patriotic Association of China conducted an unauthorized episcopal ordination of the priest Joseph Ma Yinglin, elevating him to the office of bishop without the approval and against the wishes of the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI;

Whereas on May 3, 2006, the Chinese Government-sanctioned Catholic Patriotic Association of China conducted an unauthorized episcopal ordination of the priest Joseph Liu Xinhong, elevating him to the office of bishop without the approval and against the wishes of the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI;

Whereas on May 14, 2006, the Chinese Government-sanctioned Catholic Patriotic Association of China installed Bishop Vincent Zhan Silu as Bishop of Mindong Diocese without the approval and against the wishes of the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI;

Whereas, according to information reported by the Vatican, bishops and priests in the People's Republic of China have been subjected to strong pressures and threats to take part in the episcopal ordinations which, being without pontifical mandate, are illicit and, besides, contrary to their conscience;

Whereas the entire world follows with attention the progress of religious freedom in China and had hoped that such deplorable episodes by now would belong to the past;

Whereas, following a trip to China in August 2005, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom reported that the Chinese Government continues to systematically violate the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion or belief, contravening both the Chinese Constitution and international human rights norms;

Whereas on May 3, 2006, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom announced its 2006 recommendations to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and continued to identify China as one of ten ''Countries of Particular Concern'';

Whereas Chinese law and policy restrict religious activities to those activities associated with the five officially-sanctioned ''patriotic'' religious organizations;

Whereas all other collective religious activities in China are illegal, and individuals from ''unregistered'' religious groups are subject to harassment, detention, and arrest;

Whereas freedom of religious expression is a fundamental right enshrined in the United States Constitution and recognized by all civilized nations; and

Whereas China, like all members of the United Nations, is bound by Article 18 of the Uniform Declaration of Human Rights which states: ''Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the actions of the Government of the People's Republic of China to coerce Catholic bishops in China, both those in the Catholic Patriotic Association of China and those who remain loyal to the Pope, to violate their consciences and consecrate bishops in defiance of Rome;

(2) extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to the Catholic population of China and the Catholic Church for this insult to their beliefs and religious practices;

(3) reaffirms the right of all religious organizations to choose their leaders in a manner that is free of intimidation, terror, or coercion in accordance with Article 18 of the Uniform Declaration of Human Rights;

(4) urges the Government of China to end its repression of religious organizations, recognize the ecclesiastical authority of religious leaders to provide spiritual leadership to their followers, and end the practice of only allowing religious worship through state-sanctioned patriotic religious associations; and

(5) encourages the Government of China to refrain from additional ordination of Catholic bishops while the Vatican and the Catholic Patriotic Association of China resolve their differences and adopt a mutually acceptable process for approving the elevation of bishops.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the chief sponsor of this resolution, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I need to start my remarks with an acknowledgment of the extraordinary leadership that the gentleman from New Jersey has provided long in the House as a defender of religious freedom, and the topic before us with this resolution is one that I know is very dear to his heart, and so I am grateful for his leadership on this topic.

Madam Speaker, this resolution is simple and self-explanatory. Any truly free society must, by definition, accord its citizens freedom to seek a relationship with God according to the dictates of their conscience and choose spiritual leaders whom the worshipers believe are best suited to guide in establishing that relationship.

Recently, the People's Republic of China violated the religious freedom of its Roman Catholic citizens by imposing Beijing's choices for bishops rather than allowing the Vatican to make these appointments. This resolution condemns that action and calls upon the Chinese government to refrain from any further unauthorized ordinations.

There are few actions, Madam Speaker, more central to religious practice than choosing the spiritual leaders of a congregation. Each Sunday, Catholics throughout the world celebrate Mass and communally recite the Apostles' Creed, which includes a statement of belief in the holy Catholic church. As an intimate part of that belief, Catholics acknowledge the supreme leadership of the Pope of Rome in all spiritual matters and as the chief administrator of the church.

I am sure none of us would tolerate government coercion of any type in choosing the leaders of our churches, synagogues, temples, and religious organizations. Nevertheless, the Chinese government does not allow Catholics to run schools or recognize openly the authority of the papacy in many fundamental matters of faith and morals. The Chinese government also continues to insist as a precondition for establishing diplomatic relations that the Vatican cede its role in the selection of bishops to the government-controlled Catholic Patriotic Association. A government that purports not to believe in God at all has no business choosing religious leaders.

Madam Speaker, the leaders of China consistently seek to position their country as one of the leading nations of the world. The Chinese people make no secret of their goal to establish their nation as an equal to the United States. Well, leadership brings responsibility. Religious repression is wrong wherever it occurs, and civilized nations rightfully deplore the lack of tolerance found in many backward and regressive societies. China, however, claims to aspire to a higher standard, which is why their recent actions are so disturbing.

China is an ancient nation with a proud history. They are the fountainhead of Eastern philosophy, the birthplace of Confucius, possibly the greatest secular thinker the world has ever known. Analects 15:23 of the teaching

of Confucius states: ''What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others.''

The early Chinese emperors embraced this teaching, and China was providing shelter and refuge to Nestorian Christians when Europeans were still burning heretics at the stake. Unfortunately, while religious freedom has been moving forward in Western democracies, it appears to be on the retreat in China.

Nevertheless, China became a signatory to the Uniform Declaration Human Rights when they joined the United Nations. The ordinations that we today condemn are a direct violation of Article 18 of the Uniform Declaration of Human Rights, which states, and I quote, ''Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest this religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship, and observance.''

No one forced China to join the United Nations or to ratify the Uniform Declaration of Human Rights. They did so freely and without coercion. Indeed, the government in Beijing worked diligently for many years to displace Taiwan as the recognized government of China. Consequently, they now have a responsibility to live up to their standards and their great history, proud traditions, and U.N. obligations. My resolution calls upon them to do just that.

Madam Speaker, I hope that my resolution will focus attention on the advancement of religious freedom not just in China but throughout the world and particularly in our own country. Thomas Jefferson taught us that, ''God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that his justice cannot sleep forever.''

Whatever liberties we may possess, whatever privileges we may earn, whatever prosperity we may enjoy as individuals or as a nation, the most fundamental freedom of all is the right to establish our own relationship with God. This is the seminal freedom of all other freedoms that we cherish.

Whenever, wherever this core freedom is under assault, free people everywhere have a fundamental responsibility to defend it. We cannot ignore the suppression of religious freedom in China and expect it to endure in the United States.

Now, while we can, Congress must intrusively and decisively take a stand on behalf of Chinese Catholics and all others who wish to worship God in a manner and through a confession of their own choosing. We must insist that all members of the community of nations respect individual religious freedoms as the condition for mutual respect. Any nation that interferes with individual religious freedom and the freedom of spiritual communities to order their own affairs to the degree that the Chinese government has intervened in Catholicism cannot aspire to a place of leadership in the modern world.

Repression, Madam Speaker, is like a cancer. Left untreated, it will grow in size and power until it overwhelms the entire body. Only by vigorous early intervention can a doctor stop the spread of infection or a free nation prevent the spread of repression. If we do not stand with the Catholics of China now, who will stand with us in the future? And if we don't stand with Chinese Catholics, how can we aspire to be a symbol and defender of freedom throughout the world?

Madam Speaker, I call on my colleagues to pass this resolution.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I want to commend my good friend from Pennsylvania for his authorship of this most important resolution as I rise in strong support of it.

Sometimes what is self-evident to civilized democratic governments is sadly lost on the Chinese leadership in Beijing. Such was the case in early May when a government-sponsored committee in Beijing elevated two Catholic priests to the level of bishop without the approval of the Vatican.

Madam Speaker, I firmly believe that it is up to the Catholic Church to determine its leadership. Everywhere else in the world Pope Benedict the XVI selects the bishops, not communist atheists in some government politburo.

But we should not be surprised by this latest intrusion into religious life by the Chinese government. Eleven years ago, this same government abducted a 6-year-old Tibetan boy who had been selected by the Dalai Lama as the next Panchen Lama, a title conferred on the second leader of Tibet. The boy and his family have never been seen again. He is believed to be the world's youngest political prisoner. Soon after the abduction of this little boy, Beijing selected its own Panchen Lama, without seeking approval from the spiritual head of Tibetan Buddhists, the Dalai Lama.

Madam Speaker, whether it is Catholics or Tibetan Buddhists, China has an obligation under its own constitution and the international conventions to which it is a party to ensure religious freedom. It has failed miserably to live up to this sacred obligation. Our resolution highlights the latest outrage in China's systematic denial of religious liberty to its own citizens. I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank my good friend and colleague from Pennsylvania, as Mr. LANTOS said, for authoring this very important resolution, but also for his very eloquent statement moments ago regarding the historical context of this resolution and the ongoing issue of religious persecution in China, meaning the lack of freedom there. I appreciate his focus on the Uniform Declaration of Human Rights which so clearly establishes the right of conscience and the right of all persons to practice their faith as they see fit.

As he so aptly pointed out, the Chinese have freely acceded to the Uniform Declaration, and to so many other human rights accords that have been promulgated by the U.N. Sometimes for international consumption and for PR purposes, and regrettably they do not live up to either the letter or the spirit of these agreements to which they have given their solemn word.

□ 1500

Madam Speaker, this resolution which condemns the People's Republic of China for its continued interference into the international efforts of the Catholic Church and its persecution of Catholics loyal to the Vatican is certainly a very timely resolution.

The state-controlled Catholic Church in China, which does not represent the majority of Chinese Catholics, continues to ignore the Vatican's wishes by consecrating new bishops without the consent of the Pope. In April and May of this year, the Chinese Government-sanctioned Catholic Patriotic Association of China conducted two unauthorized ordinations of priests to the office of bishop, and the unauthorized installation of another bishop, despite requests from the Vatican to delay these actions.

According to the Vatican, bishops and priests in China are subject to strong pressures and threats to take part in ordinations which have not been approved of by the Pope and are contrary to their faith. While I am saddened by these reports, I am not surprised. The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom reports that the China Government continues to systematically violate the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion or belief and the testimonies of so many persecuted individuals. For example, Bishop Su of Baoding Province, is a gentle and kind man who I met in the 1990s. I point out to my colleagues that soon after our visit, he was rearrested on false charges, released and rearrested again. He spent 30 years of his life, this brave Catholic bishop, for loving God. Even today, we do not know about his whereabouts, although there have been sightings from time to time.

As my colleague pointed out, in defiance of the U.N. article 18 of the Uniform Declaration of Human Rights, the PRC continues to restrict religious activities to those not associated with the five officially sanctioned religious organizations. Men and women that attempt to practice their faith outside of

these five approved religions, such as the more than 10 million Roman Catholics, face harassment, imprisonment, torture and death.

We have no wish to sanction the worshipers in the Catholic Patriotic Association in China; rather, we wish to offer our support to the Catholic population of China that is persecuted by its government for their faith. We condemn the Chinese Government's persecution of the Catholics and its refusal to permit a Vatican-sponsored Catholic church to operate legally in China. This is a great resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF).

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. I heard Mr. ENGLISH speaking and wanted to come over to add my support for this resolution.

Frankly, this whole place ought to be packed with people speaking on behalf of this resolution. Today in China, the Catholic Church is being severely persecuted. Why has the administration been silent, and other than this resolution, why has the Congress been relatively silent?

There are a number of Catholic bishops that are in jail today, as stated in the New York Times piece the other day. There is also the issue of what they have done to the Vatican with regard to the Chinese Communist Government. Evangelical church leaders are being persecuted. I just wanted to put my two cents in with regard to support of this.

For Members who just think this is another political thing, this is a moral issue.

Isaiah says, ''Learn to do right, seek justice, encourage the oppressed.'' By passing this resolution, we encourage the oppressed.

Isaiah goes on to say in Isaiah 59, ''The Lord looked and was displeased there was no justice.'' When the Lord looks at China, he has got to be displeased that there is no justice.

Isaiah goes on to say, ''He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene.'' Fortunately, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. SMITH and Mr. LANTOS are intervening.

But this Congress has to do more, and this administration's silence is becoming deafening on this issue. The condition in China with regard to the Catholic Church, the Protestant Church, the Uighurs, the Buddhists is worse today after President Hu left than before President Hu came.

I want to thank the gentlemen for cosponsoring this. We ought to have a roll call vote. Frankly, everybody ought to vote on this issue because this would send a message to the Chinese Communist Government that this Congress will become again like the Congress was during the 1980s during the Reagan administration and will not stand for it.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 804, Condemning the unauthorized, inappropriate, and coerced ordination of Catholic bishops by the People's Republic of China. I am concerned by reports that on April 30, 2006, and again on May 3, 2006, bishops and priests in the People's Republic of China were subjected to strong pressures and threats to participate in episcopal ordinations against the wishes of the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI. The ordinations were conducted by the Catholic Patriotic Association of China and without the express approval and sanction of the Holy See. Such ordinations are illegitimate. I urge the People's Republic of China to refrain from pressuring or coercing.Chinese bishops and priests to support these ordinations.

Freedom of religious expression is a fundamental right enshrined in the United States Constitution and is recognized by all civilized nations. Freedom of religion and conscience is also enshrined in Article 18 of the Uniform Declaration of Human Rights, to which the People's Republic of China is a signatory. Chinese law and policy, however, continues to restrict religious activities to those associated with the five officially sanctioned ''patriotic'' religious organizations. Additionally, the Catholic Patriotic Association of China does not represent the vast majority of Chinese Catholics and has no ecclesiastical authority to choose spiritual leaders for Catholics in the People's Republic of China.

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom identifies China as one of ten ''Countries of Particular Concern.'' H. Res. 804 sends a strong message to the People's Republic of China to refrain from pressuring and coercing Chinese priests. This resolution also sends a strong message to the Catholic Patriotic Association of China to discontinue the practice of ordaining priests without the express support of the Holy Father, the Pope. Not doing so is an insult to the universal Catholic Church.

I strongly support this resolution. I urge my colleagues' support.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 804, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey.

There was no objection.

CONDEMNING THE ESCALATING LEVELS OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 608) condemning the escalating levels of religious persecution in the People's Republic of China, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 608

Whereas the Constitution and laws of the People's Republic of China purport to provide for religious freedom, however, these freedoms are substantively ignored;

Whereas all religious groups and spiritual movements must register with the Chinese Government, which monitors religious services and judges the legitimacy of religious activities;

Whereas unregistered religious groups in China continue to experience official interference and members of religious groups have been subjected to intimidation, harassment, and detention;

Whereas many religious leaders and adherents in China, including those in official churches, have been detained, arrested, or administratively sentenced to prison terms in reeducation-through-labor camps;

Whereas religious believers are denied the ability to hold public office not by law, but by a logical extension of the fact that most government positions go to members of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and CCP membership and religious belief are considered incompatible;

Whereas numerous abuses of unofficial Catholic clergy have occurred, including the detentions of Bishop Zhao Zhendong, Bishop Jia Zhiguo, Bishop Yao Liang, Bishop Su Zhimin, Bishop An Shuxin, Bishop Lin Xili, Bishop Han Dingxiang, and Bishop Shi Enxiang, as well as other Catholic priests and lay leaders who have been beaten or otherwise mistreated;

Whereas the Chinese Government-sanctioned Catholic Patriotic Association of China conducted unauthorized episcopal ordinations of the priests Joseph Ma Yinglin and Joseph Liu Xinhong, elevating them to the office of bishop without the approval and against the wishes of the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI;

Whereas numerous abuses of Protestant House Church Leaders have occurred, including the detentions of Pastor Gong Shengliang, Pastor Zhang Rongliang, Luo Bingyin, Li Cuiling, Wang Chaoyi, Yang Tianlu, and Zhao Xinlan, as well as other Protestant House Church Leaders who have been beaten or otherwise mistreated;

Whereas the whereabouts of Gendun Choekyi Nyima, the boy identified by the Dalai Lama as the 11th Panchen Lama and detained by Chinese authorities ten years ago, when he was six years old, are still unknown;

Whereas, according to the Department of State, Chinese authorities continue to restrict Muslim religious activity, teaching, and worship in Xinjiang, including reported prohibitions on the participation and religious education of minors;

Whereas the Chinese Government continues its brutal campaign to eradicate the Falun Gong spiritual movement and thousands of its members have been subject to

excessive force, abuse, detention, and torture, including Liu Chengjun who died in 2003 after reportedly being abused in custody in Jilin Province and Huang Wei who is currently detained in Hebei Province, among others;

Whereas Cai Zhuohua, a Beijing underground church leader, was sentenced on November 8, 2005, to three years in prison for distributing Bibles and other Christian materials;

Whereas the Haidian Lower People's Court in Beijing also sentenced Mr. Cai's wife, Xiao Yunfei, to two years in prison and her brother, Xiao Gaowen, to 18 months in prison; and

Whereas on November 20, 2005, after attending services at the Gangwashi Church in Beijing, President George W. Bush stated: ''A healthy society is a society that welcomes all faiths and gives people a chance to express themselves through worship with the Almighty'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the House of Representatives condemns the imprisonment of religious leaders and people of faith in the People's Republic of China and urges their release; and

(2) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that it should be the policy of the Government of the United States to promote and defend religious freedom and freedom of conscience in China.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 608 condemning the escalating levels of religious persecution in the People's Republic of China, and I thank my colleague from Michigan, Mr. MCCOTTER, for authoring this important legislation. I am very proud, along with many of my colleagues, to be a cosponsor of the resolution.

Despite China's repression of religion as arguably among the most despotic in the world, despite China's entrance in the world economy, its government refuses to grant its citizens universally recognized rights to freedom of religion and thought.

The People's Republic of China permits religious practice only for government-sanctioned organizations and registered locations of worship. Those who practice other faiths as their consciences demand risk disappearing into one of hundreds of Laogai, the forced education through labor system established by Mao Tse-tung decades ago.

Not only is religious persecution of numerous groups and movements ongoing, but it is actually worsening. In February, the BBC reported that China had warned Hong Kong's newly appointed cardinal, Joseph Zen, a well-known critic of China's suppression of religious freedoms, to remain quiet on political issues.

I have personally known some of the remarkable people that the Chinese Government targets for persecution. In the early 1990s, and I mentioned this earlier when we considered Mr. ENGLISH's resolution, I met with Bishop Su of Baoding Province, a man who celebrated mass for our small delegation. I was amazed by his lack of animosity, by his lack of anything that even comes close to hate. He actually loved those who persecuted him and said he spent a considerable amount of time praying for his persecutors. He has now spent some 30 years of his life in prison and has suffered time and time again the ravages of torture by his persecutors. What kind of barbaric regime hurts a man like this?

Last summer, our Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations heard compelling testimony from Mr. Chen Yonglin, formerly a diplomat for the Chinese Government who said, ''According to my knowledge, the persecution of the Falun Gong by the Chinese Government is a systematic campaign.''

To my horror, we have heard reports of the Chinese government targeting the Falun Gong for organ harvesting. According to the State Department's 2005 International Religious Freedom Report, the China Government's respect for freedom of religion and freedom of conscience remains poor, especially for many unregistered religious groups and spiritual movements.

Members of unregistered groups, including Protestants and Catholics, are subject to restrictions including intimidation, harassment, detention, arrest, and add to that torture.

Those who perhaps read the scathing report that was written by the rapporteur for the United Nations on torture that was released last December cannot help but be repelled by the ongoing systematic use of torture against those who are trying to promote either worker's rights, basic fundamental human rights, but especially those who espouse religious freedom and religious liberty.

Given all of these disturbing facts, Madam Speaker, Mr. MCCOTTER's resolution condemning the government of China's systematic persecution of religious freedom is both appropriate and timely.

Let me also say, Madam Speaker, and I do hope the press takes some notice, today we are considering an unprecedented three resolutions on China. Each and every one of these is bipartisan. Mr. LANTOS, as Mr. WOLF said a moment ago, has been a great champion of human rights all over the world, including in China, has joined with HENRY HYDE, the chairman of the committee, and myself, along with Mr. WOLF and Mr. ENGLISH. This is bipartisan. We talk a lot about bipartisanship or lack of it in recent weeks and months in this Chamber, but when it comes to human rights, especially as it relates to China, we are together.

Now that we know what the problem is, we need to speak more about solutions. Hopefully as we move forward in this congressional session, we will talk more about what we need to be doing to try to get this government to roll back its repression.

President Hu's visit was an opportunity. I would respectfully submit that it was a missed opportunity to raise these issues in a powerful way. He went back home to China thinking he had won over the American people. He has not. His record is deplorable, especially as it relates to religious persecution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. Nearly three decades after the normalization of relations, Beijing and Washington have a mature, evolving relationship. Our two countries are working cooperatively on a broad range of issues facing the world from North Korea to matters before the U.N. Security Council.

But in our effort to maintain this cooperative spirit, we must not sugarcoat the areas of intense disagreement between the United States and China. Beijing's systematic denial of religious liberty to the Chinese people is one of the darkest episodes in modern Chinese history.

Pushing for religious tolerance must remain at the core of our bilateral agenda with Beijing, regardless of China's Government's predictably negative reactions to our entreaties.

The leadership in Beijing must understand that we will never have a fully normal relationship with China until there is measurable progress on a broad range of human rights issues, including religious freedom.

As this resolution notes, an intolerably long list of religions and faiths are squarely in the cross-hairs of the Chinese Government. The treatment of Tibetans, Catholics, and the Falun Gong is emblematic of the broader Chinese campaign against those who worship in an unauthorized manner.

In the case of Tibetan Buddhists, Beijing has a perfect opportunity to demonstrate that it has opened a new chapter in an otherwise tragic story of the Chinese repression and marginalization of the Tibetans in their own land.

□ 1515

While we are pleased that China has held five rounds of discussions with representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama regarding the future of Tibet, the talks have not produced any concrete results, and our patience is wearing thin. If Beijing truly cares about preserving Tibet's unique religious and cultural heritage, it should invite the Dalai Lama to visit China and Tibet in the near future. Chinese leaders should also negotiate a deal with the Dalai Lama that allows His Holiness to return permanently to Tibet to manage the religious and cultural and economic affairs of the Tibetan people.

Religious freedom is a right due all Chinese, whether Tibetan, members of

the Catholic Church or the Falun Gong spiritual movement. Tens of thousands of Falun Gong adherents have been locked away in psychiatric institutions. They have been tortured and jailed and even killed for refusing to renounce their faith. What a tragedy, Madam Speaker.

The resolution before us shines the spotlight on China's horrendous record of religious freedom. The words in our resolution will cause great discomfort in Beijing. But when dealing with friends, it is far better to lay the facts on the table than to sweep the bitter truth under the rug.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished chairman of the appropriations subcommittee for the State Department, FRANK WOLF of Virginia.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I want to just, before I talk on this resolution, mention the one on Tiananmen. I want to be here and have the world know that I stood with the tank man and stood with those who are in prison in Tiananmen.

CHRIS SMITH and I were in Beijing Prison Number 1. I am sure he talked about it. But some of those young men and women are still in prison today, and some of you listening to this are wearing socks or underwear that have been made by them. So I want the world to know, Tiananmen Square demonstrators are still in prison, still in prison.

Now, on this resolution, I want to express grave disappointment with the Bush administration. I wrote every member of the Bush administration after meeting with dissidents in China and over here, who said, please have the Bush administration come to our church services, the way that they did in the Reagan administration with regard to the Soviet Union. They said, please, we will stand with them. We want someone, someone from the Bush administration to come into a house church. We are tired of seeing the Bush administration going into the churches that are recognized by the Chinese government.

So I wrote every high appointee in the Bush administration and I asked them would they call the individuals and stand with them, go to their apartments, as we used to do in the 1980s in Moscow with the Sakharovs and the Scharanksys, and in 3 months, not one Bush administration person has taken the time to pick up the telephone and to call the name and the telephone numbers of the individuals.

What do you get out of the Bush administration? Silence. Silence. We should remember the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, who said, and I quote, ''In the end we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends.'' And Dr. King's statement is so poignant. ''In times of trouble, the silence of an enemy is expected, but the silence of a friend is devastating.'' I ask the Bush administration to break the silence. Speak out for Riba Qadiri, speak out for the Catholic Church. Speak out for the Evangelical Church. Speak out for those in Tibet who are being persecuted. The young Buddhist nun who came to my office 2 weeks ago had been in the Drapchi prison for 15 years for doing nothing.

This is a test. I am writing the Bush administration officials again, and I am giving the telephone number to call. I say now, with this opportunity, and I am going to give them the words of Dr. Martin Luther King. Silence should be over. It is now time for the Bush administration to adopt the policies of the Reagan administration, of Ronald Reagan, to stand with the dissidents because by standing next, it is like in government or politics. If somebody says they are really for you, but they don't want to be identified with you, how much are they really for you?

How much is the Bush administration really for the Catholic Church in China? How much is the Bush administration really for the Evangelical house church who are putting their lives on the line? How much are they for those who are being persecuted in Tibet? How much are they for the Uighurs? How much for the Falun Gong? And keep in mind, this government is spying against our government much more aggressively than they did in the Soviet Union.

I close again with the words of Dr. Martin Luther King. ''In the end we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends.'' If the Bush administration wants to be the friends of the dissidents, the silence should be broken. And Clark Randt, our Ambassador in China, should be the first one to begin to break the silence.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 608, Condemning the escalating levels of religious persecution in the People's Republic of China. I am concerned by reports that the People's Republic of China persecutes, coerces, and harasses its citizens based solely on religious beliefs. Freedom of worship is a human right enshrined in Article 18 of the Uniform Declaration of Human Rights, to which the People's Republic of China is a signatory.

The abuses of members of the Catholic clergy by the Chinese government are especially troubling. The people of Guam predominantly follow the teaching and leadership of the Roman Catholic Church. The people of Guam, however, enjoy and indeed benefit from those on the island who practice different faiths. Faith in God and religious tolerance are both celebrated characteristics of the people of Guam.

The Constitution of the People's Republic of China provides for the freedom to worship as an individual chooses. I urge the People's Republic of China to act accordingly.

I strongly support this resolution. I urge my colleagues' support.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Mr. WOLF for his very powerful statement, as well as Mr. LANTOS, on this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH,) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 608, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE ACTIVITIES OF ISLAMIST TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 338) expressing the sense of Congress regarding the activities of Islamist terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 338

Whereas the brutal attacks of September 11, 2001, demonstrated that terrorists can strike anywhere in the world;

Whereas terrorist activity that goes unaddressed is an invitation for terrorist organizations to carry out attacks against the United States, our allies and interests;

Whereas the Department of State has concluded in its most recent Country Reports on Terrorism, which was released in April 2005, that although the threat of international terrorism in the Western Hemisphere remains relatively low as compared to other world regions, international terrorists may seek safe-haven, financing, recruiting, illegal travel documentation, or access to the United States from Latin American and Caribbean countries and thus pose serious threats;

Whereas in recent years, the activities of Islamist terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere have focused on financing their criminal and terrorist activities outside of the region rather than carrying out or directly supporting terrorist attacks in the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas, as the 1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Argentina and the 1994 bombing

of the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Argentina clearly showed, international terrorist organizations, such as Hezbollah, are ready, willing, and able to carry out attacks in the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas since at least the AMIA bombing in 1994, Hezbollah has maintained networks in the tri-border area of Paraguay, Brazil, and Argentina—primarily focusing on fundraising and recruitment;

Whereas in May 2003, a relative of Assad Ahmad Barakat, the reputed head of Hezbollah in the tri-border area, was arrested at the airport in Asuncion, Paraguay, in what Paraguayan police believe was a scheme to sell drugs in Syria, with proceeds reaching Hezbollah forces in Lebanon;

Whereas Barakat, a Lebanese-born Paraguayan, is himself in custody in Brazil awaiting extradition to Paraguay after raids on his businesses in Paraguay's tri-border area found evidence that he transferred tens of millions of United States dollars to Hezbollah in Lebanon;

Whereas there have been media reports of Hezbollah sympathizers and financiers also conducting black market activities in Iquique, Chile; Maicao, Colombia; Margarita Island, Venezuela; and Colon, Panama;

Whereas the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas has also been known to raise funds in the tri-border area;

Whereas in a 2002 court case, one of two Lebanese men were convicted of financing Hezbollah with $2,000,000 in illegal cigarette sales in the United States;

Whereas earlier this past year, a Lebanese individual from Detroit was charged with supporting Hezbollah financially and was described by the United States Attorney in the case as a ''fighter, recruiter, and fundraiser'';

Whereas several members of the Egyptian Islamic Group have been arrested in Brazil, Uruguay, and Colombia since 1998;

Whereas Ashref Ahmed Abdallah, an Egyptian national who is one of the most significant human smuggling targets, was arrested by United States authorities at Miami International Airport in July 2004 for using Central America and Brazil as a staging ground for smuggling illegal aliens from countries of the Middle East, including special interest countries that are linked to international terrorism, into the United States;

Whereas the activities of sympathizers and financiers of Islamist terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere represent a potential threat to the United States, our allies and interests;

Whereas section 7102 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–458; 22 U.S.C. 2656f note) amends United States law to identify and address emerging and current terrorist sanctuaries and secure international cooperation to combat this threat;

Whereas many countries of the Western Hemisphere have cooperated with the United States and regional organizations to counter the threat of regional and international terrorism, including by participating in joint counterterrorism training and simulations, Counterterrorism Action Group (CTAG) meetings which are hosted by United States embassies, and the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organization of American States (OAS); and

Whereas despite these efforts, many factors within the Western Hemisphere contribute to creating an environment which is conducive for future activities by international terrorist organizations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the potential threat that sympathizers and financiers of Islamist terrorist organizations that operate in the Western Hemisphere pose to the United States, our allies and interests;

(2) acknowledges the commitment and cooperation of some governments of countries of the Western Hemisphere to deny the use of their territory to Islamist terrorist organizations and calls on all governments to intensify their efforts; and

(3) encourages the President to direct the United States Representative to the Organization of American States (OAS) to—

(A) seek support from OAS member countries for the creation of a special task force of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE) to assist governments in the region in investigating and combatting the proliferation of Islamist terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere and to coordinate regional efforts to prevent the spread of this threat; and

(B) urge OAS member countries to designate Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, al-Qaeda and its constituent entities, and other such groups as terrorist organizations if they have not already done so.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of this House concurrent resolution regarding the activities of Islamic terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere. This is a Ros-Lehtinen/Lantos/Burton/Engel resolution. It pulls together the oversight and investigative efforts of two regional subcommittees of the House International Relations Committee. This resolution also builds upon measures previously adopted by the House related to the Jewish Community Center bombing in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In addition to outlining the emerging threat of Islamic terrorist organizations in our hemisphere, H. Con. Res. 338:

One, calls on all governments to intensify their efforts against terrorists and their financiers;

Second, calls for establishment of a special task force of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism to assist governments in the hemisphere in combating the proliferation of Islamist terrorist organizations from a national and regional perspective; and,

Third, urges the OAS member countries to designate Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, al-Qaeda and its constituent elements and other such groups as terrorist organizations if they have not already done so.

In recent years, there has been increasing numbers of reports of a growing presence of Islamic terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere. Areas of concern include fundraising and remittance to terrorist cells in Arab countries, material support for terrorist organizations, recruitment of terrorist black market activity and involvement in global narcotrafficking. There has also been an increase in anti-Semitism, not unlike what we have seen in Europe and in the Middle East.

H. Con. Res. 338 recognizes the presence of Islamic terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere. It details terrorist activities that have taken place, and the presence of terrorists in many Western Hemisphere countries, including but not limited to the United States, Brazil, Colombia, Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina and Panama.

Madam Speaker, there is a large Arab community of roughly 30,000, primarily Lebanese and Syrian immigrants, involved in business enterprises in the tri-border area, both illegal and legal. Hezbollah and Hamas have a history of using the tri-border area, TBA, for fundraising and other support. Although the area has been monitored for some time, in 1992 and 1994, bombings in Buenos Aires caused increased scrutiny there.

Madam Speaker, the area has been, and remains, a haven for illicit activities by organized crime and most likely by terrorist groups. These groups use the TBA for smuggling, money laundering, product privacy and drug and arms trafficking. Numerous organized crime groups, including the Lebanese and Chinese mafias, are known to use the area for illicit activities.

The level of financial transactions, Madam Speaker, is staggering. The Paraguayan city of Ciudad del Este generated $12 to $13 billion in cash transactions annually as of 2001, making it the third largest money handler worldwide behind Hong Kong and Miami.

Corruption and weak governance, fragile democratic institutions and weak law enforcement and adherence to the rule in parts of Latin America presents opportunities for terrorists to exploit. There is evidence that terrorists are tapping into drug, arms and human trafficking networks. We need to enhance regional engagement and cooperation, strengthen monitoring efforts, and fight criminal activities. This resolution casts much needed attention on a growing threat in our hemisphere and calls for vigilance among the community of nations which is collectively threatened. Islamic terrorist organizations are skilled at exploiting these weaknesses around the globe and here in our own hemisphere as well.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

I rise in strong support of this resolution. On July 18, we will mark the 12th anniversary of the senseless loss of 85 lives in the bombing of the Jewish Cultural Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina. We will commemorate with profound pain the loss of the families who forever had their loved ones brutally taken from them. And we will recall the shock felt in Jewish communities across the globe at this ferocious attack on innocent lives in a city where Jews had previously felt totally secure.

Madam Speaker, we would now know that at least seven Iranian government officials, including the former Iranian Ambassador to Argentina, planned and orchestrated this vicious attack. There is little doubt that these Iranian officials called upon their Hezbollah stooges to execute their nefarious plans.

We also know that the Hezbollah terrorist cell that carried out the attack received financial and logistical support from sympathizers in the tri-border region between Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil. The suicide bomber himself probably entered South America and transited to the Argentine capital through this lawless frontier.

The varied nationalities of those who were murdered in the bombing also reflect the international character of this shameful terrorist attack. Among the 85 victims there were six Bolivians, two Poles, and a Chilean.

Although the modus operandi of the terrorists in the bombing has not been replicated since 1994, supporters and facilitators of Islamic terrorist organizations have gathered in scattered outposts throughout the Western Hemisphere. Operating from hard to reach areas in Chile, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama, these individuals lend financial and logistical assistance to terrorists organizations in the Middle East.

□ 1530

Although these isolated communities have yet to metastasize into operational cells of Islamic terrorists, the threat to regional security remains strong and requires our constant vigilance.

We must redouble our efforts to root out the fundraising networks in the Western Hemisphere of Islamic terrorists and to disperse the growing web of links between terrorist financiers and narcotics traffickers.

Our important resolution furthers both of these goals. It promotes the establishment of a special task force in the Organization of American States to assist regional governments in investigating and combating the proliferation of Islamic terrorists within our hemisphere.

Our resolution urges all Latin American and Caribbean countries to designate al Qaeda, Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad as terrorist organizations.

Madam Speaker, international terrorists have demonstrated that they will not rest in pursuit of their villainy. Our resolution once again puts them on notice that they will fail, whether they are in the Middle East or here in the Americas.

I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support this important measure.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, because Islamist terrorism anywhere is a threat to free people everywhere, I ask my colleagues to render their strong support of H. Con. Res. 338.

This resolution which I drafted with the distinguished Ranking Member of the House International Relations Committee, and which enjoys the support of both Chairman BURTON and Ranking Member ENGEL of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, calls for a preventive approach to rising threats in our hemisphere. Islamist terrorist activity in our Hemisphere has been increasing and becoming more prominent for at least 15 years.

Reports document that Hezbollah is active in the triborder area of Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina, raising money to support its murderous acts and recruiting people to carry them out.

Hamas and the Egyptian Islamic Group also reportedly maintain a presence in Latin America, and al-Qaeda is active there, too. Although such activity is dominated by financing and money laundering, these Islamist extremists have not hesitated in launching direct attacks as well.

In 1992, the Israeli Embassy in Argentina was bombed, killing 29 people and wounding almost 250. In 1994, terrorists linked to Hezbollah and the Iranian regime, bombed the MIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, killing 85 and wounding over 300.

Islamist jihadists often use countries in the Western Hemisphere as staging areas for entry into the United States.

Before Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was eliminated as a threat last week, it has been reported that he instructed members of Al-Qaeda in Iraq to go to Brazil, with the goal of entering the U.S. through Mexico and carrying out acts of terror.

Just 10 days ago, on June 2nd, 14 suspects in an Islamist terror cell in Canada were arrested. The cell possessed 3 tons of ammonium nitrate, 3 times the amount used in the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995. They planned to blow-up buildings and take politicians hostage. Such terrorists, with such explosives, were only two hours away from the U.S. border.

This cell was captured. Others, however, remain free and growing—both to our north and to our south.

Islamist terrorists are ready, willing, and able to strike in this hemisphere. What should our nation and our allies do about this threat?

After September 11th, our Nation has vigorously combated terrorists and their state sponsors. We removed the Taliban in Afghanistan and Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq, and have captured and eliminated numerous members of al-Qaeda.

We have refused to wait for terrorists to again strike at our homeland by taking the battle to them and denying them sanctuaries throughout the world.

We must proactively identify and address emerging problems before they can threaten our homeland, our allies, and our interests—particularly, in the Western Hemisphere; our neighborhood.

This resolution acknowledges the threat that Islamist terrorist groups and their sympathizers, operating in this hemisphere, pose to America and her allies.

Many governments in the hemisphere have cooperated with us on counterterrorism and have committed to denying the use of their territory for such fundraising, recruitment and operations. Despite these efforts, the Islamist terrorist presence in our hemisphere is growing. We must do more.

This resolution encourages the President to direct the U.S. Representative to the OAS to seek support from OAS member countries to create a special task force of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism. This task force would assist governments, and coordinate efforts between nations, in investigating and combating the proliferation of Islamist terrorist activities in this hemisphere.

The measure further calls for the U.S. Representative to the OAS to work with OAS member nations to designate groups such as Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and al-Qaeda as terrorist groups, if they have not already done so.

Madam Speaker, if we are to one day realize a more secure and peaceful world, we must address all threats, starting with those closest to our shores.

We see the growth of Islamist terrorist groups in the Western Hemisphere. The resolution before us provides us with a roadmap on efforts we should undertake to begin to eradicate the threat before it festers and strengthens.

I ask for a "yes" vote on this resolution.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 338.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 338.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

COMMENDING THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA FOR ITS RENEWED COMMITMENT TO THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res 408) commending the Government of Canada for its renewed commitment to the Global War on Terror, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 408

Whereas twenty-four Canadian citizens were killed as a result of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States;

Whereas the people of Gander, Newfoundland, provided food, clothing, and shelter to thousands of stranded passengers and temporary aircraft parking to thirty-nine planes diverted from United States airspace as a result of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States;

Whereas the Government of Canada, as led by former Prime Ministers Jean Jacques Chrétien and Paul Martin and continued by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, has provided humanitarian, diplomatic, and security personnel on the invitation of the Government of Afghanistan since 2001;

Whereas Canada has pledged $650,000,000 in development aid to Afghanistan;

Whereas Afghanistan is Canada's largest recipient of bilateral development aid;

Whereas Canada has stationed approximately 2,300 defense personnel who comprise Task Force Afghanistan, in order to improve security in southern Afghanistan, particularly in the province of Kandahar;

Whereas Canada has over 70 diplomatic officers worldwide who are dedicated to growing democracy and equality in Afghanistan;

Whereas at least seventeen Canadians have given the ultimate sacrifice in the Global War on Terror;

Whereas Canada's commitment to the Government of Afghanistan, under the leadership of Prime Minister Hamid Karzai, was due to expire in February 2007;

Whereas on May 17, 2006, the Canadian Government led by Prime Minister Stephen Harper requested that the Canadian House of Commons extend Canada's commitment in the Global War on Terror;

Whereas on May 17, 2006, the Canadian Parliament voted to extend peace and security operations in Afghanistan until 2009, to increase its development assistance by $310 million, and to build a permanent and secure embassy in Afghanistan to replace its current facility; and

Whereas this was the latest sign of the renewed commitment of numerous United States allies in the Global War on Terror: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) commends the Government of Canada for its renewed and long-term commitment to the Global War on Terror;

(2) commends the leadership of former Canadian Prime Ministers Jean Jacques Chrétien and Paul Martin and current Prime Minister Stephen Harper for their steadfast commitment to democracy, human rights, and freedom throughout the world;

(3) commends the Government of Canada for working to secure a democratic and equal Afghanistan;

(4) commends the Government of Canada's commitment to reducing poverty, aiding the counternarcotics efforts through counterterrorism and counterinsurgency campaigns, and ensuring a peaceful and terror-free Afghanistan;

(5) commends the Government of Canada for its three-pronged commitment to Afghanistan: diplomacy, development, and defense; and

(6) expresses the gratitude and appreciation of the United States for Canada's enduring friendship and leadership in the Global War on Terror in Afghanistan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this resolution properly recognizes the government of Canada for its commitment to the global war on terror.

As you know, Madam Speaker, we have forged strong relations with our neighbor to the north, and we are united by common ideals and shared interests. Relations between the U.S. and Canada are strong, and our cooperation in the global war on terrorism is productive and robust.

The arrest of 17 alleged homegrown Islamic jihadists in Canada last week was a vivid reminder that we are in this war together. Canadian prosecutors claim the men plotted to storm the Canadian Parliament building in Ottawa, take hostages, and behead Prime Minister Stephen Harper if the Canadian Government refused to withdraw its 2,300 troops now stationed in Afghanistan. The group also considered bombing a nuclear power plant, the Toronto Stock Exchange, and other targets in Toronto or Ottawa. I praise Canadian law enforcement and their security forces for their excellent work in closing down that terror cell.

Last month, Madam Speaker, the Canadian Parliament voted to extend Canada's peace and security mission in Afghanistan for another 2 years, until 2009. Canada is a steadfast partner in the global war on terror. Canada has roughly 2,300 defense personnel in Afghanistan and is leading the efforts against a resurgent Taliban and al Qaeda force in southern Afghanistan and is working to combat narcotics trafficking there.

Canada has also pledged $650 million in developmental aid to Afghanistan; and Afghanistan, as it turns out, is Canada's largest recipient of bilateral development aid.

Madam Speaker, it is worth remembering that 24 Canadian citizens were killed as a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States. Seventeen Canadian military personnel have been killed in the line of duty in Afghanistan. Last month Canadian Captain Nichola Goddard was killed in the line of duty in Kandahar, Afghanistan. This is the ultimate sacrifice, and we certainly mourn her loss and the sacrifices made by her fellow soldiers.

We appreciate in America the role Canada plays in hemispheric and global peacekeeping and humanitarian operations in Afghanistan, in Haiti, in Darfur, and in other conflict areas.

Madam Speaker, President Bush met with Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada and President Vicente Fox of Mexico 2 months ago to move ahead with new initiatives to promote competitiveness and security. The Security and Prosperity Partnership, or SPP, for North America is a bold set of activities to strengthen our borders, promote free and secure commerce and air transportation, and to harmonize the regulatory process.

Canada is taking actions on flashpoints around the world. After Hamas' election victory and refusal to repudiate violence, Canada was the first nation in the world to cut off contacts and suspend assistance to the Palestinian Authority, while preserving humanitarian support for the Palestinian people. Canada listed in like manner the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or the LTTE, as a terrorist group under their criminal code, impeding terrorist financing of the LTTE and other forms of support.

Prime Minister Harper intervened personally with Afghan President Karzai to insist that the religious and civil rights of a Christian convert, Abdul Rahman, be fully protected and to convey Canada's concern that his treatment not undermine Afghanistan's international rehabilitation. At the U.N., Canada is, and hopefully will always be, a steadfast supporter for Israel.

In sum, though we may not always be in lock-step in our policies and our approach, Canada remains a steadfast ally on the war on terrorism and a promoter of democracy and freedom throughout the world.

I urge support for the concurrent resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Since the Taliban's ouster in Afghanistan, great strides have been made on the path towards democracy in that country. A freely elected president and parliament, a nascent professional national army, and the beginnings of economic development were all accomplished through nearly 5 years of development assistance and military commitments by our country and the international community.

But the future of a stable, peaceful, and democratic Afghanistan is still gravely threatened. A resurgent Taliban with increasing terrorist attacks, the slow pace of reconstruction, and the scourge of opium poppies are reversing the tide of success. We may be nearing the point where we can lose Afghanistan again.

It is in times like these when we learn who our true friends are in our global war against the enemies of democracy and freedom. During these critical moments, we come to appreciate more fully those countries that are willing to place their soldiers in harm's way in the international fight against terrorism, extremism, and tyranny.

In the case of the international efforts in Afghanistan, Canada is one such country. Our neighbor Canada has 2,200 troops serving in Afghanistan. Canada has also assumed responsibility for the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kandahar, which was originally established by our own military.

In Kandahar, Canadian men and women are at the forefront of the coalition effort to combat the resurgent

Taliban and other terrorist forces in the lawless southern portion of the country. Since 2002, the Canadian people have lost 16 soldiers and one diplomat in this struggle. Last month on the same day that the Canadian Parliament voted to extend its mission in Afghanistan, Canada suffered its first-ever female combat death. We honor the ultimate sacrifice that Captain Nichola Goddard made in service to her country and salute the brave efforts of all the men and women in uniform, Canadian and American, who fight shoulder to shoulder in Afghanistan.

Madam Speaker, I urge all NATO members to follow Canada's example and commit troops to even the most violent areas of Afghanistan.

I strongly support our resolution and ask all of my colleagues to do so as well.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, but I do want to thank Chairman BURTON for sponsoring this very important resolution. We often forget just how important our friend is to the north. Canada is a reliable ally, a good friend in thick and thin; so, again, I want to thank Chairman BURTON for sponsoring this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 408, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 408.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE OF GUYANA

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 792) recognizing the 40th anniversary of the independence of Guyana and extending best wishes to Guyana for peace and further progress, development, and prosperity.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 792

Whereas Guyana gained independence from the United Kingdom on May 26, 1966;

Whereas since Guyana became an independent country, the interests of Guyana and the United States have been closely aligned;

Whereas Guyana is a supporter and ally of the United States in the Global War on Terror, and joins the United States in promoting political and economic freedoms, combating poverty, crime, disease, and drugs, and promoting security, stability, and prosperity;

Whereas the bonds of association and friendship between the peoples of the two countries have been strengthened by the large number of Guyanese who have migrated to the United States, where they make significant contributions to both the United States and Guyana; and

Whereas Guyana is an integral member of the Caribbean region and a constructive partner of the United States in fulfilling the agenda of the Western Hemisphere: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes the 40th anniversary of the independence of Guyana and extends best wishes to Guyana for peace and further progress, development, and prosperity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 792. The resolution, offered by my good friend from New York, Mr. MEEKS, congratulates the Co-operative Republic of Guyana for reaching its 40th anniversary as an independent nation.

H. Res. 792 is a timely and appropriate measure to let our friends in Guyana know that we support them as they pursue a strong and sustainable democracy. The resolution recognizes the 40th anniversary of Guyana's independence and extends best wishes to that nation for peace and further progress, development, and prosperity.

Guyana has been a real friend, Madam Speaker, to the U.S. and an ally in the fight against terror. The friendship between our two nations has been strengthened by large numbers of folks who have migrated to the United States. Here the Guyanese diaspora makes significant contributions to both the U.S. and Guyana. Guyana Americans are law-abiding people who contribute to American society as good citizens while respecting the values of our society.

Guyana joins the United States in promoting political and economic freedoms; combating poverty, crime, disease, and drugs; and promoting security, regional stability, and prosperity.

The government of Guyana is, as we speak, placing emphasis on every sector of society to ensure improved efficiency, competitiveness, and sustainable development. These policies will therefore focus on strategies for development which expand and promote employment opportunities, increase foreign exchange earnings and private investment into the nation.

Guyana is an integral member of the Caribbean region and constructive partner of the United States in fulfilling the agenda of the Western Hemisphere, that is, promoting peace, security, democracy, and development throughout the hemisphere.

I urge all of our Members to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, let me first thank the sponsor of the this resolution, my good friend and colleague on the International Relations Committee, Congressman MEEKS. He is a strong advocate, both for the Caribbean Basin and for people of African ancestry. I commend his dedication to these matters.

Madam Speaker, the short but significant history of Guyana illustrates the benefits that accrue to a nation that respects human rights and the rule of law, rejects the empty promises of Marxism-Leninism, and works closely with other democratic nations.

For the first 25 years after independence, successive Guyanese governments attempted to institute a socialist economy and closely coordinated their foreign policies with the so-called Non-Aligned Movement. The political rights of average Guyanese were systematically denied.

And the jungles of Guyana served as the home of the infamous Jonestown cult that took the life of our colleague, Congressman Leo Ryan, my friend and distinguished predecessor.

Spurred by frustration with increasing political repression and poor economic performance, hundreds of thousands of Guyanese sought freedom by immigrating to our shores and to Canada. In the last decade, Guyana has begun to turn itself around. The country has held several free and fair elections, it has generally respected human rights, and it has adopted market-friendly economic policies.

Guyana is becoming one of our trusted allies and is cooperating with us against narcotics trafficking and in the global war on terror.

Madam Speaker, as a result of Guyana's reorientation toward the principles that we hold dear, Guyana was one of only nine threshold countries under the Millennium Challenge Account when the first Millennium Challenge Account beneficiaries were chosen in 2004.

The designation as a threshold country recognizes Guyana's commitment to promoting democratic freedoms, investing in its people, providing economic opportunities for its citizenry.

In January 2003, Guyana was one of only two countries in our hemisphere to be included in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

Inclusion in this program indicates that a country faces grave challenges from HIV/AIDS, a distinction that Guyana no doubt would have preferred to have been spared, but selection for funds under this program also reflects a meaningful improvement in the relationship between Guyana and the United States and our shared commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS.

Madam Speaker, Guyana has come a long way in the last 40 years. On the foundation of this remarkable growth, we and our Guyanese neighbors will have even greater opportunities in the next four decades to strengthen the diplomatic, economic, and social ties that unite us. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 792.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WILFRED EDWARD ''COUSIN WILLIE'' SIEG, SR. POST OFFICE

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5169) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1310 Highway 64 NW. in Ramsey, Indiana, as the ''Wilfred Edward 'Cousin Willie' Sieg, Sr. Post Office''.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5169

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. WILFRED EDWARD "COUSIN WILLIE" SIEG, SR. POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1310 Highway 64 NW. in Ramsey, Indiana, shall be known and designated as the ''Wilfred Edward 'Cousin Willie' Sieg, Sr. Post Office''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Wilfred Edward 'Cousin Willie' Sieg, Sr. Post Office''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 5169, authored by the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SODREL), would designate the post office building in Ramsey, Indiana, as the Wilfred Edward ''Cousin Willie'' Sieg, Sr. Post Office.

Mr. Sieg was born March 16, 1931, in his life-long home of Ramsey, Indiana. After finishing high school at Corydon High, Cousin Willie went on to graduate from Indiana University in 1953 with a degree in marketing.

Upon graduation, Cousin Willie served our country as a first lieutenant in the United States Air Force. He was a member of both the Air Force and the Air Force Reserve until 1968. After his active duty service, Cousin Willie returned home to help run the family business, Ramsey Popcorn Company, alongside his parents and brothers.

His parents had started Ramsey Popcorn in 1944, going door to door selling raw popcorn kernels out of the back of their truck. The business soon grew, and in the early 1960s, Cousin Willie, along with his three brothers, took over day-to-day operations of the business from his parents and eventually served as president of Ramsey Popcorn Company, Incorporated.

Under his purview, Ramsey Popcorn Company grew to become one of the top four producers of popcorn in the world. The company sells roughly 50 million pounds of popcorn a year and exports to over 20 countries throughout the world. Ramsey also sells to household-name snack food manufacturers and supermarkets, including Kraft, Frito Lay, Campbell's, the Kroger Company, and Target.

Mr. Sieg was truly proud of his small community and felt compelled to become involved in any way that he could. In addition to employing many members of his community, he was also a member of the Ramsey Lion's Club, the Ramsey-Spencer Grange, and local Farm Bureau.

He was a Rotarian and actively involved in local and State politics, as well as the area schools' athletic programs. He also served as a member of two boards, the Ramsey Water Company and the North Harrison Community School Board.

Mr. Sieg passed away on February 2, 2006 at the age of 74 after losing a battle with lung cancer. The town of Ramsey and the State of Indiana lost a proud and prominent member of their community. I urge all Members to come together to honor a man that took pride in serving his community by passing H.R. 5169.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, we have no objections on our side to this body's consideration of this measure, and I yield back the balance of our time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SODREL).

Mr. SODREL. Madam Speaker, Cousin Willie is not just a bill here on the floor of the House to me. He was a fixture in the community. He was a familiar face. As a matter of fact, he was seen on so many grocery store shelves, he was a familiar face to a whole lot of people.

Madam Speaker, I think it is quite an accomplishment to take a little town in southern Indiana and turn it into one of the fourth largest producers in the world. So it is a great honor to me to be able to rename the post office. It will serve as a constant reminder of his contributions to people there in southern Indiana and his own community of Ramsey.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5169.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 5169, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5169.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WILLIAM H. EMERY POST OFFICE

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1445) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 520 Colorado Avenue in Arriba, Colorado, as the ''William H. Emery Post Office''.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1445

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. WILLIAM H. EMERY POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 520 Colorado Avenue in Arriba, Colorado, shall be known and designated as the ''William H. Emery Post Office''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to

be a reference to the ''William H. Emery Post Office''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, S. 1445, offered by the distinguished gentleman from Colorado, Senator SALAZAR, would designate the post office building in Arriba, Colorado, as the William H. Emery Post Office. Mr. Emery carried the mail in Arriba, Colorado, for 50 years and 6 months, a record for any carrier west of the Mississippi River.

He began his work when he was only 19 years old, delivering the mail on horseback. At different points in his career, he also delivered the mail using a single buggy, a Harley Davidson motorcycle, and a Model T Ford.

Emery was extremely dedicated to his job despite the difficult conditions of eastern Colorado. Often he dug through snow drifts and forded swollen streams in order to complete his route.

William Emery retired at the age of 70, having served the Arriba Post Office his entire life. He was married to Luella Frances Emerson. The couple had three children, six grandchildren, and many great grandchildren, many of whom still reside in Colorado to this day.

The renaming of the Arriba Post Office after William Emery is a fitting tribute to a man who served the people of Colorado for over half a century. For this reason, I urge swift passage of this measure.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, we have no objections on our side to our body's consideration of this measure, and I yield back the balance of our time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of S. 1445 and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1445.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO HONORING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF ALEX'S LEMONADE STAND DAYS

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res 368) expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to honoring the goals and ideals of Alex's Lemonade Stand Days, June 9 through 11, 2006.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON RES. 368

Whereas Alex's Lemonade Stand grew out of the front yard lemonade stand started by Alexandra ''Alex'' Scott, a pediatric cancer patient;

Whereas in 2000, at the age of four, Alex opened her first annual lemonade stand in hopes of raising money for childhood cancer causes, specifically research for a cure;

Whereas after Alex's untimely death at the age of eight in August of 2004, her parents established the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation in her memory and has raised almost $5,000,000 to date;

Whereas Alex's Lemonade Stand as a fundraiser brings charitable giving to communities and neighborhoods, making donating simple and rewarding for everyone;

Whereas Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation has donated millions of dollars to pediatric cancer care centers across the country and the Foundation works intensively with research and treatment facilities nationwide to identify specific ways in which the Foundation can make a difference for children who need new advances in cancer treatments;

Whereas adults and children alike have been inspired by Alex's innovative idea and, since 2000, 1000 Alex's Lemonade Stands have been organized by a diverse group of devoted volunteers in front yards, schools, law firms, supermarkets, malls, and churches; and

Whereas the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation has designated the second weekend in June as the Lemonade Stand Days, the goal of which is to create awareness and raise funds for childhood cancer research: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) honors the goals and ideals of Lemonade Stand Days;

(2) honors Alexandra ''Alex'' Scott for her hard work and dedication to helping others with childhood cancer;

(3) honors Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation as a unique organization that has evolved from a young cancer patient's front yard lemonade stand to a nationwide fundraising movement for childhood cancer;

(4) commends the Foundation's fundraising efforts for childhood cancer causes and research into new cures and treatments for childhood cancer;

(5) honors the Foundation's work in encouraging and educating the public on childhood cancer issues and helping individuals start their own lemonade stands; and

(6) commends the Foundation's help in expediting the process of finding new cures for childhood cancer.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GERLACH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

□ 1600

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the short but incredibly meaningful life of my constituent, Alexandra Scott. Alex, as she was known, was an extraordinary young girl who possessed ideas and a vision far beyond her years. Shortly before Alex's first birthday, she was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a common and aggressive childhood cancer. Alex fought valiantly against her disease, and at the age of 4, she came up with the idea to set up a lemonade stand to raise money to help her doctors find a cure for other children with cancer. The idea was put into action by Alex and her older brother, Patrick, when they set up the first ''Alex's Lemonade Stand for Childhood Cancer'' on their front lawn in July of 2000.

For the next 4 years, despite her deteriorating health, Alex continued to hold her annual lemonade stands to raise money to help other children with pediatric cancer. Her drive and enthusiasm did not go unnoticed, as she inspired many to follow her example. Since Alex's first lemonade stand in 2000, thousands of other lemonade stands have been established across the country by children, schools, businesses and community organizations, all to benefit Alex's inspired cause. As of May 2006, her national campaign has raised over $6 million for childhood cancer research.

In recognition of her good work, Alex was honored with numerous awards, including the Good Housekeeping Hero for Health Award, the Philadelphia 76ers Hometown Hero Award in 2002 and 2003, the Philadelphia Foundation's Philanthropist of the Year Award for 2003, the Association for Fundraising Professionals Youth in Philanthropy Award in 2004, a Kellogg's Child Development Award in 2004, and a Volvo for Life Award in 2003.

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation has also received the PPRA Gold Medal Award for 2005, the 2006 Ben Appelbaum Advocate for Youth Award, and the Philadelphia Sports Writers Humanitarian Award for 2005.

During the last months of Alex's life, Chuck Zacney, the owner of the racing horse Afleet Alex, saw a story about Alex and her determination to raise money to help children with pediatric cancer. Mr. Zacney first made a donation on his own and then decided he wanted to donate a portion of Afleet Alex's winnings to the foundation.

Not only did a portion of Afleet Alex's winnings go to fight childhood cancer, but lemonade stands were set up at two of the most prestigious horse racing events in the country, the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness.

On August 1, 2004, Alex died peacefully at the age of 8 after battling cancer for most of her life. Alex's spirited determination raised awareness and money for all childhood cancers while she bravely fought her own deadly battle. Alex's parents, Jay and Liz Scott, established the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation in her memory and have worked to create awareness and raise funds for childhood cancer research.

Each year the foundation holds ''Alex's Lemonade Stand Days'' during the second weekend in June where lemonade stands are set up all across the country, all with one single goal, to raise money to help children with childhood cancer and to honor the memory of Alex. During the national ''Alex's Lemonade Stand Days'' there are nearly 500 separate stands erected across the country. This kind of support speaks volumes about the character, the vision and the inspiration of this young girl.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to stand before you today to support House Concurrent Resolution 368, which honors the goals and ideals of this annual event, and, most importantly, honors the drive, determination and selflessness of this tremendous young lady, Alex Scott.

I urge all of my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 368.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, we on the Democratic side are pleased to support this legislation, with great admiration for a young lady.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues to honor the memory of a brave little girl and the cause she started, to find a cure for childhood cancer. Six years ago, Alexandra Scott opened her first lemonade stand to help stop the spread of childhood and pediatric cancer. She was only 4 years old. Although herself stricken with the disease, Alex held annual lemonade stands every year to raise money for cancer research, inspiring thousands of other Americans to follow suit.

As the father of six young children, I can only imagine the pain that would come with having one of your young children diagnosed with cancer. I cannot fathom the thought of facing such a tremendous fight for the child's future. However, where many adults would falter under the odds, Alexandra found immeasurable strength, perhaps only the strength that a child could muster, to turn something negative into something else entirely, hope.

Alexandra thought not only of herself, but of all the other children in the world experiencing the same illness. Her decision to start her own lemonade stands demonstrates the purity of her spirit, a spirit that made her cause a national phenomenon.

I want to thank Congressman GERLACH for introducing this legislation to honor Alexandra and the good work she started to defeat childhood cancer. Her story is a testament that everyone can do their part to change the world.

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEARCE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GERLACH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 368.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5:15 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5:15 p.m.

□ 1717

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KLINE) at 5 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4939, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND HURRICANE RECOVERY, 2006

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 857 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 857

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4939) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) is recognized for 1 hour.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 days to revise and extend their remarks and insert tabular and extraneous material on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday the Rules Committee met and reported a rule for consideration of the conference report of H.R. 4939, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. Additionally, it provides that the report shall be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4939, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006, is intended to fully fund our forces overseas and at home.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when our sons and daughters are deployed overseas in a wartime environment, this legislation provides critical funds that will be used to conduct ongoing operations in the global war on terror.

Unlike other wars, this war is one where terrorists are having a critical impact and one that requires the perpetual vigilance of not only our forces but the American people. To our forces' credit, just last week they were successful in killing Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, one of the critical players among the nonstate terrorist actors. This success required professionalism, perseverance, and tenacity, qualities our military has in abundance.

It is worth noting that if we were not in Iraq we would never have killed al-Zarqawi. However, it is also fair to observe that al-Zarqawi was dedicated to pursuing and killing Americans around the globe. If we had not found him, he surely would have found and attacked us.

Mr. Speaker, the Iraqis also deserve to be commended for their efforts in this struggle. During this war, they have held three elections, written a constitution, and just last week formed a permanent government. They played a key role in locating al-Zarqawi and are assuming an increasing role in defending their own country. They are watching what we do here today. They require and request our continued support as they move forward in their efforts to build a new and better Iraq. The passage of this rule and the underlying legislation is an important sign that this country and this Congress will keep its commitment to Iraq as it strives to create a future of hope and promise.

But, Mr. Speaker, real challenges remain, and it is these challenges that require our action today. Our military, our sons and daughters, need these funds immediately. They require our support and we must give it to them.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware that some may question the cost of the global war on terror. Some may question its worth. But, Mr. Speaker, today is not September 10 of 2001. We know what terrorists are capable of doing. Our enemies have chosen to make Iraq the central theater in the global war on terror. They seek to do to us what their predecessors did to the former Soviet Union in Afghanistan, and that is a triumph which we must deny our enemies for our own sake as well as that of the Iraqi people.

This war is a generational test, one that will affect not only our children and grandchildren but our great grandchildren as well. We cannot fail in our objectives. We chose this path as a Congress in 2002, and now we must stay on the hard road to its completion. We must support our forces now by passing this rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, many may wish to raise extraneous policy issues in this debate. Some may want to discuss issues that, however important, are superfluous to the question at hand. Frankly, I welcome the debate today and later this week; however, now is the time to support our sons and daughters deployed overseas in the field of battle. Now is the time to accept the true challenges we face. We can do so by passing this rule and the underlying legislation.

Before I close, Mr. Speaker, I wish to note that this supplemental has another purpose. It contains funds that are badly needed by our fellow Americans on the gulf coast as they are still recovering from the devastating effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Our fellow citizens need and deserve our support. I am proud that we are responding as we have twice before. This, like the war on terror, is a national priority. These twin issues, the war on terror and recovery of the gulf coast, demand and will receive resources from the Congress on a bipartisan basis.

However, I am pleased to note that in our negotiation with the other body our conferees have kept their focus on the challenges at hand. They have not allowed the generous impulses that underlay this legislation to be perverted into a reckless spending spree on other items. For that they are to be commended. They have given us a bill that meets the needs at hand, yet remains fiscally responsible. That is no small accomplishment. This legislation deserves support from all Members.

Mr. Speaker, to that end I urge support for the rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, 3 months have gone by since the House last met to pass new funding for one of the greatest challenges our Nation faces today: the ongoing war in Iraq.

It is clear that so long as our soldiers are in harm's way our financial support for them must continue. But writing checks is not enough. All the money in the world cannot produce a positive change if it is squandered and misappropriated.

What our troops in the field and our citizens at home need is for this body to recommit itself to real oversight of our government and its actions. What we need is the return of accountability to the House, and it is that above all else which has yet to transpire here.

I would ask my friends on the other side of the aisle to focus their gaze half a world away. The past 90 days has seen victories and defeats in Iraq, reasons for hope and reasons for grave concern, and the outcome is still far from certain. And yet the overwhelming majority of our troops routinely carry out acts of most remarkable personal courage. Their very existence is in constant danger, and yet they press onward.

Contrast that courage, Mr. Speaker, with the lack of courage displayed by the majority of the House. It is a lack of courage that has proven as persistent as the problems it has perpetuated. I should first say that the very idea that we are once again funding the conflict through a supplemental spending bill is both dishonest and dishonorable. It is part of a massive effort to hide the true cost of the war from the public because supplemental spending bills are not counted in the budget. They, therefore, do not increase our national deficits on paper even though they do increase them in reality.

If this Congress believes that funding the mission in Iraq is necessary, it should have the courage to fund it through an official appropriations bill. Then the financial cost to the Nation should be clear then for all to see and the American people could better judge for themselves how much we are willing to devote to it.

As important as this is, it pales in comparison to the importance of overseeing how our money is being spent in Iraq. Events move so quickly in that country and every action taken possesses such a great consequence that Members of this body should demand nothing less than full accountability of how the U.S. funds are being spent.

Three months ago I repeated the calls of JOHN TIERNEY for the creation of a congressional commission to oversee the reconstruction efforts abroad, one like the Truman Commission, created during World War II by a Congress with the integrity needed to investigate itself. At the time I cited reports claiming that billions of dollars in funds intended for the Iraqi people had gone missing.

Three months later nothing has changed. In fact, just last week the Special Inspector General for Iraq reconstruction issued a report that documented 7 billion more dollars lost in funds for reconstruction, and he has 72 ongoing investigations into accusations of fraud and corruption among contractors. And what is his reward? They are going to take inspection away from him and give it over to the State Department.

Now, I am thankful that this Inspector General has been working hard in the last 2 years and in keeping track of numbers because that document would never have come from this majority. They do not even want to discuss the war in any detail. This week's debate on this war will be the first of its kind and the September 11 anniversary will be 5 years very shortly.

Where is the courage? Where is the resolve? How can they speak day in and day out about our need to support the troops and then refuse to exercise constitutional responsibility to oversee this, our Nation's greatest foreign project in a generation?

Where there is no oversight, there will be corruption, and in a war zone corruption is not just about money. It is about life and death. If U.S. contractors are not getting what they are supposed to do done, the lives of our troops are put in danger. If reconstruction projects are being hobbled by poor accounting, then the projects will not be completed and Iraqis will continue suffering.

We learned months ago that 80 percent of the Marines who died of upper body wounds would have been saved if only they had not been forced to depend on an unreliable contractor for the body armor. How can we live with that?

I only recently learned that the DOD Inspector General will be looking into these contracts at my request because nobody has looked to see what happened there.

Mr. Speaker, these unjustifiable realities are to a large degree the product of a lack of any real oversight by Congress. And the lack, in turn, has been the province of a majority unwilling to truly reform its ways, even while it lectures people near and far about the importance of reforming theirs.

Mr. Speaker, until this changes, we have no solutions to the self-imposed problems undermining the safety of our citizens here and the success of our troops and their mission abroad, and we cannot afford to waste another moment. Too much is at stake.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I simply want to note that this supplemental actually addresses many of the gentlewoman's concerns. It includes money for armoring Humvees and truck vehicles. The supplemental makes modifications to requests in

order to get the safest, most effective armored vehicles to troops in the field, including the National Guard, in a timely manner. It also adds $726 million to requests to ensure that Army tracked combat vehicles, such as Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles, are upgraded and available to the National Guard. There is also in this appropriation additional funds to look after the well-being of the troops.

I think that our House Committee on Armed Services has done an excellent job in identifying problems as they have shown themselves and dedicating resources to them throughout this conflict.

□ 1730

Certainly more can be done, and it is being done in this supplemental. But I would also point out for the record, while every loss of life, every loss of life is a tragedy and something that one would prefer not to happen, this is still one of the lowest, if not the lowest, casualty rates in the history of sustained conflict in our country.

So I think, frankly, those in charge of these particular areas have done a commendable job and, frankly, are trying to improve on that job literally on a daily basis. This supplemental is a step in that direction.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin, the ranking member of Appropriations (Mr. OBEY).

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, this event is a sad day in the history of the House and the country. The fact that this bill is before us today indicates that the President's aim is about as faulty as the Vice-President's.

The fact is that on 9/11 we were attacked by al Qaeda. They were sheltered by the Taliban in Afghanistan. The President correctly responded to that by going after al Qaeda in Afghanistan. But then he slipped off the track and diverted his attention and the country's to an unnecessary war in Iraq against a government that had nothing whatsoever to do with the attack against the United States on 9/11.

We have now spent, in 18 separate actions, we will now have spent $450 billion on this adventure, when you take into account what will be provided in the defense appropriations bill which will be considered by the full Appropriations Committee tomorrow.

Now, my objection to the way this war is being funded is based primarily on my belief that the country and the Congress has a right to know what the cost of this war is and what we think future costs will be. But because, as the gentlewoman from New York has indicated, because the requests to finance this war have come in the form of supplementals outside the regular appropriation process, the actual cost of the war has effectively been hidden because the administration's plan was to reveal that cost to the American people on the installment plan.

So a little bit at a time they get to understand what the cost is going to be. $50 billion here. $50 billion there. As Senator Edward Dirksen said, ''Sooner or later that amounts to real money.'' This is a huge expenditure for a misguided war, in my view.

Mr. Speaker, I would make one other point. My second concern about this bill is not directed at what the bill does contain, but rather what this bill does not contain. The Senate adopted a separate amendment, the Byrd-Gregg amendment, which would have added $2.5 billion in additional funding for border security and port security.

Unfortunately, the conferees chose to eliminate that funding from the bill. That means that they did not provide the $1.9 billion that the Senate had asked us to provide to do things such as replace out-dated aircraft. The P–3 fleet, which serves as border security's primary air surveillance mechanism, is over 40 years old, 20 years beyond the average life of that type of plane. The entire fleet needs to be overhauled to extend the service life. This bill does not measure up to that.

We also have nearly 1,700 vehicles which are unusable due to wear and tear because of the environment, the extreme burden that that environment places on Border Patrol agents' equipment and vehicles. This bill does not provide funding for that.

This bill lacks sufficient patrol aircraft. It lacks sufficient funding for armed helicopters on the border. Also, in addition, I believe the Congress should have provided $648 million in additional port security improvements.

The Coast Guard has only 34 inspectors to review security plans at foreign ports. We should have provided $180 million more for customs and border protection, including $80 million for Border Patrol vehicle replacement, and $100 million more for border infrastructure and technology.

We should have provided $50 million more for an upgrade of law enforcement communications. We should have provided $80 million the Senate requested for Immigration and Customs Enforcement vehicle replacement.

We should have provided the amount that the Senate requested, $227 million, for additional port security grants.

The Senate also asked us to provide $211 million in additional funds for rail and seaport inspection equipment. It asked us to provide $132 million more for radiation portal monitors to accelerate deployment to screen 100 percent of in-bound containers.

Alas, this bill contains none of those items. So I think it is grossly deficient in meeting the needs of border security and port security. I regret that. But unfortunately I cannot do much about it because the majority party was determined to exclude these items.

I was also stunned by the fact that the majority party refused to adopt, or refused to retain, the language that was adopted on the House floor which made clear that the United States had no intention of entering into permanent basing rights agreements in Iraq.

Certainly I recognize that some Members of this House do not want us to leave Iraq anytime soon, but somewhere between leaving immediately and staying forever, we ought to be able to find common ground.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I want to address one of the points that my good friend from Wisconsin made. He used the phrase ''unnecessary war in Iraq.'' I would respectfully disagree with that judgment.

The policy to remove Saddam Hussein was not a policy adopted simply by this administration or this Congress. It was the official policy of the United States under our former President beginning in 1998. Why did we do that? Why did we choose to make the removal of Saddam Hussein a priority in American policy?

You can tick off the reasons. This is the man who launched two regional wars that killed over a million people, and he involved our country in armed conflict in 1991 in Kuwait. This is a man who twice had come close to developing nuclear weapons. First, in 1981, the Israelis took them out. Then he was evidently within 6 months of having nuclear weapons when the Gulf War broke out, according to the United Nations.

You visit Iraq, you can find mass graves everywhere. Tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of Iraqis killed. This was a person who was financing terrorism up to the moment he was removed from power, offering $25,000 bounties and rewards to families whose children were killed in terrorist activity.

This is a person who was getting out from under U.N. sanctions, who had already despoiled the Oil-for-Food Program, and who step by step was moving himself toward the ability to be a threat in the region again, or to enhance his threat.

So I think when we actually look at this regime, it is fortunate that it is not there, because, frankly, if it were there today, it would be freer and more powerful and I think more threatening than it was when it was removed.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I regard the argument made by my good friend from Oklahoma to be essentially an ad hominem argument. The issue is not whether or not Saddam Hussein was a good guy or a bad guy. He is obviously a bad guy. And it is nice to see that he is gone.

We have other bad guys in the world. We have the guy running Iran right now. We have got the guy running North Korea. I do not see the United States engaging in military action against either of them.

Mr. Speaker, I would also point out, is it not strange that a man who was important enough to remove as head of Iraq by this administration was seen by this President's father and his administration, I am sorry, I got that wrong, was seen by the previous Reagan administration, for instance, as being someone we could do business with, and, in fact, was someone who the United States supported against Iran in a previous military engagement.

So the issue is not whether Saddam is a good man or a bad man. He is obviously a bad man, and it is good that he is gone. I will grant the gentleman that. But I would also say, it came at a hellacious price. We simply did not have to incur 18,000 American soldiers wounded in order to remove him. We did not need to incur more than almost 3,000 dead in order to remove him. Let's not kid ourselves. We were misled into this war on the basis of manipulated and bad intelligence. We were told by the Vice-president we would be welcomed with open arms. The President landed on that carrier and said ''Mission Accomplished.''

Well, not so. Unfortunately, not so. So we continue to pay the price, bogged down in the same kind of mess that we were stuck in in Vietnam. And let us face it, there is not anybody in this city from the President on down who has a clue about how to get the United States out of this mess. There isn't anybody in this town who has a clue.

And that is the sad fact we are faced with, as we are forced to continually appropriate more and more funds to support our troops. And then we go back home and say, ''Well, we know what we are doing.'' The fact is, this Congress did not know what it was doing when it gave the President the ability to go to war.

The President did not know what he was doing, the Vice-President did not know what he was doing, and Secretary Rumsfeld has demonstrated that he is both the most arrogant Secretary of Defense since Bob McNamara and the most incompetent Secretary of Defense in the post-Cold War period of this country.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I just want to once again disagree with my good friend. I find, frankly, comparisons between Iraq and Vietnam to be incredibly overdrawn and misplaced.

When we look at the scale of the American involvement in Vietnam, the level of casualties, the fact that there were not democratic elections, that there was not the constitution, that there has not been the progress; frankly, when we look at the threat that was constituted by Saddam Hussein as opposed to North Vietnam, they simply are not on a comparable scale. Saddam Hussein was somebody who tried to assassinate a President of the United States, who drew us into war, who was actively seeking weapons of mass destruction throughout his political career.

I would agree with the gentleman, the fact that we had had a relationship with him was an enormous mistake and bad judgment by the American Government. I would actually concede my good friend's point in that regard.

I am glad in the end we understood who and what this person is. I point out again, that recognition began before this administration ever took office. That began with an act of this Congress and the preceding administration, the Clinton administration, that declared it was in the interest of the United States to remove this tyrant from office.

I would also point out with respect to the intelligence, while undoubtedly mistakes were made, those were mistakes that were made by the entire planet, and, frankly, I can bring quote after quote out by the preceding administration, by Members of this body that would suggest all of us believed there were weapons of mass destruction.

There is no question that at various points in his career, Saddam Hussein pursued weapons of mass destruction, acquired them and used them. And in a post-9/11 world, there is every reason to believe he would do so again and that that technology, that capability, could easily migrate to our opponents.

The world is safer; Iraq has a chance for a better future because Saddam is gone. That is due to the heroism and the professionalism of the American military.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT).

□ 1745

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I just found it somewhat ironic to listen to our friend from Oklahoma when he talks about the search that was conducted by Saddam Hussein for weapons of mass destruction, because it clearly was this administration during the 1980s that aided him in that pursuit.

There is documentation out there that shows the transfer of dual-use technologies to Saddam Hussein by the Reagan-Bush administration. There is also sufficient evidence, and we can say he is a bad guy now, but maybe he was a good guy back in the 1980s, because he was taken off the terrorist list.

In fact, the current Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, was a special envoy of the Reagan administration to Saddam Hussein. When Saddam Hussein unleashed the hell of mustard gas on the Kurds in Halabja, it was that administration who said, no, we are not going to allow the U.N. to condemn our pal, Saddam Hussein. So I am glad he concedes that point because it is right and just that he concedes that point.

I find it interesting now that we are embracing other good guys in this world, like Moammar Gadhafi, a great democrat who was taken off the terrorist list. I wonder sometime if we will regret that. But we are not here to talk about that.

I am here because I was to echo the sentiments expressed by the gentlewoman. I don't think they can be repeated often enough, because the reconstruction of Iraq has been plagued by mismanagement, waste and fraud. The examples are too numerous to list. I would need the entire hour, and I will not burden my colleagues with that.

But let us suffice it to say that the Bush administration cannot account for $9 billion, that is billion with a B, that it purportedly transferred to Iraqi ministries. But we cannot find it, it is missing.

Let me just cite one specific example about the work of a company called Custer Battles, which I think illustrates the order of magnitude of corruption, fraud and abuse that has been perpetrated on the American taxpayer while we have other pressing needs in this country.

They were retained to provide security at Baghdad International Airport, including personnel, equipment, and K–9 teams to process passengers and cargo. They were totally inept, and they were corrupt. They had a K–9 team that consisted of someone's pet that certainly couldn't sniff bombs. I don't know what they were doing, but they were not sniffing bombs there.

But in any event, the director of airport security wrote this about them. Custer Battles has shown themselves to be unresponsive, uncooperative, incompetent, deceitful, manipulative and war profiteers. Other than that, they are swell fellows. Now that is the director of the Baghdad International Airport. It is rife over there with mismanagement, with fraud and abuse.

Now, how do we know these problems? We certainly don't know them from the activities of this institution. I am the ranking member on a subcommittee of the International Relations Committee dealing with oversight and investigations. Last week we had our first oversight hearing into the activities of the administration when it came to the reconstruction phase.

But we do know about these problems, because we know them through the work of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Construction, Stuart Bowen, whose reports have been objective, accurate and hard hitting, giving praise when it is due and giving criticism when it is due. They describe in clear, simple, understandable terms how the administration's incompetence, mismanagement and lack of planning have exacerbated our problems there.

But now this bill, as the gentlewoman said, shifts the oversight responsibility for new Iraq reconstruction funds from the Special Inspector General for Iraq to the State Department Inspector General. Since the Department of State Inspector General has a fraction of the resources that were provided to the Special Inspector

General of Iraq and clearly limited experience, this means that oversight of Iraq reconstruction will be drastically reduced. We can't afford that now. We can't afford it. We cannot afford it, and yet this bill does it.

The American taxpayer cannot afford that. It is an egregious error in judgment to remove the Inspector General of Iraq, who is appointed by President Bush, from that oversight role.

Well, I would urge because of those reasons that this rule be rejected.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished chairman of the Rules Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by expressing my appreciation to my good friend from Oklahoma, who has spent so much time and energy focused on our Nation's security, and it is very appropriate that he manage this rule, which is primarily dealing with that issue.

When we think about the developments that have taken place just within the last week in Iraq, the summit, the meeting that was held at Camp David today with President Bush, we all know, as the President said today, that we have difficult, tough days ahead. We know that we are going to likely see retaliatory action taken by those who would be sympathetic with Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the butcher who was responsible for countless beheadings, the attack on the United Nations meeting, the bombings at the wedding that took place in Jordan. We can go down that litany of heinous acts perpetrated by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

But we have to realize that the action that was taken last week was, in fact, a blow to the issue of terrorism, which is one with which we have to deal with on a regular basis, and daily we have to deal with this. I remember in a meeting with President Bush a couple of months ago when he looked over to a few of us and said every single morning when he wakes up the first concern that he has is the threat of a terrorist attack on the United States or our interests in any other part of the world.

I think that this supplemental appropriations bill, which is designed to deal with that issue, is a very, very good and important step. We also know that dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, one of the worst natural disasters that our Nation has ever seen, needs to be addressed, and this bill is designed to do that.

The reason that I really wanted to stand here is to say that this kind of leadership could not have taken place were it not for the actions of the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, Mr. LEWIS. We have really seen a revolution take place within the Appropriations Committee. That revolution is focused on the need to vigorously pursue fiscal responsibility while at the same time pursuing our Nation's priorities.

Chairman LEWIS has done an absolutely phenomenal job at doing just that. We have seen a reduction in the number of so-called earmarks. We have also seen, and the report just came out today, that as we look at the economic growth that has taken place we are also seeing a slowing in the rate of growth of Federal spending. That is because of this appropriations process.

A lot of people say why isn't George Bush out there exercising his right to veto legislation? Well, we all know where we began with this supplemental appropriations bill, slightly below the $92 billion level. We know that our friends in the other body said it would be $109 billion. We saw President Bush make it clear that he would veto any legislation that went beyond that level that he had requested, and we now have seen, because of the leadership of Chairman LEWIS, the House and the Senate go through this conference process.

I watched some of it last week. It was on television. We were able to see Chairman LEWIS prevail in ensuring that we would pursue a fiscally responsible supplemental appropriations bill.

You know, we don't always win here in the House of Representatives when we are dealing with our friends in the other body. But Chairman LEWIS has done just that. I believe we owe a great debt of thanks to him for the leadership that he has shown there.

We also need to note that right upstairs in the Rules Committee now we have a hearing, as we proceed, with the Transportation, Treasury, HUD, D.C. appropriations bill. We are looking at trying to get as much of our appropriations work done as we approach the July 4th break. We are on a path towards doing that, having passed out of this House a number of important appropriations bills, many of which have seen, as I said, this dramatic slowing in the rate of growth of Federal spending. Time and time again, we see in the media, and we hear reports, people are saying, oh, Republicans are spending huge amounts of money.

I see my friend from Wisconsin here, the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations, and his interests were just represented very well upstairs in the Rules Committee when our colleague, Mr. OLVER from Massachusetts, proposed an amendment that was modeled after the amendment that Mr. OBEY has recommended on a regular basis, that being a tax increase for those who are at the highest ends of the economic spectrum and, in turn, expending, and we have figured it roughly, $26.1 billion in total through the appropriations process that we have so far.

Now, one of the things that Chairman LEWIS has done is he has been very insistent on keeping that spending level down, but, again, meeting our priorities.

Mr. Speaker, I simply want to extend congratulations to him. I look forward to seeing passage of this conference report, with strong bipartisan support, so that we can continue winning the war on terror, so that we can continue dealing with those victims of this horrible tragedy of Hurricane Katrina, so that we can, in fact, have that additional $2.3 billion that was provided to ensure that we are taking every step that we possibly can to prevent the threat of avian flu and for the other items that are in there.

So I would simply again extend congratulations to Mr. LEWIS and our colleagues, and I look forward to strong bipartisan support with this measure.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from California, the distinguished chairman of the Rules Committee, has just described what he believes to be fiscally responsible actions taken by the Congress.

Let me simply say that the idea that it is fiscally responsible for this Congress to provide $40 billion or more in tax cuts to persons making $1 million a year, paid for with borrowed money, while at the same time refusing to provide $2.5 billion in essential funding to secure our borders and secure our ports, is, to me, strange logic indeed. I regard that set of priorities to be spectacularly irresponsible.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished majority leader, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER).

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my colleague from Oklahoma for yielding.

I rise today in strong support of the conference report on the supplemental spending bill. I want to applaud the work of Chairman LEWIS, his cardinals, Mr. OBEY and others, who worked hard to bring this bill together.

They spent countless hours trying to hammer this out, and they did this at the same time when they were also passing seven appropriation bills here on the floor of the House. On behalf of myself and my colleagues, let me just say to Mr. LEWIS, Mr. OBEY, and others, thank you, a job well done.

□ 1800

Mr. Speaker, our support of this conference report boils down to three groups of people: the first and foremost, our troops. It ensures that our fighting men and women have all the equipment and resources necessary to successfully win the global war on terror. Overall, it provides $65.8 billion for Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, and it also provides some $4.85 billion to train and equip security forces in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as almost $2 billion to prevent IED attacks.

Second, the conference report helps those most impacted by last year's devastating hurricane season by providing $19.8 billion to rebuild the gulf coast. This is important, and those folks in the gulf coast region that have been

devastated by these hurricanes last summer are doing well, they are improving; but they have got a long, long way to go.

Finally, it does all of this by keeping an eye out for the American taxpayer and his or her wallet. At the start of this conference, House Republicans made clear that we would not consider an emergency supplemental package that spends $1 more than what the President requested. We made good on this promise by rejecting some $14 billion in unnecessary, nonemergency spending added by the other body.

So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of our troops fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq, our fellow citizens working to rebuild the gulf coast, and the American taxpayer, I urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I will be asking Members to vote ''no'' on the previous question. If the previous question is defeated, I will offer an amendment to the rule to instruct the enrolling Clerk to make some very important national security additions to the conference report.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the amendment and extraneous materials be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, the items contained in the amendment are not new provisions. They were all included in the Senate version of the supplemental appropriations bill and provide greatly needed funds to increase security at our Nation's borders and ports; but, unfortunately, they were stripped from the final version of the report.

I want to stress that a ''no'' vote on the previous question will not stop consideration of the report. A ''no'' vote will simply allow the House to add greatly needed funds to protect our Nation's vulnerable borders and ports.

But a ''yes'' vote on the previous question will prevent the House from adding the funds to improve our border and port security; and representing a border area myself, I appreciate the importance of it.

So, please, again, vote ''no'' on the previous question.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to say that I believe we have had a good debate on the rule. I believe the importance and the timeliness of this legislation could not be more self-evident. This bill has been carefully crafted and worked in a way to ensure that our servicemen receive the best equipment when they go to war.

We had an interesting historical discussion and debate here today. It was an interesting debate as to how we got into this war and whether or not Saddam Hussein, it was appropriate to remove him at the time and in the way that we did. I suspect history will vindicate our judgment in that regard. He was a terrorist, he was a tyrant, he was a threat to global peace; and the world is better because he is gone. Iraq has a potential future because he is gone.

However, I would ask Members to remember this is a vote about our willingness to support our service men and women and not about other policy issues. The men and women serving our cause in Iraq ask for nothing more. In good conscience, we should give them nothing less.

It is also a vote about whether or not we will support our fellow Americans on the gulf coast. On that I doubt there is any division in this House.

To close, I would urge my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying legislation.

The material previously referred to by Ms. SLAUGHTER is as follows:

PREVIOUS QUESTION FOR H. RES. 857—RULE ON CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4939, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND HURRICANE RECOVERY, 2006

Strike all after the resolved clause and insert:

That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4939) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

SEC. 2. (a) A concurrent resolution specified in subsection (b) is hereby adopted.

(b) The concurrent resolution referred to in subsection (a) is a concurrent resolution

(1) which has no preamble;

(2) the title of which is as follows: ''Providing for Corrections to the Enrollment of the Conference Report on the bill H.R. 4939''; and

(3) the text of which is as follows:

At the end of the conference report, before the short title insert the following:

TITLE ___—ADDITIONAL BORDER AND PORT SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

For an additional amount for the ''Office of the Secretary and Executive Management'' to provide funds for the Office of Policy, $2,000,000: *Provided*, That the entire amount is solely for a contract with an independent non-Federal entity to conduct a needs assessment for comprehensive border security: *Provided further*, That the entire amount is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

For an additional amount for the ''Office of the Chief Information Officer'' to replace and upgrade law enforcement communications, $50,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the entire amount is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

UNITED STATES VISITOR AND IMMIGRATION STATUS INDICATOR TECHNOLOGY

For an additional amount for ''United States Visitor and Immigration Status Indicator Technology'' to accelerate biometric database integration and conversion for 10-print enrollment, $60,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the additional appropriations made available under this heading may be obligated until the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives receive and approve a plan for the expenditure of such funds: *Provided further*, That the entire amount is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses'', $446,050,000, of which $80,000,000 is for border patrol vehicle replacement, $100,000,000 is for sensor and surveillance technology, $211,000,000 is for inspection equipment, $32,000,000 is for supply chain security specialists, and $23,000,000 is for additional container security initiative personnel: *Provided*, That none of the additional appropriations made available under this heading may be obligated until the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives receive and approve a plan for the expenditure of such funds: *Provided further*, That the entire amount is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

AIR AND MARINE INTERDICTION, OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND PROCUREMENT

For an additional amount for ''Air and Marine Interdiction, Operations, Maintenance, and Procurement'' to replace air assets and upgrade air operations facilities, $790,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which $40,000,000 is for helicopter replacement and $750,000,000 is for recapitalization of air assets: *Provided*, That none of the additional appropriations made available under this heading may be obligated until the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives receive and approve a plan for the complete recapitalization of Customs and Border Protection air assets and facilities: *Provided further*, That the entire amount is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

CONSTRUCTION

For an additional amount for ''Construction'', $120,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the additional appropriations made available under this heading may be obligated until the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives receive and approve a plan for the expenditure of these funds: *Provided further*, That the entire amount is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses'' to replace vehicles,

$80,000,000: *Provided*, That the entire amount is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

OPERATING EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Operating Expenses'', $23,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the entire amount is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS

For an additional amount for ''Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements'' for acquisition, construction, renovation, and improvement of vessels, aircraft, and equipment, $600,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the entire amount is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

OFFICE FOR DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS

STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for ''State and Local Programs'', $227,000,000: *Provided*, That the entire amount shall be for port security grants pursuant to the purposes of 46 United States Code 70107 (a) through (h), which shall be awarded based on risk and threat notwithstanding subsection (a), for eligible costs as defined in subsections (b) (2)–(4): *Provided further*, That the entire amount is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, ACQUISITION, AND OPERATIONS

For an additional amount for ''Research, Development, Acquisition, and Operations'' for the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, $132,000,000, to remain available until expensed for the purchase and deployment of ration portal monitors for United States seaports: *Provided*, That the entire amount is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER

ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, IMPROVEMENTS, AND RELATED EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Acquisition, Construction, Improvements, and Related Expenses,'' for construction of the language training facility referenced in the Mater Plan and information technology infrastructure improvements, $18,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the entire amount is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.''

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the opposition, at least for the moment, to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives, (VI, 308–311) describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as ''a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge.'' To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that ''the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition'' in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: ''The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition.''

Because the vote today may look bad for the Republican majority they will say ''the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution * * * [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever.'' But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule * * * When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment.'

Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled ''Amending Special Rules'' states: ''a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate.'' (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.''

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The Speaker pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 794, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 804, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 608, by the yeas and nays;

H. Con. Res. 338, by the yeas and nays; ordering the previous question on H. Res. 857, by the yeas and nays.

Proceedings on H. Con. Res. 408 will resume tomorrow.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The other votes in this series will be 5-minute votes.

RECOGNIZING THE 17TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACRE IN TIANANMEN SQUARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 794, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 794, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 362, nays 1, not voting 68, as follows:

[Roll No. 251]

YEAS—362

Abercrombie	Bilirakis	Brown-Waite, Ginny
Aderholt	Bishop (GA)	Burgess
Akin	Bishop (NY)	Burton (IN)
Alexander	Blackburn	Butterfield
Allen	Blumenauer	Buyer
Andrews	Boehlert	Camp (MI)
Baca	Boehner	Campbell (CA)
Baker	Bonilla	Cannon
Baldwin	Bonner	Cantor
Barrett (SC)	Bono	Capito
Barrow	Boozman	Capps
Bartlett (MD)	Boren	Cardin
Bass	Boswell	Carnahan
Bean	Boucher	Carson
Beauprez	Boustany	Carter
Becerra	Boyd	Castle
Berman	Bradley (NH)	Chandler
Berry	Brady (TX)	Chocola
Biggert	Brown (SC)	

Cleaver
Clyburn
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Higgins
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McMorris
McNulty
Meehan
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salazar
Sanders
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shadegg
Shaw
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (FL)

NAYS—1

Paul

NOT VOTING—68

Ackerman
Bachus
Baird
Barton (TX)
Berkley
Bishop (UT)
Blunt
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Calvert
Capuano
Cardoza
Case
Chabot
Clay
Coble
Costa
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Deal (GA)
DeLauro
Engel
Evans
Ford
Gallegly
Gibbons
Gillmor
Gingrey
Green (WI)
Gutierrez
Hastings (FL)
Hinchey
Istook
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Manzullo
Matsui
Meek (FL)
Millender-McDonald
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (VA)
Musgrave
Nussle
Oxley
Payne
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Pryce (OH)
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Schwarz (MI)
Sessions
Shays
Snyder
Strickland
Sweeney
Taylor (NC)
Waters
Watson
Wexler
Wilson (SC)
Young (AK)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised that there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1858

Mr. ROTHMAN changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING THE UNAUTHORIZED, INAPPROPRIATE, AND COERCED ORDINATION OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 804, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH of New Jersey) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 804, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 362, nays 1, not voting 68, as follows:

[Roll No. 252]

YEAS—362

Abercrombie
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Becerra
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cardin
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Castle
Chandler
Chocola
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Higgins
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McMorris
McNulty
Meehan
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salazar
Sanders
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shadegg
Shaw
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Sodrel
Solis
Souder

Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (FL)

NAYS—1

Paul

NOT VOTING—68

Ackerman
Bachus
Baird
Barton (TX)
Berkley
Bishop (UT)
Blunt
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Calvert
Capuano
Cardoza
Case
Chabot
Clay
Coble
Costa
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Deal (GA)
DeLauro
Engel
Evans
Ford
Gallegly
Gibbons
Gillmor
Gingrey
Green (WI)
Gutierrez
Hastings (FL)
Hinchey
Istook
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Manzullo
Matsui
Meek (FL)
Millender-McDonald
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (VA)
Musgrave
Nussle
Oxley
Payne
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Pryce (OH)
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Schwarz (MI)
Sessions
Shays
Snyder
Strickland
Sweeney
Taylor (NC)
Waters
Watson
Wexler
Wilson (SC)
Young (AK)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are reminded that 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1905

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: ''Resolution condemning the People's Republic of China for its continued interference in the internal affairs of the Catholic Church and its persecution of Catholics loyal to the Pope.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING THE ESCALATING LEVELS OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 608, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 608, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 363, nays 1, not voting 67, as follows:

[Roll No. 253]

YEAS—363

Abercrombie
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Becerra
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cardin
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Castle
Chandler
Chocola
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Higgins
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McMorris
McNulty
Meehan
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salazar
Sanders
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shadegg
Shaw
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (FL)

NAYS—1

Paul

NOT VOTING—67

Ackerman
Bachus
Baird
Barton (TX)
Berkley
Bishop (UT)
Blunt
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Calvert
Capuano
Cardoza
Case
Chabot
Clay
Coble
Costa
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Deal (GA)
DeLauro
Engel
Evans
Ford
Gallegly
Gibbons
Gillmor
Gingrey
Green (WI)
Gutierrez
Hinchey
Istook
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Manzullo
Matsui
Meek (FL)
Millender-McDonald
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (VA)
Musgrave
Nussle
Oxley
Payne
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Pryce (OH)
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Schwarz (MI)
Sessions
Shays
Snyder
Strickland
Sweeney
Taylor (NC)
Waters
Watson
Wexler
Wilson (SC)
Young (AK)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are reminded that 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1913

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 12, 2006 I was absent from the House due to an airline delay.

Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 251—"yea"; rollcall No. 252—"yea"; rollcall No. 253—"yea."

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE ACTIVITIES OF ISLAMIST TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 338.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 338, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 364, nays 0, not voting 66, as follows:

[Roll No. 254]

YEAS—364

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Becerra
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cardin
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Higgins
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
McNulty
Meehan
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salazar
Sanders
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shadegg
Shaw
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (FL)

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Abercrombie

NOT VOTING—66

Ackerman
Bachus
Baird
Barton (TX)
Berkley
Bishop (UT)
Blunt
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Calvert
Capuano
Cardoza
Case
Clay
Coble
Costa
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
Deal (GA)
DeLauro
Engel
Evans
Ford
Gallegly
Gibbons
Gillmor
Gingrey
Green (WI)
Gutierrez
Hinchey
Istook
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Manzullo
Matsui
McKinney
Meek (FL)
Millender-McDonald
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Musgrave
Nussle
Oxley
Payne
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Pryce (OH)
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Schwarz (MI)
Sessions
Shays
Snyder
Strickland
Sweeney
Taylor (NC)
Watson
Wexler
Wilson (SC)
Young (AK)

□ 1921

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4939, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND HURRICANE RECOVERY, 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the vote on ordering the previous question on House Resolution 857, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 204, nays 165, not voting 62, as follows:

[Roll No. 255]

YEAS—204

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachus
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Bass
Beauprez
Biggert
Bilirakis
Blackburn
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boustany
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Feeney
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Gutknecht
Hall
Harris
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hostettler
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Marchant
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
Melancon
Mica
Miller (FL)
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Myrick
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Osborne
Otter
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Porter
Price (GA)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Schmidt
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Shadegg
Shaw
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Sodrel
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (FL)

NAYS—165

Abercrombie
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Butterfield
Capps
Cardin
Carson
Chandler
Cleaver
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)

Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Emanuel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frank (MA)
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth
Higgins
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
Kucinich
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meeks (NY)
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Pelosi
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Ross
Rothman
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Salazar
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (GA)
Serrano
Sherman
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOT VOTING—62

Ackerman
Baird
Barton (TX)
Berkley
Bishop (UT)
Blunt
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Calvert
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Case
Clay
Coble
Costa
Davis (FL)
Davis (TN)
Deal (GA)
DeLauro
Engel
Evans
Ford
Gallegly
Gibbons
Gillmor
Gingrey
Green (WI)
Gutierrez
Hinchey
Istook
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Manzullo
Matsui
Meek (FL)
Millender-McDonald
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (VA)
Musgrave
Nussle
Oxley
Payne
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Pryce (OH)
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Schwarz (MI)
Sessions
Shays
Snyder
Strickland
Sweeney
Taylor (NC)
Watson
Wexler
Young (AK)

□ 1928

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from Washington on Monday, June 12, 2006. As a result, I was not recorded for rollcall votes Nos. 251, 252, 253, 254 and 255. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall Nos. 251, 252, 253, 254 and 255.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below: Rollcall 251, H. Res. 794, Recognizing the 17th anniversary of the massacre in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, in the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes, I would have voted "yea"; rollcall 252, H. Res. 804—Condemning the unauthorized, inappropriate, and coerced ordination of Catholic bishops by the People's Republic of China, I would have voted "yea"; rollcall 253, H. Res. 608—Condemning the escalating levels of religious persecution in the People's Republic of China, I would have voted "yea"; rollcall 254, H. Con. Res. 338—Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the activities of Islamist terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere, I would have voted "yea"; rollcall 255, H.R. 4939—Previous question on the Rule for H.R. 4939, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006, I would have voted "yea."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include tabular and extraneous material on the conference report to accompany H.R. 4939.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

□ 1930

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. CON. RES. 318

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name from H. Con. Res. 318.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4939, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND HURRICANE RECOVERY, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 857, I call up the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4939) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 857, the conference report is considered read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of June 8, 2006, at page H3587.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The supplemental provides $94.5 billion for the global war on terror, disaster assistance, border security and avian flu preparedness. This measure provides significant funding to fight the global war on terrorism and support the troops. Funding for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom are provided at $65.8 billion. This includes funding earmarked by Congress for Humvees, Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles.

Additionally, the conference report includes roughly $2 billion to develop and procure countermeasures to prevent Improvised Explosive Devices attacks on our troops.

Funding for disaster assistance is at the President's request of $19.8 billion. Included in the funding is the following: $6 billion for FEMA disaster relief; $5.2 billion for community and economic development; $3.7 billion for various flood control repairs by the Army Corps of Engineers; as well as $500 million for agriculture disaster assistance for farmers, ranchers and producers affected by the 2005 hurricanes. The total is $3.4 billion below the Senate-passed bill.

Avian flu preparedness is funded at the President's request of $2.3 billion. Border security is funded at $1.9 billion. This funding provides $708 million to deploy National Guard troops along the Southwest border.

Additionally, $1.2 billion is provided to the Department of Homeland Security to enhance border security. This funding also assumes the hiring of 1,000 new Border Patrol agents, 4,000 additional detention beds and various tactical and logistics support activities for the Secure Borders Initiative.

Finally, the border security package also earmarks $20 million to increase judges and attorneys at the Department of Justice to better process violation of immigration laws.

The conferees worked exhaustively to knock out items not related to the global war on terror and disaster assistance, as well as to reduce the overall funding for this package.

You may recall the Senate-passed bill was $108.9 billion. The House-passed bill was $91.9 billion. The House bill was passed on March 16. Remember that, Mr. Speaker, March 16, prior to the President's formally requesting funding for border security, avian flu preparedness or levees. This package is $94.5 billion. The final conference report before us is $14.4 billion below the Senate-passed bill.

The conference report excluded funding for a $700 million railroad relocation project and no language compelling the DOD to cover hurricane damage to shipyard facilities otherwise covered by private insurance.

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations (H.R. 4939)
(Amounts in thousands)

	Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs. House	Conference vs. Senate
EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND HURRICANE RECOVERY, 2006						
TITLE I - THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR SUPPLEMENTAL						
CHAPTER 1						
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE						
Foreign Agricultural Service						
Public Law 480 Title II Grants (emergency)	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	---	---
CHAPTER 2						
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE - MILITARY						
Military Personnel						
Military Personnel, Army (emergency)	6,506,223	6,506,223	6,665,284	6,587,473	+81,250	-77,811
Military Personnel, Navy (emergency)	761,724	1,061,724	1,071,474	1,321,474	+259,750	+250,000
Military Personnel, Marine Corps (emergency)	834,122	834,122	860,872	840,872	+6,750	-20,000
Military Personnel, Air Force (emergency)	1,145,363	1,145,363	1,195,713	1,155,713	+10,350	-40,000
Reserve Personnel, Army (emergency)	126,070	166,070	150,570	140,570	-25,500	-10,000
Reserve Personnel, Navy (emergency)	110,412	110,412	115,712	110,712	+300	-5,000
Reserve Personnel, Marine Corps (emergency)	10,327	10,327	13,192	10,627	+300	-2,565
Reserve Personnel, Air Force (emergency)	1,940	1,940	3,440	1,940	---	-1,500
National Guard Personnel, Army (emergency)	96,000	96,000	121,550	111,550	+15,550	-10,000
National Guard Personnel, Air Force (emergency)	1,200	1,200	6,200	1,200	---	-5,000
Subtotal	9,593,381	9,933,381	10,204,007	10,282,131	+348,750	+78,124
Operation and Maintenance						
Operation and Maintenance, Army (emergency)	18,050,310	18,380,310	17,594,410	17,744,410	-635,900	+150,000
Operation and Maintenance, Navy (emergency)	2,791,300	2,793,600	2,826,693	2,696,693	-96,907	-130,000
(Transfer to Coast Guard) (emergency)	(-75,020)	(-75,020)	---	---	(+75,020)	---
Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps (emergency)	1,622,111	1,722,911	1,589,911	1,639,911	-83,000	+50,000
Operation and Maintenance, Air Force (emergency)	6,088,269	5,328,869	6,057,408	5,576,257	+247,388	-481,151
Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide (emergency)	3,534,929	3,259,929	2,879,899	2,830,677	-429,252	-49,222
(Transfer to Coast Guard) (emergency)	---	---	(-75,000)	(-75,000)	(-75,000)	---
Operation and Maintenance, Army Reserve (emergency)	100,100	100,100	100,100	100,100	---	---
Operation and Maintenance, Navy Reserve (emergency)	236,509	236,509	236,509	78,509	-158,000	-158,000
Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps Reserve (emergency)	55,675	55,675	87,875	87,875	+32,200	---
Operation and Maintenance, Air Force Reserve (emergency)	18,563	18,563	18,563	18,563	---	---
Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard (emergency)	178,600	178,600	178,600	178,600	---	---
Operation and Maintenance, Air National Guard (emergency)	30,400	30,400	30,400	30,400	---	---
Former Soviet Union Threat Reduction Account (emergency)	---	---	---	44,500	+44,500	+44,500
Afghanistan Security Forces Fund (emergency)	2,197,833	1,851,833	1,908,133	1,908,133	+56,300	---
Iraq Security Forces Fund (emergency)	3,703,000	3,007,000	3,703,000	3,007,000	---	-696,000
Iraq Freedom Fund (emergency)	100,000	---	25,000	---	---	-25,000
Joint IED Defeat Fund (emergency)	---	---	1,958,089	1,958,089	+1,958,089	---
Subtotal	38,707,599	36,964,299	39,194,590	37,899,717	+935,418	-1,294,873
Procurement						
Aircraft Procurement, Army (emergency)	345,000	533,200	533,200	345,000	-188,200	-188,200
Missile Procurement, Army (emergency)	203,300	203,300	203,300	203,300	---	---
Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army (emergency)	1,127,351	1,983,351	1,592,451	1,767,451	-215,900	+175,000
Procurement of Ammunition, Army (emergency)	829,679	829,679	829,679	829,679	---	---
Other Procurement, Army (emergency)	6,789,791	7,528,657	6,286,145	5,819,645	-1,709,012	-466,500
Aircraft Procurement, Navy (emergency)	151,769	293,980	412,169	516,869	+222,889	+104,700
Weapons Procurement, Navy (emergency)	55,200	90,800	63,351	55,200	-35,600	-8,151
Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps (emergency)	323,256	330,996	327,126	323,256	-7,740	-3,870
Other Procurement, Navy (emergency)	54,640	111,719	140,144	54,640	-57,079	-85,504
Procurement, Marine Corps (emergency)	2,577,467	3,260,582	2,576,467	2,577,467	-683,115	+1,000
Aircraft Procurement, Air Force (emergency)	347,135	663,595	679,515	674,815	+11,220	-4,700
Missile Procurement, Air Force - Rescission	---	---	---	-80,000	-80,000	-80,000
Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force (emergency)	29,047	29,047	29,047	29,047	---	---
Other Procurement, Air Force (emergency)	1,476,991	1,489,192	1,452,651	1,500,591	+11,399	+47,940
Rescission (emergency)	-39,400	---	---	-39,400	-39,400	-39,400
Procurement, Defense-Wide (emergency)	331,353	331,353	331,353	331,353	---	---

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations (H.R. 4939)
(Amounts in thousands)

	Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs. House	Conference vs. Senate
Subtotal	14,602,579	17,679,451	15,456,598	14,908,913	-2,770,538	-547,685
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation						
RDT&E, Army (emergency)	402,177	424,177	54,700	54,700	-369,477	---
RDT&E, Navy (emergency)	124,845	126,845	124,845	124,845	-2,000	---
RDT&E, Air Force (emergency)	62,610	305,110	382,630	382,630	+77,520	---
RDT&E, Defense-Wide (emergency)	145,921	145,921	148,551	148,551	+2,630	---
Subtotal	735,553	1,002,053	710,726	710,726	-291,327	---
Revolving And Management Funds						
Defense Working Capital Funds (emergency)	516,700	502,700	516,700	516,700	+14,000	---
Other Department of Defense Programs						
Defense Health Program (emergency)	1,153,562	1,153,562	1,153,562	1,153,562	---	---
Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense (emergency)	192,800	156,800	154,596	150,470	-6,330	-4,126
Office of the Inspector General (emergency)	1,120	6,120	1,815	5,000	-1,120	+3,185
Subtotal	1,347,482	1,316,482	1,309,973	1,309,032	-7,450	-941
Related Agencies						
Intelligence Community Management Account (emergency)	178,875	158,875	158,875	158,875	---	---
General Provisions						
Additional transfer authority (emergency)	(1,250,000)	---	(600,000)	(1,250,000)	(+1,250,000)	(+650,000)
New transfer authority (emergency)	(4,000,000)	(2,000,000)	(2,000,000)	(2,000,000)	---	---
Defense Cooperation Account (emergency)	5,800	---	5,800	5,800	+5,800	---
Reduction for Border Security (emergency)	---	---	-1,908,000	---	---	+1,908,000
Section xxxx Cooperative Threat reduction (emergency)	---	---	8,000	---	---	-8,000
Total, Chapter 2	65,687,969	67,557,241	65,657,269	65,791,894	-1,765,347	+134,625
CHAPTER 3						
BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE						
Funds Appropriated to the President						
United States Agency For International Development						
Child Survival and Health Programs Fund (emergency)	5,300	5,300	10,300	7,800	+2,500	-2,500
Development Assistance (emergency)	10,500	10,500	22,500	16,500	+6,000	-6,000
International Disaster and Famine Assistance (emergency)	136,290	136,290	171,290	161,300	+25,010	-9,990
Transfer to Operating expenses of the USAID (emergency)	(-80)	---	(-80)	(-80)	(-80)	---
Operating Expenses of the USAID (emergency)	141,600	61,600	141,600	101,000	+39,400	-40,600
By transfer, Famine Assistance (emergency)	(80)	---	(80)	(80)	(+80)	---
Subtotal	293,690	213,690	345,690	286,600	+72,910	-59,090
Other Bilateral Economic Assistance						
Economic Support Fund (emergency)	1,637,500	1,584,500	1,757,500	1,686,000	+101,500	-71,500
Transfer to International Broadcasting (emergency)	(-50,000)	---	---	---	---	---
Transfer to IRRF (emergency)	---	---	(-10,000)	(-5,000)	(-5,000)	(+5,000)
Democracy Fund (emergency)	---	10,000	39,750	22,500	+12,500	-17,250
Iraq Relief and Reconsturction Fund (by transfer) (emergency)	---	---	(10,000)	(5,000)	(+5,000)	(-5,000)
Subtotal, Other bilateral assistance	1,637,500	1,594,500	1,797,250	1,708,500	+114,000	-88,750
DEPARTMENT OF STATE						
International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (emergency)	107,700	107,700	107,700	107,700	---	---
Transfer to Foreign Military Financing (emergency)	---	---	---	(-13,000)	(-13,000)	(-13,000)
Migration and Refugee Assistance (emergency)	51,200	51,200	110,200	75,700	+24,500	-34,500
United States Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund (emergency)	---	---	20,000	---	---	-20,000
Subtotal	158,900	158,900	237,900	183,400	+24,500	-54,500

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations (H.R. 4939)
(Amounts in thousands)

	Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs. House	Conference vs. Senate
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY						
International Affairs Technical Assistance (emergency)	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	---	---
MILITARY ASSISTANCE						
Funds Appropriated to the President						
Foreign Military Education and Training						
By transfer, International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement	---	---	---	(13,000)	(+13,000)	(+13,000)
Peacekeeping Operations (emergency)	123,000	173,000	181,200	178,000	+5,000	-3,200
General Provisions						
Sec. 1303 Peacekeeping operations (Solidarity Coalition) (rescission) (emergency)	---	-17,000	---	-7,000	+10,000	-7,000
Sec. 1405 Export-Import Bank of the United States Subsidy Appropriation (rescission)	---	---	-13,200	-37,000	-37,000	-23,800
Economic Support Fund (rescission)	---	---	-47,000	---	---	+47,000
Total, Chapter 3	2,226,090	2,136,090	2,514,840	2,325,500	+189,410	-189,340
CHAPTER 4						
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY						
United States Coast Guard						
Operating Expenses (emergency)	26,692	26,692	26,692	26,692	---	---
Transfer from Defense, O&M, Navy (emergency)	(75,020)	(75,020)	(75,000)	(75,000)	(-20)	---
CHAPTER _						
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH						
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES						
Salaries and expenses (emergency)	36,200	---	---	---	---	---
ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL						
General administration (emergency)	5,000	---	---	---	---	---
Total, Chapter _	41,200	---	---	---	---	---
CHAPTER 5						
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE						
Military Construction						
Military Construction, Army (emergency)	342,600	287,100	214,344	187,100	-100,000	-27,244
Military Construction, Air Force (emergency)	28,200	35,600	28,200	27,700	-7,900	-500
Military Construction, Defense-Wide (emergency)	35,200	---	35,200	20,600	+20,600	-14,600
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS						
Veterans medical services (contingent emergency)	---	---	430,000	---	---	-430,000
Total, Chapter 5	406,000	322,700	707,744	235,400	-87,300	-472,344
CHAPTER 6						
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE						
Legal Activities						
United States Attorneys						
Salaries and expenses (emergency)	4,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	---	---
United States Marshals Service						
Salaries and expenses (emergency)	1,500	---	1,500	1,000	+1,000	-500
Federal Bureau Of Investigation						
Salaries and Expenses (emergency)	100,720	99,000	82,000	85,700	-13,300	+3,700

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations (H.R. 4939)
(Amounts in thousands)

	Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs. House	Conference vs. Senate
Drug Enforcement Administration						
Salaries and Expenses (emergency)	5,000	14,200	5,000	14,200	---	+9,200
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives						
Salaries and expenses (emergency)	5,000	4,100	4,000	4,000	-100	---
Subtotal	116,220	120,300	95,500	107,900	-12,400	+12,400
DEPARTMENT OF STATE						
Administration of Foreign Affairs						
Diplomatic and Consular Programs (emergency)	1,552,600	1,380,500	1,452,600	1,383,625	+3,125	-68,975
Office of Inspector General (emergency)	25,300	25,300	25,300	25,300	---	---
Education and Cultural Exchange Programs (emergency)	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	---	---
Subtotal	1,582,900	1,410,800	1,482,900	1,413,925	+3,125	-68,975
International Organizations						
Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities (emergency)	69,800	129,800	129,800	129,800	---	---
Subtotal, Dept of State	1,652,700	1,540,600	1,612,700	1,543,725	+3,125	-68,975
RELATED AGENCY						
Broadcasting Board of Governors						
International Broadcasting Operations (emergency)	---	7,600	30,250	10,274	+2,674	-19,976
Transfer from ESF (emergency)	(50,000)	---	---	---	---	---
Broadcasting capital improvements (emergency)	---	28,500	---	25,826	-2,674	+25,826
General Provisions						
Sec 1201: Diplomatic and Consular Programs (reduction of emergency funds in ths Act)	---	---	-60,000	---	---	+60,000
Total, Chapter 6	1,768,920	1,697,000	1,678,450	1,687,725	-9,275	+9,275
CHAPTER 7						
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY						
Departmental Offices						
Salaries and expenses (emergency)	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	---	---
Total, Title I	70,508,671	72,091,523	70,936,795	70,419,011	-1,672,512	-517,784
Emergency appropriations	(70,548,071)	(72,108,523)	(70,626,995)	(70,582,411)	(-1,526,112)	(-44,584)
Contingent emergency appropriations	---	---	(430,000)	---	---	(-430,000)
Rescission	---	---	(-60,200)	(-37,000)	(-37,000)	(+23,200)
Rescission of emergency funding	---	(-17,000)	(-60,000)	(-7,000)	(+10,000)	(+53,000)
Transfer out (emergency)	(-125,100)	(-75,020)	(-85,080)	(-93,080)	(-18,060)	(-8,000)
By transfer (emergency)	(125,100)	(75,020)	(85,080)	(93,080)	(+18,060)	(+8,000)
TITLE II - FURTHER HURRICANE DISASTER RELIEF AND RECOVERY						
CHAPTER 1						
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE						
Executive Operations						
Working Capital Fund (emergency)	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	---	---
Office of the Inspector General						
Salaries and expenses (emergency)	---	---	445	445	+445	---
Agricultural Research Service						
Salaries and expenses (emergency)	---	---	15,600	10,000	+10,000	-5,600

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations (H.R. 4939)
(Amounts in thousands)

	Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs. House	Conference vs. Senate
Buildings and Facilities (emergency)	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	---	---
Farm Service Agency						
Salaries and expenses (emergency)	---	---	5,000	---	---	-5,000
Emergency conservation Program (emergency)	---	---	32,547	---	---	-32,547
Natural Resources Conservation Services						
Emergency Watershed Protection Program (emergency)	10,000	10,000	165,000	50,955	+40,955	-114,045
Rural Development						
Salaries and Expenses (emergency)	---	---	1,000	1,000	+1,000	---
Rural Community Advancement Program (emergency)	---	---	150,000	25,000	+25,000	-125,000
Subtotal	---	---	151,000	26,000	+26,000	-125,000
GENERAL PROVISIONS						
Sec. 2104 Farm Service Agency (transfer out) (emerg)	---	---	(-38,000)	(-38,000)	(-38,000)	---
Sec. 2106 Rural Development - Rural Housing(emergency)	---	---	35,408	---	---	-35,408
Subtotal	---	---	35,408	---	---	-35,408
Total, Chapter 1	55,000	55,000	450,000	132,400	+77,400	-317,600
CHAPTER 2						
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE - MILITARY						
Military Personnel						
Military Personnel, Army (emergency)	2,125	2,125	2,125	2,125	---	---
Military Personnel, Navy (emergency)	22,002	22,002	22,002	22,002	---	---
Military Personnel, Marine Corps (emergency)	3,992	3,992	3,992	3,992	---	---
Military Personnel, Air Force (emergency)	21,610	21,610	21,610	21,610	---	---
Reserve Personnel, Army (emergency)	4,071	4,071	4,071	4,071	---	---
Reserve Personnel, Navy (emergency)	10,200	10,200	10,200	10,200	---	---
Reserve Personnel, Marine Corps (emergency)	2,176	2,176	2,176	2,176	---	---
Reserve Personnel, Air Force (emergency)	94	94	94	94	---	---
National Guard Personnel, Army (emergency)	1,304	1,304	1,304	1,304	---	---
National Guard Personnel, Air Force (emergency)	1,408	1,408	1,408	1,408	---	---
Subtotal	68,982	68,982	68,982	68,982	---	---
Operation and Maintenance						
Operation and Maintenance, Navy (emergency)	29,913	29,913	29,913	29,913	---	---
Operation and Maintenance, Air Force (emergency)	37,359	37,359	37,359	37,359	---	---
Operation and Maintenance, Navy Reserve (emergency)	12,755	12,755	12,755	12,755	---	---
Operation and Maintenance, Air Force Reserve (emergency)	1,277	1,277	1,277	1,277	---	---
Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard (emergency)	42,307	42,307	42,307	42,307	---	---
Subtotal	123,611	123,611	123,611	123,611	---	---
Procurement						
Procurement of Ammunition, Army (emergency)	700	700	700	700	---	---
Other Procurement, Army (emergency)	9,136	9,136	9,136	9,136	---	---
Aircraft Procurement, Navy (emergency)	579	579	579	579	---	---
Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps (emergency)	899	899	899	899	---	---
Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy (emergency)	1,025,236	775,236	1,025,236	775,236	---	-250,000
Other Procurement, Navy (emergency)	85,040	85,040	85,040	85,040	---	---
Aircraft Procurement, Air Force (emergency)	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	---	---
Procurement, Defense-Wide (emergency)	2,797	4,797	2,797	2,797	-2,000	---
Subtotal	1,137,387	889,387	1,137,387	887,387	-2,000	-250,000
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation						
RDT&E, Navy (emergency)	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	---	---
RDT&E, Air Force (emergency)	6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250	---	---
RDT&E, Defense-Wide (emergency)	730	730	730	730	---	---
Subtotal	18,980	18,980	18,980	18,980	---	---

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations (H.R. 4939)
(Amounts in thousands)

	Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs. House	Conference vs. Senate
Revolving And Management Funds						
Defense Working Capital Funds (emergency)	1,222	1,222	1,222	1,222	---	---
National Defense Sealift Fund (emergency)	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	---	---
General fund payment, surcharge collections, sales of commissary stores, Defense (emergency)	10,530	10,530	10,530	10,530	---	---
Subtotal	21,752	21,752	21,752	21,752	---	---
Other Department of Defense Programs						
Defense Health Program (emergency)	33,881	33,881	33,881	33,881	---	---
Office of Inspector General (emergency)	---	---	326	326	+326	---
Subtotal	33,881	33,881	34,207	34,207	+326	---
General Provisions						
New transfer authority (emergency)	(300,000)	---	(75,000)	(150,000)	(+150,000)	(+75,000)
Total, Chapter 2	1,404,593	1,156,593	1,404,919	1,154,919	-1,674	-250,000
CHAPTER 3						
CORPS OF ENGINEERS - CIVIL						
Investigations (emergency)	---	---	45,000	3,300	+3,300	-41,700
Investigations (contingent emergency)	---	---	2,500	---	---	-2,500
Construction (emergency)	595,300	100,000	595,300	549,400	+449,400	-45,900
(contingent emergency)	---	---	39,000	---	---	-39,000
Operation and Maintenance (contingent emergency)	---	---	3,200	3,200	+3,200	---
Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies (emergency)	3,099,000	1,360,000	3,299,000	3,145,024	+1,785,024	-153,976
(contingent emergency)	---	---	17,500	---	---	-17,500
Rescission (emergency)	---	---	---	-15,000	-15,000	-15,000
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR						
Bureau of Reclamation						
Water and Related Resources (emergency)	---	---	---	9,000	+9,000	+9,000
Total, Chapter 3	3,694,300	1,460,000	4,001,500	3,694,924	+2,234,924	-306,576
CHAPTER 4						
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY						
Office of Inspector General						
Salaries and expenses (emergency)	13,500	13,500	---	2,000	-11,500	+2,000
Customs and Border Protection						
Salaries and expenses (emergency)	---	12,900	12,900	12,900	---	---
Construction (emergency)	16,000	4,800	4,800	4,800	---	---
Subtotal	16,000	17,700	17,700	17,700	---	---
United States Coast Guard						
Operating Expenses (emergency)	7,350	14,300	90,571	88,970	+74,670	-1,601
Acquisition, Construction, & Improvements (emergency)	62,160	80,755	191,844	191,730	+110,975	-114
Subtotal	69,510	95,055	282,415	280,700	+185,645	-1,715
Federal Emergency Management Agency						
Administrative and Regional Operations (emergency)	70,000	70,000	71,800	71,800	+1,800	---
Preparedness, Mitigation, Response and Recovery (emergency)	5,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	---	---
Disaster Relief (emergency)	7,165,700	9,548,000	10,400,000	6,000,000	-3,548,000	-4,400,000
Transfer to Disaster Assistance Direct Loan Program (emergency)	---	(-150,000)	(-38,000)	---	(+150,000)	(+38,000)
Transfer from SBA Disaster Loans Program Account (emergency)	---	(712,000)	(712,000)	---	(-712,000)	(-712,000)
Disaster Assistance Direct Loan Program Account:						
Cost of direct loans (emergency)	300,000	150,000	300,000	278,800	+128,800	-21,200
Administrative expenses (emergency)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	---	---
Transfer from Disaster Relief Fund (emergency)	---	(150,000)	---	---	(-150,000)	---

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations (H.R. 4939)
(Amounts in thousands)

	Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs. House	Conference vs. Senate
Subtotal, FEMA	7,541,700	9,779,000	10,782,800	6,361,600	-3,417,400	-4,421,200
Total, Chapter 4	7,640,710	9,905,255	11,082,915	6,662,000	-3,243,255	-4,420,915
CHAPTER 5						
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR						
United States Fish and Wildlife Service						
Construction (emergency)	132,400	132,400	132,400	132,400	---	---
National Park Service						
Historic Preservation Fund (emergency)	3,000	3,000	83,000	43,000	+40,000	-40,000
Construction (emergency)	55,400	55,400	55,400	55,400	---	---
Subtotal	58,400	58,400	138,400	98,400	+40,000	-40,000
United States Geological Survey						
Surveys, Investigations, and Research (emergency)	10,200	10,200	10,200	10,200	---	---
Mineral Management Service						
Royalty and Offshore Minerals Management (emergency)	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	---	---
Subtotal	216,000	216,000	296,000	256,000	+40,000	-40,000
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY						
Environmental Programs and Management (emergency)	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	---	---
Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program (emergency)	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	---	---
Subtotal	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	---	---
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE						
Forest Service						
National Forest System (emergency)	---	20,000	50,000	20,000	---	-30,000
Total, Chapter 5	229,000	249,000	359,000	289,000	+40,000	-70,000
CHAPTER 6						
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR						
Training and Employment Services (emergency)	---	---	32,500	16,000	+16,000	-16,500
Office of Inspector General (emergency)	---	---	2,000	---	---	-2,000
Subtotal	---	---	34,500	16,000	+16,000	-18,500
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES						
Health Resources and Services Administration						
Community Health Centers (emergency)	---	---	6,000	4,000	+4,000	-2,000
Centers For Disease Control and Prevention						
Disease Control, Research, and Training (emergency)	---	---	20,000	8,000	+8,000	-12,000
Office of the Secretary						
Office of Inspector General (emergency)	---	---	2,670	---	---	-2,670
Subtotal	---	---	28,670	12,000	+12,000	-16,670
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION						
Departmental Management						
Office of Inspector General (emergency)	---	---	1,500	---	---	-1,500
Hurricane Education Recovery (emergency)	---	---	880,000	285,000	+285,000	-595,000
Subtotal	---	---	881,500	285,000	+285,000	-596,500

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations (H.R. 4939)
(Amounts in thousands)

	Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs. House	Conference vs. Senate
Corporation for National and Community Service						
National Civilian Community Corps (emergency)	---	---	20,000	10,000	+10,000	-10,000
RELATED AGENCIES						
Office of Inspector General (emergency)	---	---	277	---	---	-277
Social Security Admin (by transfer) (emergency)	---	---	(38,000)	---	---	(-38,000)
GENERAL PROVISIONS						
Sec. 2601 Historically Black Colleges and Universities Capital Financing Program (emergency)	---	---	15,000	15,000	+15,000	---
Total, Chapter 6	---	---	979,947	338,000	+338,000	-641,947
CHAPTER 7						
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE						
Military Construction						
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps (emergency)	53,430	44,770	44,770	44,770	---	---
Military Construction, Air Force (emergency)	111,240	97,300	103,500	97,300	---	-6,200
Military Construction, Army National Guard (emergency)	210,071	67,800	210,071	330,071	+262,271	+120,000
Rescission (emergency)	---	---	---	-120,000	-120,000	-120,000
Military Construction, Air National Guard (emergency)	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800	---	---
Military Construction, Navy Reserve (emergency)	24,270	24,270	24,270	24,270	---	---
Rescission (emergency)	---	-49,530	-49,530	-49,530	---	---
Subtotal	404,811	190,410	338,881	332,681	+142,271	-6,200
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS						
Departmental Administration						
Construction, Major Projects (emergency)	600,000	550,000	623,000	585,919	+35,919	-37,081
Transfer to Medical Services (emergency)	---	(-275,000)	---	---	(+275,000)	---
Subtotal	600,000	550,000	623,000	585,919	+35,919	-37,081
RELATED AGENCIES						
OTHER DEFENSE - CIVIL PROGRAMS						
Armed Forces Retirement Home (emergency)	---	---	176,000	176,000	+176,000	---
Armed Forces Retirement Home (unobligated balances)	(75,700)	---	(64,700)	(64,700)	(+64,700)	---
General Provisions						
Sec. 2802 Veterans Health Administration - Medical Services (rescission) (emergency)	---	---	-198,265	-198,265	-198,265	---
Sec. 2802 Veterans Health Administration - Medical Services (emergency)	---	---	198,265	198,265	+198,265	---
Medical Services (emergency)	(122,000)	---	---	---	---	---
Transfer from Construction, Major Projects (emerg)	---	(275,000)	---	---	(-275,000)	---
Subtotal	---	---	---	---	---	---
Total, Chapter 7	1,004,811	740,410	1,137,881	1,094,600	+354,190	-43,281
CHAPTER 8						
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE						
Office of Inspector General						
Salaries and expenses (emergency)	---	---	500	---	---	-500
Legal Activities						
General legal activities: Salaries & expenses (emerg)	---	2,000	3,200	2,000	---	-1,200
United States Attorneys						
Salaries and expenses (emergency)	9,700	5,000	6,500	6,500	+1,500	---
Office of Justice Programs						
State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance (emergency)	---	---	10,000	---	---	-10,000

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations (H.R. 4939)
(Amounts in thousands)

	Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs. House	Conference vs. Senate
Subtotal	9,700	7,000	20,200	8,500	+1,500	-11,700
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE						
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration						
Operations, Research, and Facilities (emergency)	21,000	---	1,135,000	118,000	+118,000	-1,017,000
(By transfer) (emergency)	---	---	(38,000)	(38,000)	(+38,000)	---
Procurement, Acquisition and Construction (emergency)	11,800	11,800	32,000	32,000	+20,200	---
Subtotal	32,800	11,800	1,167,000	150,000	+138,200	-1,017,000
SCIENCE						
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION						
Exploration capabilities (emergency)	---	30,000	35,000	35,000	+5,000	---
RELATED AGENCY						
SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION						
Salaries and expenses by transfer from Disaster Loan Program Account (emergency)	(90,000)	(190,000)	(190,000)	(190,000)	---	---
Disaster Loans Program Account (emergency)	1,254,000	1,254,000	1,254,000	542,000	-712,000	-712,000
Transfer to FEMA (emergency)	---	(-712,000)	(-712,000)	---	(+712,000)	(+712,000)
Transfer to SBA salaries and expenses (emergency)	(-90,000)	(-190,000)	(-190,000)	(-190,000)	---	---
Total, Chapter 8	1,296,500	1,302,800	2,476,200	735,500	-567,300	-1,740,700
CHAPTER 9						
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION						
Federal Highway Administration						
Emergency Highway Assistance (emergency)	---	---	594,000	702,363	+702,363	+108,363
Resccission of contract authority (Highway Trust Fund)	---	---	---	-702,363	-702,363	-702,363
Federal Transit Administration						
Emergency Assistance for Public Transportation (emergency)	---	---	200,000	---	---	-200,000
Federal Rail Administration						
Capital Grants for Rail Line Relocation Projects (emergency)	---	---	700,000	---	---	-700,000
DEPARTMENT OF THE HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT						
Public and Indian Housing						
Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (emergency)	202,000	---	202,000	---	---	-202,000
Community Planning and Development						
Community Development Fund (emergency)	4,200,000	4,200,000	5,200,000	5,200,000	+1,000,000	---
Transfer to OIG and Salaries and Expenses (emerg).	---	(-15,000)	(-12,000)	(-27,000)	(-12,000)	(-15,000)
By transfer, OIG and Salaries and Expenses (emergency)	---	(15,000)	(12,000)	(27,000)	(+12,000)	(+15,000)
INDEPENDENT AGENCY						
Election Assistance Commission						
Election assistance (emergency)	---	---	30,000	---	---	-30,000
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION						
Federal Buildings Fund (emergency)	37,000	37,000	37,000	37,000	---	---
Total, Chapter 9	4,439,000	4,237,000	6,963,000	5,237,000	+1,000,000	-1,726,000
Total, Title II	19,763,914	19,106,058	28,855,362	19,338,343	+232,285	-9,517,019
Emergency appropriations	(19,763,914)	(19,155,588)	(29,040,957)	(20,420,301)	(+1,264,713)	(-8,620,656)
Contingent emergency appropriations	---	---	(62,200)	(3,200)	(+3,200)	(-59,000)
Rescission of emergency funding	---	(-49,530)	(-247,795)	(-382,795)	(-333,265)	(-135,000)
Rescission of contract authority	---	---	---	(-702,363)	(-702,363)	(-702,363)

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations (H.R. 4939)
(Amounts in thousands)

	Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs. House	Conference vs. Senate
By transfer (emergency)	(90,000)	(1,342,000)	(990,000)	(255,000)	(-1,087,000)	(-735,000)
TITLE III - EMERGENCY AGRICULTURAL DISASTER						
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE						
Corporations						
Commodity Credit Corporation Fund:						
Emergency Agricultural Disaster- FY2006 (emergency)	---	---	3,944,000	409,000	+409,000	-3,535,000
(FY 2007 and future years)	---	---	---	91,000	+91,000	+91,000
Total, Title III	---	---	3,944,000	500,000	+500,000	-3,444,000
Appropriations, FY 2006	---	---	(3,944,000)	(409,000)	(+409,000)	(-3,535,000)
Appropriations, FY 2007 and future years	---	---	---	(91,000)	(+91,000)	(+91,000)
TITLE _ - DROUGHT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE						
CORPS OF ENGINEERS - CIVIL						
Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies (emergency)	---	---	5,000	---	---	-5,000
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR						
Water and Related Resources (emergency)	---	---	7,500	---	---	-7,500
Total, Title _	---	---	12,500	---	---	-12,500
TITLE _ - PORT SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS						
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY						
Customs and Border Protection						
Salaries and expenses	---	---	266,050	---	---	-266,050
United States Coast Guard						
Operating expenses	---	---	23,000	---	---	-23,000
Office For Domestic Preparedness						
State and Local Programs / (Port Security Grants)	---	---	227,000	---	---	-227,000
Science and Technology						
Research, Development, Acquisition, and Operations / (Domestic Nuclear Detection Office)	---	---	132,000	---	---	-132,000
Total, Title _	---	---	648,050	---	---	-648,050
TITLE IV - PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PREPAREDNESS						
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES						
Office of the Secretary						
Public Health Social Services Emergency Fund (emergency)	---	---	2,300,000	2,300,000	+2,300,000	---
General Provisions						
Sec. 6001: Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (vaccine injury compensation) (emergency)	---	---	289,000	---	---	-289,000
Total, Title IV	---	---	2,589,000	2,300,000	+2,300,000	-289,000

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations (H.R. 4939)
(Amounts in thousands)

	Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs. House	Conference vs. Senate
TITLE V - BORDER SECURITY						
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE - MILITARY						
Operations and Maintenance, Defense-wide	756,000	---	---	708,000	+708,000	+708,000
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY						
Office of the Secretary and Executive Management (emergency)	---	---	2,000	---	---	-2,000
Office of the Chief Information Officer (emergency)	---	---	50,000	---	---	-50,000
United States Visitor and Immigrant status Indicator technology (emergency)	---	---	60,000	---	---	-60,000
Customs and Border Protection						
Salaries and expenses (emergency)	410,000	---	180,000	410,000	+410,000	+230,000
Air and Marine Interdiction, Operations, Maintenance and Procurement (emergency)	95,000	---	790,000	95,000	+95,000	-695,000
Construction (emergency)	300,000	---	120,000	300,000	+300,000	+180,000
Immigration and Customs Enforcement						
Salaries and expenses (emergency)	327,000	---	80,000	327,000	+327,000	+247,000
United States Coast Guard						
Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements, and Acquisition, Construction,and Improvements (emergency)	---	---	600,000	---	---	-600,000
Federal Law Enforcement Training Center						
Related Expenses (emergency)	25,000	---	18,000	25,000	+25,000	+7,000
Preparedness						
State and Local Programs (emergency)	15,000	---	---	15,000	+15,000	+15,000
Total, Department of Homeland Security	1,172,000	---	1,900,000	1,172,000	+1,172,000	-728,000
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE						
General Administration						
Salaries and expenses (emergency)	9,000	---	---	---	---	---
Administrative review and appeals (emergency)	---	---	---	9,000	+9,000	+9,000
Legal Activities						
Salaries and expenses, General Legal Activities(emerg)	9,000	---	---	9,000	+9,000	+9,000
Salaries and expenses, US Attorneys (emergency)	2,000	---	---	2,000	+2,000	+2,000
Total, Title V	1,948,000	---	1,900,000	1,900,000	+1,900,000	---
TITLE VI						
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH						
ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL						
Capitol Power Plant (emergency)	---	---	27,600	27,600	+27,600	---
TITLE VII - GENERAL PROVISIONS AND TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS						
Sec. 7004:						
Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Automation modernization (rescission)	---	-43,620	---	-20,000	+23,620	-20,000
U.S. Secret Service salaries and expenses	---	43,620	---	20,000	-23,620	+20,000
Sec. 7005:						
Office of the Secretary and Executive Management	---	---	3,960	3,960	+3,960	---
Office of Screening Coordination and Operations (rescission)	---	---	-3,960	-3,960	-3,960	---
Sec. 9015: US Geological Survey, Dam Assessments (emergency)	---	---	500	---	---	-500

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations (H.R. 4939)
(Amounts in thousands)

	Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs. House	Conference vs. Senate
Sec. 3009: Deficit Reduction Act (P.L. 109-171) (NA) (low income home energy assistance) (emergency)	---	750,000	---	---	-750,000	---
Sec. 7008: Mine Safety - Department of Labor (emergency)	---	---	25,600	25,600	+25,600	---
Sec. 7010: Mine Safety - CDC (emergency)	---	---	10,000	10,000	+10,000	---
Sec. 7036: EPA, Environmental programs and management (emergency)	---	---	1,000	---	---	-1,000
Sec. 9040: Highway Contract Authority	---	---	12,500	---	---	-12,500
Sec. 9040: Highway Contract Authoriy (rescission)	---	---	-50,000	---	---	+50,000
Sec. 8001: NOAA program limitation	---	---	-15,000	---	---	+15,000
Total, Title VII	---	750,000	-15,400	35,600	-714,400	+51,000
Appropriations	---	(43,620)	(3,960)	(23,960)	(-19,660)	(+20,000)
Rescission	---	(-43,620)	(-3,960)	(-23,960)	(+19,660)	(-20,000)
Emergency appropriations	---	(750,000)	(22,100)	(35,600)	(-714,400)	(+13,500)
Transfer out (emergency)	(-90,000)	(-1,342,000)	(-990,000)	(-255,000)	(+1,087,000)	(+735,000)
By transfer (emergency)	(90,000)	(1,342,000)	(990,000)	(255,000)	(-1,087,000)	(-735,000)
Grand total	92,220,585	91,947,581	108,897,907	94,520,554	+2,572,973	-14,377,353
Appropriations, FY 2006	---	(43,620)	(652,010)	(23,960)	(-19,660)	(-628,050)
Appropriations, FY 2007 and future years	---	---	---	(91,000)	(+91,000)	(+91,000)
Contract Authority	---	---	(12,500)	---	---	(-12,500)
Rescission of contract authority	---	---	(-50,000)	(-702,363)	(-702,363)	(-652,363)
Emergency appropriations	(92,259,985)	(92,014,111)	(108,163,152)	(95,674,912)	(+3,660,801)	(-12,488,240)
Contingent emergency appropriations	---	---	(492,200)	(3,200)	(+3,200)	(-489,000)
Rescission	---	(-43,620)	(-64,160)	(-140,960)	(-97,340)	(-76,800)
Rescission of emergency appropriations	(-39,400)	(-66,530)	(-307,795)	(-429,195)	(-362,665)	(-121,400)
(Transfer authority, emergency)	(5,747,700)	(2,000,000)	(2,739,700)	(3,464,700)	(+1,464,700)	(+725,000)
(By transfer emergency)	(215,100)	(1,417,020)	(1,075,080)	(348,080)	(-1,068,940)	(-727,000)
(Transfer out emergency)	(-215,100)	(-1,417,020)	(-1,075,080)	(-348,080)	(+1,068,940)	(+727,000)

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations (H.R. 4939)
(Amounts in thousands)

	Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs. House	Conference vs. Senate
SCOREKEEPING ADJUSTMENTS						
Amounts in this bill	92,220,585	91,947,581	108,897,907	94,520,554	+2,572,973	-14,377,353
Amounts appropriated for future years	---	---	---	-91,000	-91,000	-91,000
Total, Amounts appropriated in FY 2006	92,220,585	91,947,581	108,897,907	94,429,554	+2,481,973	-14,468,353
Scorekeeping adjustments:						
Appropriations, future years	---	---	---	-91,000	-91,000	-91,000
Emergency appropriations	-92,259,985	-92,014,111	-108,163,152	-95,674,912	-3,660,801	+12,488,240
Contingent emergency appropriations	---	---	-492,200	-3,200	-3,200	+489,000
Rescission of emergency appropriations	39,400	66,530	307,795	429,195	+362,665	+121,400
Total Scorekeeping adjustments	-92,220,585	-91,947,581	-108,347,557	-95,339,917	-3,392,336	+13,007,640
Total (including adjustments)	---	---	550,350	-819,363	-819,363	-1,369,713
RECAP BY FUNCTION						
General Purpose Discretionary:						
Defense	68,659,373	69,226,944	67,678,813	68,222,894	-1,004,050	+544,081
International Affairs	4,228,790	4,062,790	8,391,790	4,755,325	+692,535	-3,636,465
Non defense	19,332,422	18,657,847	32,827,304	21,542,335	+2,884,488	-11,284,969
Total discretionary	92,220,585	91,947,581	108,897,907	94,520,554	+2,572,973	-14,377,353

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding and for his very strong leadership on so many issues.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have abused their power. The House and Senate voted to not have an open-ended commitment in Iraq by unanimously passing the Lee-Allen amendment to not allow funding to enter into formal military basing rights.

By eliminating this amendment from this conference report, the Congress and the administration are admitting that they have no intentions of ever bringing our troops home. If there are no plans for a permanent military presence, as the President and the Defense Secretary have repeatedly declared, then why in the world did the Republican leadership strike this provision?

Once again, democracy has been thwarted. The majority of Americans and Iraqis do not want permanent military bases in Iraq. By the end of the year, this war will have cost over $350 billion and climbing.

By eliminating this provision, once again, we have given the administration a blank check to stay in Iraq permanently.

Mr. Speaker, our amendment sent a strong signal that the United States has no designs on Iraq permanently. Removing it behind closed doors says just the opposite. Once again, this administration is misleading the American people. This abuse of power must stop. The House, the Senate, both bodies voted for this amendment. How in the world could it be taken out when the majority of Americans do not want to see a permanent presence in Iraq? It is time to get real about this war, and it is time to ask the hard questions with regard to what our long-term intentions are, and I believe that this would have said just that. I think the American people deserve to know what our long-term plans are.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased and proud to yield 5 minutes to the chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, my permanent chairman of the Appropriations Committee, the gentleman from Florida, BILL YOUNG.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am going to be very brief here and suggest that the chairman has already specified some of the details of the defense part of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that it is long past time for the Congress to have completed action on this legislation. The global war on terror is going on every day. It is costing considerable money every day.

I want to remind the Members that the House passed our version of this supplemental emergency supplemental on March 16, 3 months ago. It is high time that we got to conference with the other body and concluded this work.

The defense part of this package is basically what the House adopted 12 weeks ago. So I think it is a good product, and I hope that the Members will find it acceptable and get us a nice, substantial vote.

Mr. Speaker, the conference agreement on the programs under the jurisdiction of the Defense Subcommittee for the global war on terror totals $65.792 billion, which is $1.765 billion below the House-passed level and $103.9 million above the President's request.

The conference agreement provides $708 million for the National Guard's border security support to the Department of Homeland Security.

As the House is aware, the President amended his original supplemental budget submission in order to fund border security activities. This resulted in a cut of almost $1.9 billion in Defense spending for the global war on terror. I sincerely regret that decision. However, the conferees were left with little choice but to reduce the House-passed level in order to accommodate the President's request.

Despite this reduction, we have still been able to meet the urgent needs of our Armed Forces, including:

$805 million to ensure that Army tracked combat vehicles such as Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles will be upgraded for the units that will be rotating into Iraq in the next year, including $230 million for the Abrams Tank Integrated Management, or AIM program, to support fielding of National Guard brigade combat teams;

$230 million for 3 V–22 aircraft and $126.6 million for 2 KC–130J tanker aircraft, both for the Marine Corps;

$2.577 billion in additional equipment for the Marine Corps, based on an assessment of their most pressing shortfalls;

$227.5 million in advance procurement for seven C–17 aircraft, a down payment on maintaining production of this aircraft in fiscal year 2008;

A total of $37.9 billion in operation and maintenance funding for all the services, in order to maintain war operations in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

Almost $2 billion to procure and develop equipment to counter Improvised Explosive Devices, or IEDs.

Let me also indicate for the record that the statement of the managers incorrectly identifies the dollar level for the Tactical Unmanned Aerial System program under the account, Other Procurement, Army. The correct amount is $150,200,000, not $50,200,000 as specified in the statement of the managers.

Regarding the provision in the Senate bill on Gulf shipyards, we've dropped all the Senate language that would have abrogated existing shipbuilding contracts and that would have required the Federal Government to pay business interruption costs that should properly be covered by private insurance companies. Instead we've provided funding to improve the infrastructure of all Gulf Coast shipyards that have Navy contracts and were affected by Hurricane Katrina. This will assist those yards in recovering from the effects of the Hurricane, and lead to efficiencies in shipbuilding that will help the companies, the shipyard workers, the Navy, and ultimately the taxpayer.

Mr. Speaker, it is far past time the Congress completed action on this legislation. The services need funding immediately, and I urge adoption of the conference report in the House and swift action in the other body.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT).

(Mr. SPRATT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, a few months ago this House passed a bill to get tough with illegal immigration. It stiffened sanctions, it increased penalties, and it promulgated a new get-tough approach to illegal immigration.

It lacked, however, one essential, the resources to carry out this new step-up in enforcement that it proposed. The bill took steps to open up the door to State and local law enforcement so that you could have local sheriffs and local law enforcement personnel more involved in criminal alien assistance, but it still left the program proposed woefully underfunded.

Some years ago I called Atlanta, the regional office of the INS, to report what I thought was a serious immigration violation and to ask for an investigation. I was told there were only two investigatory agents in all of South Carolina, and they had to be used for criminal matters, for really serious deportations.

The supplemental that came through this House in March, was passed on March 16 and then went to the Senate, offered a golden opportunity to do something about that shortcoming. The Senate, for its part, seized that opportunity, beefed up enforcement and helped bolt down our borders far better than they are now. The Senate seized the opportunity. Senator GREGG offered an amendment. When the bill was finally finished in the Senate, it added $2.548 billion for border security and for port security in this country, both of which are woefully underresourced at the present time.

The bill, as I said, included $1.9 billion of the $2.5 billion for sealing off and securing our borders far better than they are now. The Bush administration then proposed an additional amendment of $1.9 billion, but insisted that it supplant, not supplement but supplant, the proposal that Senator GREGG had passed by a substantial margin on the Senate floor.

Now, what is in the Bush package we don't oppose. We have, in fact, been proposing more detention beds and more border security agents and more effort there for some time now. So we don't oppose that $1.9 billion. But look at what Senator GREGG put in the bill, which was not pulled out of thin air, basic meat and potatoes, practical requirements that are needed if we are really going to bolt down our borders.

The P3 fleet, which serves as our border security's primary air surveillance, is 40 years old. That is a Lockheed Electra platform, an old turboprop

plane, 20 years beyond the average life of even this type of plane.

Two months ago the entire fleet was grounded due to a safety issue uncovered during a routine inspection. Senator GREGG would have put money here, and emphatically we believe it should be put here. Outdated vehicles, this is a harsh environment, this is a border, roadless terrain that vehicles have to travel. There are nearly 1,700 vehicles, virtually unusable due to the wear and tear of the desert, extreme environments and high use. Senator GREGG's amendment would have put money there.

Lack of sufficient patrol aircraft. We currently detect three out of every 10 boats carrying smugglers. Of the boats detected by patrol aircraft, 75 percent are stopped, apprehended. More aircraft obviously are needed to act on actionable intelligence regarding human and drug smuggling activities.

Finally, armed helicopters. You want to get tough? Only nine out of 150 helicopters are armed, allowing human and drug traffickers to cross our maritime border virtually unimpeded. Armed helicopters could stop 100 percent of the illegal smugglers whom they encounter.

This is what is lacking and missing in this bill. It was there, taken out in conference. As a result, this bill leaves security gaps, serious gaps in our national security and our national borders and ports underfunded. This is a real deficiency and a missed opportunity that unfortunately this conference report did not seize.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this measure, not only because it provides important support for our troops overseas, but dramatically accelerates the security of our border here in America.

As importantly, because of the leadership of Chairman LEWIS, because of the leadership here in the House, this bill also includes critical help for people and families and communities in east and southeast Texas devastated by Hurricane Rita. This measure provides much needed help to fund the Katrina students who are in our schools, provides much needed help to reimburse our local governments at the same rate as Louisiana, which will save our taxpayers and our smaller counties tens of millions of very important dollars.

Finally, it provides help to rebuild the homes and roofs and communities in south and east Texas devastated by Rita. Most people don't know, we had almost 75,000 homes damaged or destroyed. Many of them have temporary roofs today. Ten percent of our evacuees have not yet returned due to Hurricane Rita.

Thanks to the leadership of Chairman LEWIS, and subcommittee chairs, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. ROGERS and Mr. YOUNG, of the support of people like my colleagues in east Texas, Congressmen POE and GOHMERT, freshman legislators who have done a tremendous job representing their district, the House leadership and our Texas appropriators, thanks to all of them, our families and communities in east Texas are going to get the help that they sorely need, truly deserve, and we are all very grateful. Again, on behalf of the families and residents of east Texas, I want to thank our appropriations leaders for their help. This is good news this day for east Texas and southeast Texas.

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Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, if I can borrow this Republican mike, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I like that bipartisan approach. I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding.

I represent another component of the disaster impact of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, representing the city of Houston, and certainly, we can put on the record the increased funding will go a long way on what is a questionable issue, and that is, the framework that FEMA has in dealing with the aftermath of any disaster, the disaster recovery that continues on and on and that disaster recovery includes the ongoing impact and need for funding for Katrina and Rita survivors who are in the Houston area that are in our schools; the continuing need for funding for senior citizens who are living in the city of Houston who are now without ongoing funding for housing; the questionable elimination of employment benefits that was requested in terms of funding that was cut off just about a week or so ago, and then the reimbursement that is necessary.

So I rise today to acknowledge the hard work of the appropriators in particular on hurricane relief but also to raise the specter of concern that there are still cities who have not benefited with respect to the reimbursement; and in this instance, I would make the inquiry and the request that if this is an emergency supplemental, these funds are going to be disbursed, that we have an immediate response administratively by FEMA to be able to address the reimbursement requests that have already been made by cities such as Houston.

I am grateful that the collaborative work of the Harris County delegation, which included Members from Houston, worked on vast areas like southeast Texas; but I am making a request officially on this floor on behalf of the city of Houston and other cities who have yet to be reimbursed. Mr. Speaker, I would like to see these matters reimbursed.

I simply close by saying that I hope in the supplemental that we will find a way to increase the funding for border security, if necessary, for all of our States.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express, once again, my disappointment, and my chagrin, that we are sending forward a bill that so desperately lacks funding for our most urgent national needs.

I appreciate the difficult work that my colleagues have engaged in over the last few months. I acknowledge that at $94.5 billion, this is the largest supplemental appropriations measure ever considered by Congress. However, more than ever, this supplemental bill clearly communicates where our country's priorities are right now, and where they are not. Having just returned from Iraq and Afghanistan, I know our troops and returning veterans need our help, and we will help!

Seventy percent of the funding in this report is for military spending. I support our troops—however, I am disturbed that language that would prohibit permanent borders in Iraq was eliminated. This is outrageous.

This report appropriates $126 million to sustain the African Union peacekeeping missions and eventual transition to an international security force in western Sudan. The report also appropriates $24 million for migration and refugees assistance to respond to the humanitarian crisis for Sudan and Chad.

Conference report includes $1.9 billion for border security needs, 48 million less than requested. This includes $1.2 billion for the Department of Homeland Security and $708 million for the Defense Department for the costs of deploying 6000 National Guard troops to the border.

Appropriates $37.9 billion for activities related to military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, $808 million LESS than the president's request. This total includes $3 billion to train and equip Iraqi security forces and $1.9 billion for Afghan personnel and the new Afghan Army. The total is roughly $1 million less than requested.

The agreement provides a total of $19.8 billion for hurricane relief and recovery, $6 billion of which is for FEMA. But I need to reaffirm the need for cities such as Houston to be timely reimbursed for expenditures used to help people in need.

The agreement provides $5.2 billion for the Housing and Urban Development Department's Community Development Block Grant program, with $4.2 billion dedicated to Louisiana, and another $1 billion available to other states on a pro-rated basis.

Instead of pulling from a healthy account, such as Defense, appropriators decided to pull money out of Veterans in order to help hurricane recovery. Veterans health was hit by a blow from a measure rescinding the $198 million in supplemental funds provided by the FY 2006 Defense Appropriations law and appropriates the funds instead to the VA Medical Services account for expenses related to hurricane recovery.

Among the provisions dropped from the report completely were measures providing for port security funding, slated by the Senate for $648 million, and House language that blocked the use of funds to prohibit registered and legal, but displaced, residents of the Gulf Coast region from the right to legally vote in any official designated election of the Gulf Coast region. We worked very hard for this lanaguage—this deletion slaps the Voter Rights Act in the face.

The Defense Department's current monthly expense for Iraq is around $8 billion, and $1 billion for Afghanistan. We should be budgeting these expenses, not supplementing them again and again.

I am pleased that so many of the needs of my neighbors in Houston are addressed, such as housing and hurricane recovery funding, but I am saddened by the story that the numbers depict. Someday, I want to say that the Emergency Supplemental bill support unexpected needs of the country in times of crisis, rather than a supplemental and overdue bill of items that should have been debated with the rest of the budget resolution.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mass death on the installment plan, that is what this supplemental vote to keep our troops in Iraq is all about.

Today, Iraqi civilian casualties number well over 100,000. Iraqi civilian injuries could be over 1 million, but who is keeping track? Some act as though the Iraqis are not real people with real families, real hopes and real dreams and loves of their own.

We have lost nearly 2,500 of our own brave soldiers. Up to 48,000 troops have suffered physical or emotional injuries, which could scar them and their loved ones for life.

Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Steglitz says the war could cost $2 trillion; $2 trillion for war while the American people are told we do not have enough money for job creation, education, health care, and Social Security.

The administration went into Iraq without an exit strategy, not because they are incompetent, but because they have no intention of leaving.

We are spending hundreds of millions building permanent bases in Iraq. The administration recently announced deployment of no less than 50,000 troops far into the future. We are looking at a permanent occupation of Iraq.

And so a long cadence of lies has led to Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo and Haditha, soon to be replaced by more lies and more tragedies.

What can you say when you are watching your Nation descend sleep walking into something like the lower circles of hell in Dante's Inferno?

You can say stop it: enough blood is enough blood. You can say stop it: bring our troops home. You can say no to any more funds for this war and begin a period of truth and reconciliation about 9/11 and Iraq. Begin the healing of the soul of America.

The Bible says: ''He who troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind.'' Our House has been troubled by this war based on lies. What will our inheritance be?

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I intend to vote for this piece of legislation because I think we do need to distinguish between supporting our troops and supporting the war in Iraq. I continue to believe that the war in Iraq is the dumbest war since the War of 1812; but at the same time, we obviously want our troops to be as well-equipped as is humanly possible, and we hope that this bill will take a decent step in that direction.

Having said that, I want to make three points about my concerns about this bill. Number one, it continues a fiction that this war must be financed through ''emergency spending.'' That is simply a gimmick that allows the entire cost of this war, some $450 billion by the time the defense bill, which is going to be considered by the Appropriations Committee tomorrow, is spent. By that time we will have spent $450 billion, and yet we continue to pretend that it is an unexpected contingency which means that it is handled outside of the normal limits of the budget. That does not fool anybody except the American people, unfortunately; and that is what it is designed to do, to mask the full costs of the war.

Secondly, it is outrageous, in my view, that this Congress eliminated both Senate provisions and the single House provision which made it clear that the Congress did not want in any way to allow the impression to continue to exist that we intend to have a permanent presence in Iraq. The fact is over 70 percent of Iraqis continue to believe, despite the protestations of the President and the Secretary of Defense, they continue to believe that America intends to have a long-term permanent presence in Iraq, and we need to disabuse them of that fact in order to take the target off the backs of our soldiers.

Thirdly, as the gentleman from South Carolina has indicated, we will have spent $450 billion on this war by the end of the year, and yet the Congress is refusing to spend an additional $2.5 billion to provide further strengthening and thickening of our efforts at border security and port security.

This bill has a significant increase in funds for personnel as far as border security is concerned; but it shortchanges the equipment, it shortchanges the aircraft, it shortchanges the facilities, it shortchanges the construction efforts, it shortchanges all of the nonpersonnel items that go into providing solid border security on both the northern and southern borders.

There is no excuse whatsoever for this Congress to be providing over $40 billion in tax cuts to people who make over $1 million a year, while refusing to spend adequate amounts of money to secure our borders both the north and the south.

I want to make one other point.

It infuriates me to hear the White House say we will do whatever is necessary to secure the borders of the United States at the same time that the President has consistently refused to support adequate appropriations to do just that.

And I want to tell, I want to close by telling a story that I have told many times because I think the American people need to know about it.

Right after 9/11, when this Capitol Hill was hit by anthrax, this committee was then chaired by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), and when we could not get into our offices, I called BILL and I said, BILL, as long as we cannot do anything useful in our office, why do we not consult each of the security agencies of our government to see what they think we need on an emergency basis to deal with homeland security problems. We talked to the CIA, the FBI, the CDC, the NSA, you name it; and we got from each of them their estimate of what we needed to provide immediately to beef up our homeland security, border security, and port security operations.

We then went down to the White House to talk to the President. The President came in. We were seated around the table. Before we could say a word, he said, well, I understand some of you want to spend more money than I do on homeland security. I just want you to know, if you appropriate $1 more than I have asked for, I will veto the bill. I have got time for four or five comments and I am out of here.

So Senator BYRD made clear what he thought of that attitude. Senator STEVENS pointed out to the President that we had already agreed that if there was any item on the list that the President did not want we would automatically strike it.

And then finally it came my turn to speak, and I said to the President, Mr. President, I have been coming down here for over 30 years. This is the first time any President has ever told me his mind was closed before the subject was even open, and I want you to know since you are being hard nosed on the subject, I am going to be too. I asked him four questions about Federal installations that we had been told by his own security people were gravely at risk of terrorist attack, their words not mine, and I asked the President if he had been briefed; if he had, I wanted to know what he had been told because I know what I had been told and it scared the dickens out of me. And to put it kindly, if he had been briefed, he gave no evidence thereof. I did not expect him to. He is a busy man, but I did expect him to have an open mind.

And we walked out of that room after the President said that, without listening to a single argument, he would veto any money we added for homeland security, and that has been the case ever since.

Each year, whatever strengthening we have had on the border, of ports has come at the insistence of the Congress of the United States, overcoming the objections of the President; and we have tried on both sides of the aisle from time to time, we have tried to add more money than the President asked for for border security and for port security.

This is just the latest chapter in the efforts of some Members of Congress to almost get a double hernia trying to do enough heavy lifting in order to get sufficient money into this budget so we do have a secure border on the south

and a secure border on the north, and we still are a long way from being there.

So while I will vote for this bill, I regret very much that it is woefully short in terms of the funding that it needs to truly provide full security on either border. I hope this country does not some day pay a very high price for that, but I worry each day that it will.

With that, I would ask the gentleman if he has any more speakers. If not, I am prepared to yield back.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers. I would yield back as well except just to make a comment about your comment, and that is to say first and foremost, the gentleman made some very interesting comments that I have a good deal of empathy for, but beyond that, this bill would not be here in this timely fashion, in this form, in a bipartisan spirit if the gentleman had not been very, very cooperative in this effort, and I appreciate that.

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the latest supplemental appropriation for hurricane relief.

We cannot move forward with rebuilding our city unless we are sure that such a disaster cannot happen again. For this reason, we must ensure the integrity of our flood control and hurricane protection system, which so disastrously failed during Katrina last year. To date, the Corps of Engineers has been directly appropriated a total of $3.3 billion. This amount not only funds the reconstruction of flood control projects that were damaged by Hurricane Katrina, but also the restoration of these projects to their design specifications of Category Three protection, which had lapsed over the course of time. Over $500 million of this total will go to the construction of previously authorized new projects. The current supplemental provides $3.7 billion, which more than doubles the amount previously given to the Corps. This funding will help to ensure that the city is protected against future storms of Katrina's magnitude.

Our long-term goals for rebuilding and improving the community can only be achieved with significant support from the Federal government. The Community Development Block Grant program has been used with great success in the past when confronting disaster-stricken areas and has proven to be an invaluable tool for recovery. A total of $11.5 billion went to the five states impacted by last year's storms, of which Louisiana received $6.2 billion. The flexibility of this program provides our local government officials with the resources they need to aid businesses and provide services to residents. Over 220,000 homes were damaged as a result of this storm and are in continuing need for relief. In this bill, an additional $5.2 billion in overall CDBG funds is allocated. $4.3 billion tent to fund Louisiana's ''Road Home'' project enabling our citizens to return to their homes and begin rebuilding their lives. This funding is a welcome addition to the recovery efforts and will assist all those affected by the storms in a very real and profound manner.

This bill provides $285 million for hurricane-related education programs. Funding will focus on direct assistance to displaced elementary and secondary school students, a group that is perhaps the most helpless of all the hurricane's victims. Previously, $1.6 billion was provided in the last supplemental to aid the devastated educational system not only in New Orleans, but in I the entire Gulf South. The relocation of much our city's population into other areas has placed a strain on school systems across the country. This funding bolstered the school systems that were kind enough to take in large numbers of displaced students.

Department of Defense personnel, along with the Coast Guard and other Homeland Security agencies, performed much of the heroic search and rescue operations that saved the lives of thousands of citizens. Because of their sacrifices and hardships, and our appreciation for those actions, we are assuring that their needs will be met. DoD received $4.4 billion in previous supplemental appropriations, covering their storm-related activities as well as repairs to damaged facilities and equipment. This bill gives them an additional $1.5 billion to ensure the presence of the Armed Services in the Gulf South.

The medical community in New Orleans has been decimated by the effects of Hurricane Katrina. The capacity of hospitals in the city is down to less than a thousand beds, a reduction of over 75 percent from its capacity prior to the storm. Today's supplemental provides $550 million for a new VA Hospital in New Orleans. Not only will this assure that New Orleans remains a viable outlet for the health needs of veterans across the Gulf coast states, but it will also serve as a valuable training outlet in conjunction with the Tulane and LSD medical centers. Together with the $550 million previously allocated to the Social Services Block Grant program, the healthcare infrastructure of the city is well on its way back to full strength.

Mr. Speaker, the challenges we face in rebuilding our community demand a great deal of attention. This supplemental appropriation is a welcome addition to the recovery process and an indication that we in Congress are committed to helping those affected in New Orleans and in all other hurricane-affected areas.

But Mr. Speaker before I close I would be remiss if I did not remind my colleagues the challenges remaining after Katrina are still daunting. Moreover there is one aspect in terms of our recovery and rebuilding that has not been addressed fully by this Congress and that is healthcare in New Orleans. According to a recent issue of U.S. News & World Report, the New Orleans area is now home to one million people, just under the pre-Katrina population of 1.3 million. But the healthcare resources necessary to adequately serve that level of population have not returned: only half of the previous 4,000 hospital beds are available; there is no Level I trauma center; there are 34 nursing homes, down from 63; and 19 clinics, down from 90.

The area's only certified Level I trauma unit is still closed (the 35–bed, limited trauma unit opened recently cannot provide full Level I trauma services), and the number of staffed hospital beds in the City of New Orleans was estimated to be about 80 percent less in February 2006 than before Hurricane Katrina. Moreover, to date, many patients are still getting primary care and rudimentary emergency services provided in tents that have now been set up by Charity Hospital in an old department store.

Mr. Speaker we cannot allow for New Orleans's healthcare system to die-on-a-vine. For as the statement goes: ''Justice delayed is Justice denied.'' Healthcare delayed is healthcare denied. Thus, Mr. Speaker I implore my colleagues on the relevant committees to hold hearings and investigate the problems we are facing. Furthermore, I ask that Congress consider one more legislative package that would focus solely on rebuilding our health care system and the associated social services.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my strong support for the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery conference report. I especially want to thank Speaker HASTERT, Chairmen LEWIS and Chairman KOLBE for providing critically needed funding in this bill to help the Colombian Navy fight the war against drugs and global terrorism in our own hemisphere.

The bill provides monies to purchase one fully and properly equipped DC–3 Marine Patrol Aircraft (MPA) for maritime interdiction of drugs headed towards the United States. This DC–3 will be flown by the professional and proven Colombian Navy, and it will help better monitor and interdict drugs which are killing our kids and financially supporting internal terrorism in Colombia—often aimed at Americans—and violence along the Mexican border where an estimated 90 percent of the cocaine from Colombia is entering our country.

Unfortunately, because budget limitations are always a major factor in conference, the Conferees were unable to fund the two properly and fully equipped DC–3s added to the House passed War Supplemental on a strong 250 to 172 bi-partisan vote last March 30th. Two aircraft would have enabled the Colombia Navy to cover both their Pacific and Caribbean coasts.

One aircraft is infinitely better than no aircraft, but we know that one MPA is not enough since the drug traffickers move narcotics north to the USA both from the Pacific an Caribbean coasts. If we cover only one coast, they will just move their deadly trade to the other coast. We need two Marine Patrol Aircraft in the region and I appreciate the assurances we have received from both Appropriations and House leadership staff that the Fiscal Year 2007 foreign operations FMF monies for Colombia, in addition to the plus-up of the aid for the Colombian National Police helicopters, will also obligate the monies or the second MPA for the Colombian Navy. Again, I want to thank Speaker HASTERT, Chairman LEWIS and Chairman KOLBE for making this happen.

Two MPAs will get the job done on both the Eastern Pacific and Caribbean coasts and once in place, I am confident these aircraft will help indict these illicit drugs long before they reach the Mexican American border and the street of our communities.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the conference report.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment that the Republican Leadership caved to political pressure and failed to protect critical mental health funds for treatment of our Veterans, as originally provided by the Senate in the emergency supplemental spending bill.

Although this supplemental bill will fund many important priorities, it also includes billions of dollars in wasteful spending while ignoring the very practical, immediate mental health needs of our veterans returning from service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I commend my colleague, Senator AKAKA, for his leadership in amending the original House passed version to include an additional $430 million to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The $430 million sum was specifically designed to supplement direct health care, mental health care, and transition services at the VA, but was misguidedly removed by conferees and is no longer present in this final conference report.

To assist our veterans in readjusting to civilian life, the amendment would have included $80 million for Vet Centers, a readjustment counseling service provided by the VA. Over the years, Vet Centers have provided services to a total of 118,811 Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom veterans. So far this fiscal year, Vet Centers have provided services to 70,547 of these veterans. Unfortunately, this conference report virtually flat-lines the Vet Center budget.

The Senate amendment also included $168 million for the VA's comprehensive Mental Health Plan. This plan establishes a stronger network of primary and mental health care providers in order to better care for the over one third of our returning veterans who have experienced some sort of readjustment issue.

Finally, the Senate amendment provided $182 million for the shortfall in service at VA hospitals, where new veterans waiting for their first clinic appointment to be scheduled has doubled this year. Over the course of 2 years, the number of new enrollees waiting for veterans' health care has increased by over 400 percent.

Time after time, we have been told by mental health advocates that the VA's capacity is simply inadequate. Recent studies have shown that 35 percent of Iraq veterans have sought mental health services, with 19.1 percent of Iraq veterans and 11.3 percent of Afghanistan veterans reporting a mental health problem. We must be prepared for the VA to handle this demand.

Our returning men and women in uniform deserve adequate healthcare and transition assistance, which our country promised to them when they volunteered to serve, and is our duty as a nation to provide.

Mr. Speaker, this failure to provide comprehensive assistance for veterans' healthcare should be a wake-up call for those in support of our troops who cannot count on this Administration or the Republican leadership to look out for our veterans needs.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to support the conference report on the Iraq/Afghanistan War. I welcome this chance to especially thank both Speaker HASTERT, along with Chairmen LEWIS and KOLBE for their strong support to also provide aid to the Colombian Navy to fight yet another war against drugs and global terrorism in our own hemisphere.

The bill provides monies to purchase one fully and properly equipped DC–3 Marine Patrol Aircraft (MPA) for maritime interdiction of drugs headed our way. This asset will be utilized by the professional and proven Colombian Navy. This asset will help better monitor and interdict drugs supporting the internal terrorism in Colombia often aimed at Americans, violence along the Mexican border where an estimated 90 percent of the cocaine from Colombia is entering our country, and in our communities.

While in the original House-passed war Supplemental we provided on a strong 250 to 172 bi-partisan vote last March 30th enough monies for at least two properly and fully equipped DC–3s for the MPA function for the Colombian Navy so that they could cover both their Pacific and Caribbean coasts, we know budget limitations became a major factor at the conference.

We also know that one MPA is not enough since the drug traffickers move narcotics north to the USA both from the Pacific and Caribbean coasts. If we cover only one coasts, they will just move their deadly trade to the other coast. We cannot let that happen. We need two Marine Patrol Aircraft.

However, we have assurances from both Appropriations and House leadership staffs that the FY '07 foreign operations FMF monies for Colombia in addition to the plus-up of the aid to the Colombian National Police helicopters, will also obligate the monies for the second MPA for the Colombian Navy. That is good enough for me.

This will get the job done to promptly fill the MPA gap on both the Eastern Pacific and Caribbean with two MPAs, and help get these illicit drugs long before they reach the Mexican border and our communities here at home.

I urge adoption of the conference report.

Mr. LEWIS of California. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I yield back my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. OSBORNE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ROSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BILIRAKIS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be here again with the authorization and approval of our leader, Ms. PELOSI; STENY HOYER, our whip; Mr. CLYBURN, our caucus chair; and our vice chair Mr. LARSEN from Connecticut. We would like to thank them also for giving the 30-something Working Group an opportunity to come to the floor as often as possible to talk about the issues that are facing this country.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we once again find ourselves in a scenario where there is a major disconnect between what the feelings are of the average American citizen sitting in Ohio or Florida or in the Midwest or any other State with what their issues are, what their challenges are, the problems they face sitting at the kitchen table, and what is going on here in the United States Congress and around the Potomac River.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard now how we have all these new issues that have been dusted off the shelf, brought back out front, back on the talk shows, back on the media circuits, back on radio talking about priorities that only belong to a small fringe group of people in America when the real problems that American citizens face look a little something like this: College tuition costs, up 40 percent; gas prices, up 47 percent; health care costs up 55 percent; and median household income down 4 percent.

The American people are crying out to State capitals all over the country, to Washington, DC, please, please, somebody listen to what our needs are. Please, somebody help us with an alternative energy plan. Please, someone help us reduce the cost of college tuition. Please, someone help us rein in the cost of health care. Please, someone help us lift our wages up, someone invested in the country. That is what the American people want. Yet time and time and time again we continue to get issues of amending the Constitution for any reason we see fit and divisive debates in the United States of America.

So I have a question, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to propose to the American people. What do we believe in as a country? What do we believe in, Mr. Speaker? What kind of America do we believe in? Do we believe in an America that will give the very, very few a tax break, the people who make more than $1 million a year a tax break, while we are increasing the cost of college tuition, while we have high gas prices? And with the top leadership in the United States of America saying conservation is a good personal virtue, but it has no room in the personal policy debate that this country has. Is that what we believe?

See, I believe that the American people want leadership in this country and they want us to take on these issues. These are difficult issues, and it may be hard to go to a millionaire for some people and ask them to pay a little more in taxes, that may be difficult, but the country demands that kind of leadership because we need to invest it into lowering college tuition costs so we can get more people educated in this country.

Now, I agree it is not just money. We need reform. We need to do things differently. We need to figure out how a 21st century college or university should work or a K through 12 should work. We need to do all those things. Just throwing money is not the solution. But to give millionaires a tax break at the expense of the kinds of reforms that the Democratic Party wants to do in college tuition, in alternative energy sources, I think is very, very important.

We have in the United States a lot of untapped human potential. And a lot of times, Mr. Speaker, we get caught up in policy debates about what our resources are, and conservation, and making sure we tap into all the resources of the country, but one of the great untapped resources that we have in the United States of America are our kids. We cannot continue down the road we are going down now, not investing into the arts, not investing into the team sports, not investing into business incubators at the rate we should be, not making sure that every school has a nurse or a clinic so our kids are healthy, not making sure that we reach out with SCHIPs, so that all our kids are covered and have health care so that they can be productive citizens.

These are investments we make into our kids, into our parents to make sure they are healthy so that they can be productive and learn in school. Because the other option is to say, the heck with the kid, he doesn't have the money. He or she doesn't have the money, they can't afford to go to the doctor, well, lose another one and move on. That is not what America believes in, Mr. Speaker.

So the real issue is this: Here is the world we are competing in: 1.3 billion Chinese citizens, 1 billion Indian citizens, and the European Union. They all want to clean our clock, Mr. Speaker. They want to knock off America. They are not scared. They are coming after us. They are barreling down. You go to Shanghai, you are riding a magnetic levitation train, one of the only ones in the world. They are investing in engineers like crazy, schools and education like crazy, knocking over buildings. They do not have property rights, environmental rights, human rights. They do not respect religion. They are not really playing fair, but they are playing to win.

Now, how do we combat that with only 300 million citizens? We combat that by investing into our people, making surely our people are healthy, educated, and have opportunity. And you know what? Some people may not take advantage of the opportunity. We understand that. But we need to begin to provide opportunity again for Americans.

The article today in USA Today about college debt, how can we expect kids to go out and take risks and take chances and start new businesses when they leave college with, last year, averaging $19,000 in debt? Nineteen thousand dollars. You think these kids are going to want to go to an inner city school and teach kids when you leave them with, if they have a Master's Degree or Ph.D. or something, over $100,000 debt if you're a doctor. We need to invest back into the United States of America. We need to have an infrastructure program.

Back home 2 weeks ago people in Ohio were talking about sewer lines and water lines and septic tanks and fees. Look what is happening to our country. We are letting it rot from within.

I just want to tell one story, Mr. Speaker. I went to China last summer for about 2 weeks, and as we toured the country and we went to different high-tech shops and chip manufacturers and Intel and all the fancy new high-tech companies that were there, we had a conversation, a kind of an ongoing conversation about their engineers in China versus the American engineers. And after hearing how many engineers they had and how well they were doing and how cheap they were, but yet very educated and very motivated and knew that they wanted to provide a lot of headaches for the United States, I started asking, well, what are the advantages of the U.S. engineers? And time and time again you would hear that the U.S. engineers are more creative, and they work in teams better than any other engineers in the entire world, all over the planet.

So the question is: Why is that? Partly it is because we promote and had promoted and have promoted in the United States athletics and sports and speech and debate. Team concepts. Teamwork. And we also, for some years, promoted the arts and taught these kids at a young age how to be creative and how to learn how to draw and paint and dance and sing and just to be creative and think outside the box. Those are the two advantages we have.

So I came back to the United States after 2 weeks and all you hear is pay to play. If you want to play sports in high school in Ohio: Pay to play. Some kids it may cost $500. Two kids, maybe we will give you a break, $750. Average families don't have that. But these kids are not going to develop the kinds of skills they need to be competitive in a world economy. Period, dot.

Are we okay with that? Is that something we believe in? Do we believe it is okay if kids have to pay an extra $500 or $1,000 to play sports when we know

it gives us a competitive advantage in the marketplace? Are we okay with that, America? I am not okay with that. I think it stinks. And then you come back and what is the first thing that gets cuts in the school districts? The art programs. First to go.

I had a woman last night from Liberty High School talk to me about how they had cut art programs for their kids in the grade schools because of budget constraints. We are cutting off our noses to spite our faces. We have to make these investments.

And then I come to Washington, DC, and we have a lot of tourists here, now is the tourist season in June and July, we get a lot of students down here, and what are we talking about? We are talking about gay marriage. Wait a minute, Mr. Speaker. We have got college tuition up 40 percent, gas prices up 40 percent, health care costs up 55 percent, and we are talking about gay marriage? Give me a break. Who are they bothering?

People don't come up to me at the Giant Eagle in Niles when I go down to get a pound of coffee and some honey, Mr. DELAHUNT, because I like to put honey in my coffee to sweeten it, because my Aunt Rosie taught me to put the honey in. It is good. It prevents colds. Nobody grabs me and says, can you please stop the gay people from getting married up in Massachusetts? They are killing me. No one has ever said that to me, and I am from a conservative district in Ohio.

People want to know what you're going to do about gas prices. What are you going to do about college tuition costs? What are you going to do about health care costs, Mr. DELAHUNT? These are the real issues in our country.

I yield to my friend.

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Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, if I can just interrupt for a minute, I think the question you are posing is, what are our national priorities in a time like this where people are pressed and there is a tremendous degree of economic uncertainty? One only has to take a look at the Dow Jones today. The Dow Jones went down another 100 points today. Last week it was around 300 points. The week before that it was 200 points.

Most Americans are looking at their 401(k), Mr. Speaker, and they are noticing that they are slipping behind. I dare say, Mr. Speaker, if you compared the Dow Jones Index today with the Dow Jones Index in the last several months of the Clinton administration, you would discover that after 6 years, after some 6 years of economic policies that only favor not just the middle class and the upper middle class, but the super-rich, you will discover that the Dow Jones hasn't moved.

All of those people who were planning on the customary growth in the Dow Jones so they could retire are now finding themselves compelled to work more years so that they can sustain themselves, so they simply can sustain themselves. Our friend from Ohio, Ms. KAPTUR, she can tell you that in terms of the old-time pensions when somebody worked for years for a company and then they retired, they got a pension every month that they could count on, plus their savings, those pensions are gone. They no longer exist. They are gone.

And then we hear our friends on the other side of the aisle talk about privatizing Social Security, you know, PSAs, private accounts. Well, I guess if you looked at it from that perspective and you had no growth for 6 years, you would be beside yourself. You would be devastated emotionally. But that is what has happened.

And you know what we are doing with our money? We are not spending it on the priorities that everyday people have. The war in Iraq, for example, is closing in one-half a trillion dollars, Mr. Speaker. One-half a trillion dollars. That is trillion with a T.

And one only has to review the reports by the special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction, and what you see is a record not just of incompetence and mismanagement but abuse and fraud. You know what, Mr. Speaker, this is the only country that is really at the plate in Iraq. We are not loaning this money, we are not loaning this money to the Iraqi people, we are just giving it away. It is the greatest welfare program in the history of humankind.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I am sure you remember the debate, Mr. DELAHUNT, because you were probably leading it at the time, the debate when we are talking about let's loan the money to the Iraqis. Everybody said they are going to be able to use the oil for reconstruction. Another urban myth. It never happened.

I know our friend from the west of me in Toledo, Ohio, who is one of my mentors down here, has a difficult story to tell us tonight.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, I just want to conclude something. So with this giveaway program, this giveaway from the American taxpayers, we have not even spent the money well. The Iraqis have not spent the money well. We were going to build 150 primary health care centers in Iraq. Only six have been built, and they are running out of money. Great record. A great record. That sounds to me like the Babe Ruth of mismanagement, waste and absolute pilfering of American tax dollars.

Why can't we do it here in the United States, Mr. Speaker? Why can't we build 150 primary health care centers for our own people? Would somebody please respond. All I know is we are taking this money and we have brought it over there. And by the way, one of the most incredible readings that anyone could take on is the special inspector general's report about the missing $9 billion; $9 billion is simply unaccounted for.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank TIM RYAN of Ohio, my neighbor and friend, and also Mr. DELAHUNT of Massachusetts for getting the time this evening to talk about the real issues that the American people care about that don't get enough attention on this floor as we are designating more honorary days and bills that do not have a lot of substance attached to them, when the American people actually expect us to do something here to benefit their lives and their children's lives today and tomorrow.

On the Iraq issue, as a member of the Appropriations Committee, I tried to get amendments passed in our committee when Mr. Bremer was head of the Coalition Provisional Authority, when we saw billions and billions of dollars being extended to that authority with no accountability back to this Congress.

Originally, they came to us with a proposal of $20 billion with no strings attached, with no accounting back to this Congress. Eventually that was reduced down somewhat. But of the dollars that were expended, we were not able to get reports back from the administration because amendments were disallowed in our committee for the billions of dollars that have gone to who knows where over there. Now they are trying to get amendments to look at maybe $6 billion that was expended. But let me tell you, the horses were out of the stalls before there were proper accounting procedures put into place. The truth will come out. But the record is clear who sought to get amendments and those who blocked them. That is in the record in the committee. It is outrageous.

I can remember when Paul Wolfowitz, who is no longer with the government, the President's big advisor on invading Iraq, when he said we would have this all paid for by oil sales, and we surely do not see that as even part of the equation.

As I thank my colleagues for organizing this Special Order tonight, I wanted to give a very specific example of what is happening in this country, not in Ohio, not in Massachusetts, but in Iowa and Arkansas and Illinois. As we do this Special Order, I would like to pay special tribute to excellence in a top-of-the-line quality company that is closing its doors, a company called Maytag Corporation that is headquartered in Newton, IA.

Let me say for the record I own no stock in Maytag Corporation. But our family, our household, is one of those who has appreciated the excellence of their products that have served the American people and the world for over 100 years. Sadly, this legendary American company, first founded in 1893 by F.L. Maytag, 35 miles east of Des Moines, IA, is soon to close its doors. And in Iowa, as well as subsidiary plants in Illinois and Arkansas, over 3,000 Americans will lose their jobs. The generations of Americans who crafted and built and serviced this all-

American product called Maytag deserve recognition in this Congress. They should be proud of the heritage of which they are a part and of their commitment to quality. For indeed, their quality and dependability helped build the America that was self-reliant here at home.

The gentleman from Ohio was talking about how the United States is becoming more and more indebted to foreign creditors. Maytag was the kind of company that built a strong America. It was an America that did not become overly reliant on imports and imported componentry to support its operations. It was an America that believed that its own identity and strength depended on domestic firms dedicated to excellence, and we led the world.

The company valued its product, its community, and its workers. And when the gentleman from Massachusetts was talking about pensions being taken away, it was the kind of company that really did build community where people could depend on their retirement income.

I feel compelled to discuss for a few minutes, to pay tribute to this historic company, truly an American icon company, and its workforce. As America says good-bye to Maytag, we also say good-bye to the type of firm that shaped our identity as a society.

That identify made the United States a world leader in the 20th century in manufacturing and agriculture. And that identity has been clouded by the very issues you are talking about here tonight by our growing over-dependence on imported products and imported capital from across the oceans, and Maytag represented that part of our history when America understood what it had to do to build the best.

The American people will soon witness the pink-slipping of Maytag's thousands of workers and sadly become part of our history. Of course, and this goes into a point that Mr. RYAN and Mr. DELAHUNT mentioned, the most recent chief executive officer of Maytag who brokered this closure and sale is reputed to have made over $18 million in a golden parachute on the deal.

So my remarks tonight are really directed to the workers and management staff who hoped this day would never come. Wouldn't it be nice for America's consumers like myself to be able to travel to Newton, Iowa, and Heron, Illinois, and Searcy, AR, and say ''thank you'' to these workers and their families and friends who helped build an American legend company for over a century. Let's say thank you to them tonight.

Maytag Corporation, when it shuts its doors, will be closing a chapter in our history for generations that stood for high quality and high performance when they were America's industry leader. They helped define the manufacturing heartland from which Mr. RYAN and myself come, and their company represented the words ''quality'' and ''dependability.''

I will talk later about what made their products superior, but it is really amazing to me that we live in a time when we allow this kind of gold star company to bite the dust and we cannot even talk about it here in the Congress except during this particular period of time.

Their production will disappear and it will, just like our furniture industry, just like the television industry, just like us becoming energy dependent, it will become another nail in the coffin in America becoming too reliant on others.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I appreciate that. We know the economy sometimes weeds out industries and new ones pop up. That happens. That is capitalism. We understand.

But where is the plan? Where is the plan to figure out what are we going to do next? What is the next best thing? What are these Maytag workers going to do? They cannot all work at Wal-Mart or Sam's Club or Super K or Lowe's or Best Buy, or all of the different white elephants that line the suburbs of America.

Are we going to invest in research and development? Are we going to invest in the business incubators? Are we going to lower the cost of college tuition? Are we going to make sure that we invest in the health care industries with nurses and health care workers? What are we going to do? There is no plan for the country.

I believe we need a plan. I just think the values that are here that we are hearing here in the United States Congress certainly do not reflect the average values. I think the Democrats' priorities are America's priorities.

□ 2030

And that is the key here. When you look at this, briefly, as we are talking about Maytag, this is where the United States is borrowing its money. $682 billion from Japan. China, $249 billion, U.K., Caribbean, Taiwan, OPEC, Korea, Germany, Canada. We are borrowing all this money and giving it to the wealthiest 1 percent, 1.9. Let's see here, $1.9 trillion over 10 years of tax cuts that we are borrowing. So we borrow from them and we give it the wealthiest in our country. And education costs go up, health care costs go up, energy costs go up. I yield to my friend.

Mr. DELAHUNT. If I could just rephrase it a different way, because Ms. KAPTUR mentioned the phrase ''the importing of capital.'' And what we are doing in terms of our economic policy is that we are exporting our manufacturing base. In other words, that icon of an American company, Maytag, who I am sure provided good jobs and good wages to generations of Americans who represent, if you will, that core American middle class that really distinguishes a healthy democracy from other systems. We have taken that, we have exported those jobs because of these economic policies. Simultaneously, we are importing capital from abroad. And I think this is a very telling chart, in the past 4 years, from 2001 to 2005, we have borrowed, in addition to the pre-existing national debt, $1.18 trillion. Of that $1.18 trillion, 1.16 is from overseas, from those countries that are evidenced on the chart beside Mr. RYAN.

Now, what have we done with that money? We have financed a war that is being pursued heroically by our military personnel and incompetently by our civilian leadership. In addition, the tax cuts have not favored any particular percentage of the American citizenry other than the super rich.

If one takes a look at the chart beside Mr. RYAN, if you earn $40,000 a year you receive a tax benefit of $17. Just think of that, $17. If you make over $200,000, your tax break amounts to $1,300. Even if you make $1.5 million, you get $4,500 off your tax liability. But if you make more than $1 million your tax break is $42,000. So we are borrowing from overseas to advantage the top, not just the top 1 percent, the top .001 percent in this country and funding a war in Iraq that is costing us dearly in terms of our national treasure, which are our young people, as well as dollars and cents being provided for by Americans who are going through very, very difficult times, that I would suggest is reflected in our financial markets if you look at the difference between this past month and that Dow Jones Index and that Dow Jones Index in the year 2000.

With that I yield to my friend from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. I am so happy to see the chart that Congressman RYAN has put up there on how much interest we are paying on our borrowing, and I will let him go into that in detail. But I will just recount a story. Back when I was first elected to the Congress during the 1980s and served on what was then the Banking Committee, now called Financial Services. That tells you something right there. We went from a nation that believed in savings to a nation that believed in borrowing, and now we owe everybody because the whole banking philosophy changed. And we, at that point, had only about 8 percent, between 6 and 8 percent of our bonds that were sold to foreign investors. And I said, hey, we shouldn't go over 10 percent. We should make sure, went to see Alan Greenspan, Paul Volcker, all the different heads of the Fed, and said let us work on a program so the American people can buy our debt instruments. Why should we be selling more and more of these debt instruments to foreign countries? And they said oh, Congresswoman, it is too much trouble to get the Fed to have a website and to let grandmothers buy saving bonds for their grandkids, you know, get it at the bank and so forth. And I told them, put it in the Post Office. Let's have postal savings stamps like Roosevelt used to have. Let's own ourselves. Let's not be owned by foreign interests. And I can remember Mr.

Greenspan saying to me, well, you know, we like to deal with 20 bond houses up on Wall Street. And I said how much of a fee do you pay them, Mr. Chairman? How much of a fee? And why shouldn't that be owned democratically across this country rather than just a few people in New York controlling our future?

So I just put that on the table here. Now over half of our debt securities are being purchased by foreign interests, and we owe what Mr. RYAN will now explain to the country.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. We owe, every year, in interest, this is the 2007 budget authorization, billions of dollars. The big red thing, what are we spending all our money on, $230 billion is interest on the debt. All this money we are borrowing, it is like your house or your car. You buy a $20,000 car. Over time you pay $25,000 for it because you have got to pay the interest. It is sucking money from education, homeland security, veterans benefits, research and development, business incubators, community development block grants, all the things that we put in the communities to help communities make local decisions so that they can grow their local economy. We are sucking it out and we are giving it to China. China is taking the interest that we give them, and they are investing it back into their state-owned manufacturing companies that are stealing the manufacturing jobs. That is the cycle of the money over and over and over and again.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Ms. KAPTUR, do you remember when the President talked about ownership society? The rest of the sentence was, it is not going to be Americans that will own America. It is those whom we are indebted to.

We are selling ourselves to other countries, given the obvious statistics that just jump out at you. For what? For what? For war and for a tax break for the extremely wealthy in this country. That is all that it is doing, and it is at the same time putting a burden on generations of Americans that obviously are unborn at this point in time. And what a disaster.

Ms. KAPTUR. If the gentleman would yield on that very good point. If you look back, they say to us, the Secretary of Treasury that just left, Mr. Snow says you know the real problem with China is the yuan. If we just vary the currency exchange rate, all of our problems will be solved. That is what they said to us back during the 1980s when Reagan was President. Don't worry about the trade deficit with Japan. When the yen-dollar exchange rates gets low enough our trade balance will just automatically come back into the black for the United States. Guess what? It never has because Japan is not an open market. China is not an open market. And if you look at who is, on the prior chart the gentleman had up there, if you look at who has lent us the most money, Japan, they are earning it off of us rather than opening their markets to U.S. automotive parts, to U.S. Maytag washing machines. You have got a closed market in Japan now using China as a back door for manufacturing with imported parts that are being put into everything. And we are not competing globally on a level playing field and it is killing our workers, and Washington refuses to respond.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And it is a total lack of leadership. If you look, this is quite significant. In the first 224 years of the country, we borrowed $1.101 trillion from foreign interests. In the last 4 or 5 years, we have borrowed more than that. $1.05 trillion under President Bush and the Republican Congress. Look at this. They have managed to accomplish more in the last 4 or 5 years than all previous Presidents combined. And at the same time, as we are borrowing this money and we are paying it back in interest to China, taking more of our money from our budget here to pay the interest, I find it peculiar that in 2004, 8 percent of graduating seniors carried student loans of more than $40,000. That is up from 1.3 percent 10 years prior to. More kids are incurring more debt to go to college at a time when the economy has totally shifted from industry to knowledge based capitalism, knowledge based economy.

Mr. DELAHUNT. And meanwhile, we are building roads, we are building hospitals, we are building schools, we are building dams and levies, we are building deep water ports, where? In Iraq. And we are not building them here in Ohio. We are not building them in Massachusetts, we are certainly not building them in New Orleans. We are not building them here in America where there is such a crying need. And meantime, our people go forward, whether they be seniors and concerned about their retirement security, or whether they be young people and have debts of 40, 50, $100,000 because of education. There is something wrong.

Ms. KAPTUR. If the gentleman would yield on that point.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Of course.

Ms. KAPTUR. And their parents have borrowed against their homes and home equity borrowings have risen to as high as they can go, and they can't be borrowed against anymore. The State of Ohio has the highest rate of home foreclosure in the Nation because the economy is not galloping ahead and people are borrowed to the hilt and there just is not anymore well to go to in order to finance their kids education and other expenditures that they have.

Mr. DELAHUNT. And if the gentlewoman would yield.

Ms. KAPTUR. I would be pleased to yield.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I can give you a similar economic picture of what is occurring in my district back in Massachusetts. There was a recent headline in the Cape Cod Times. And in that particular region, where you have many second homes, we are breaking records now in terms of mortgage foreclosures. One can just foresee what is happening as we talk to our colleagues among ourselves, that the ingredients and the components for an economic downturn of significant proportion are out there. And it will be as a direct result of the borrowing, the reckless spending, the giveaway programs that are going on today in Iraq, and the mismanagement, the fraud and the abuse and the lack of accountability. When you add it all up, it spells a recipe for economic disaster for America.

Ms. KAPTUR. I have asked several economists, how do you describe where America is headed? They said, right now, based on these borrowings and the situation in our economy, America is in uncharted waters. She has never been here before.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. All the more reason, there are not many options here. The Democrats want to take this country in a new direction. We want to stop all the borrowing, we want to stop all the tax cuts for people who make $300 million a year, 200 million, 1 million, 2 million, 5 million, 10, stop. Balance our budgets. Implement the PAYGO rules so that we could make sure we are not spending any money that we don't have. And we don't have to borrow it from China and take the country in a new direction. Invest in education, invest into the dams here in the United States. Find the $9 billion that got lost somewhere in Iraq and nobody seems to know where it is.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I hope it is in Ohio or maybe Kansas or maybe Ohio.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. It is almost the same amount that is being cut out of the student aid. 12 billion cut out of there, 9 billion lost. Take the country in another direction. Move it along. We want our Democratic plan, broadband access for all Americans, alternative energy plans, tax credits for research and development, all the things we need to do to move in this new direction and, at the same time, cut these loans in half.

□ 2045

Make sure that these kids have money to buy a house, buy a car, go back to school, get a Master's Degree, get a Ph.D., do research, start a business, take a chance. These are the kinds of things we need to do.

Now, this is not us speaking. This is what we like to call here a third-party validator. This is former House Speaker Newt Gingrich on the Republican Congress from Friday, March 31, 2006: ''They are seen by the country as being in charge of a government that can't function.'' That is the man who gave birth to the Republican revolution. This is Newt Gingrich. This is not TIM RYAN or BILL DELAHUNT or MARCY KAPTUR from Toledo, Ohio. This is Newt Gingrich, saying that the Republicans are in charge of a government that cannot function. Katrina, the war in Iraq, tuition costs, health care costs, energy costs. What is going on? Foreign debt, all the borrowing that we

are doing, giving Lee Raymond a $2 million tax break. This is not us. This is Speaker Gingrich saying that, and I just happen to agree.

Also, in the same article, he cited a series of blunders under Republican rule from failures in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to mismanagement of the war in Iraq. He said the government has squandered billions of dollars in Iraq. Newt Gingrich, not the Democrats saying that.

Ms. KAPTUR. Would the gentleman keep that chart up there? What amazes me about that statement is Mr. Gringrich was on the advisory board to the Secretary of Defense when the war started. He was one of the people giving advice. So he was one of those responsible for billions of dollars being wasted. I find that very interesting that he would make that statement. I hope he does not try to resolve himself from his own responsibility.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I do not exactly know what specific issues he is talking about, but I am sure he is talking about the $9 billion lost in Iraq. I am sure he is talking about the foreign borrowing, I hope, and find a way to fix it.

This is Pat Toomey. I am sure both of you served a lot longer with him than I did. He is now President of the Club for Growth. ''There's a very high level of frustration,'' says Mr. Toomey, ''and disappointment among rank and file Republicans when they see a government-controlled Congress engaging in an obscene level of wasteful spending.''

''Obscene level of wasteful spending.'' Here is a man who recognizes the fact that paying $230 billion a year in interest payments to foreign countries primarily is not a good investment for the United States of America. And these are the kinds of things that need to change. And these are conservative Republicans.

And all we are saying as Democrats is let us take the country in a new direction because I think our values as Democrats better reflect what the priorities are in America.

And it hit me a couple of weeks ago when we were home for a week and got to spend a long week with our constituents that there is a real disconnect between what the American people want and what is happening down here and the misplaced priorities that I think we see every day here in the United States Congress. And I know my friend from Massachusetts would like to interject here, but just finally to say that it is those investments that we want to make in college education and some of the others that I feel we need to do and do rather immediately.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. DELAHUNT. MARCY?

Ms. KAPTUR. Well, I think that the proof is in the pudding. Every single trade agreement this country has gotten itself into, whether it is NAFTA that was supposed to give us jobs, which has cost us nearly 1 million jobs now, was supposed to yield a trade surplus and it has yielded growing trade deficits. The same is true with the CAFTA countries. Now they want to push FTAA. If you look at what is happening to our country, we are losing the ability to produce the wealth that provided the middle class standard of living for a vast majority of our people, and that was America's great achievement in the 20th century. In addition to defeating Naziism and communism, it was our great achievement in the economy where we helped lift an entire society. We provided for seniors in their retirement years. We made affordable college education possible for those who had the ability and the will. And now we look at this century and we look at those possibilities being diminished for the families that used to see rising standards of living and rising tides. And it goes right back to mismanagement of the economy, the overborrowing that is going on, the lack of production, the lack of trade agreements that really open markets so that we can sell products and earn income so that we do not go into these trade deficits and end up having to monetize that through borrowing.

Mr. DELAHUNT. If the gentleman from Ohio will yield for a moment, the greatest risk to any democracy is a disparity between those that have in a society and those who do not. There is only so much poverty and uncertainty that any democracy can tolerate. If this trend should continue because that gulf between the affluent, particularly the very affluent among us, and the rest of America is growing so large that we have to step back and take a hard look. And I think what is important to understand here is that occasionally you hear somebody from the other party talk about, well, Democrats don't do this and they don't do that. The truth is that all of the sources of power in this country today at the national level are controlled by Republicans. They control the House, Madam Speaker. They control the Senate, and they control the White House.

You cannot blame Democrats. This is your package. You have got us here. You have owned Washington. Do not say that Washington is the problem because if you say that Washington is the problem, you are admitting that you are the problem because you are Washington. And that is the reality.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I agree with the gentleman. There is nowhere to run, nowhere to hide. And when you have Speaker Gingrich saying the same thing that BILL DELAHUNT from Massachusetts is saying or those of us from Ohio are saying, it must be a consistent theme. And I do not think Republicans are bad people. I just think their priorities are misplaced when you look at what is happening time and time and time again, and it is the same in Ohio. A Republican general assembly, every statewide holder is a Republican, and these kinds of problems have been exacerbated by the local policies at the State level.

And the real issue here is in cities like Toledo, Ohio; or Youngstown, Ohio; or Warren, Ohio; or Niles, Ohio; or Boston, Massachusetts is that there is, as Mr. DELAHUNT said, an underclass forming. And 70 to 80 percent of the kids who go to Youngstown city schools in in my district live in poverty. Cleveland is now the poorest city in the country.

There is something wrong with the system when we allow that to happen. I do not believe that we cannot figure out how to do something about this. And when you cut community development block grants and you cut Head Start and you make college more expensive, those are not the priorities of the country. And here is why. I just want to make one point. This is not a moral argument. It can be and it is. But I want to make an economic argument to this. How are we going to compete with 1.3 billion Chinese citizens when we only have 300 million and we have a good number of our people living in poverty? They are not even on the field playing for us. We need them on the field. We need engineers, we need scientists, we need teachers, and nurses and doctors in our inner city schools, in our rural communities to help move the country forward and make those investments like the Tennessee Valley Authority, like the G.I. bill. Let us make those investments again, and we will see what will happen to the country.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I am going to ask the gentlewoman to help on this because she serves on the Appropriations Committee, but there has been a raging debate in this country about immigration. There is nobody, I dare say, on either side of the aisle that does not believe that our borders should be secure. And the best evidence, however, of a sincere intent to secure the borders is the recent history of the Appropriation Committee's lack of action in terms of creating the suitable or the necessary funding for Border Patrol. The American people should be made aware when we hear our friends rail on the immigration issue that they have voted time and time again against Democratic amendments over the past 5, 6, 7 years to increase funding for Border Patrol so that our borders would be secure. And I hear that, and I just have to laugh because they own it. They own it. They want to indulge in the rhetoric. They want to talk tough. But when it comes to producing the resources so that we can say our borders are safe and secure when it comes to illegal immigration, they are missing in action.

Ms. KAPTUR. I want to endorse what the gentleman says and mention that the arrests that just occurred in Toronto were due to people driving up through Ohio, through Windsor, and going up into Canada. And we have been trying to get homeland security money at the northern border, and the Bush administration has just produced

a budget, with their allies here in Congress, that cut the amount of money that cities like Toledo and Detroit, Cleveland received to protect this border with Canada. We cannot even get Coast Guard patrols up on Lake Erie. Members like PETER DEFAZIO of Oregon here have fought so hard to try to get 100 percent funding. We have had amendments in our committee to examine all containers offshore before coming to this country. They are simultaneously defeated every single time that we offer them.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Did we get a Republican vote ever?

Ms. KAPTUR. No Republican votes. No Republican votes. So the problem is that we cannot do what is right for this country, and all that money we paid in interest due to borrowings we could fully fund the homeland security additional needs that we have. We could take care of those kids that cannot pay their college tuition. We could take care of veterans. We could take care of the water and sewer lines that the gentleman from Ohio, ''Mr. RYAN'' was talking about. That is how big $200 billion is. Roll all those agencies together, paid for, but not when you are extending yourself by all these borrowings.

And when the new head of the Federal Reserve made a statement that interest rates might have to go up because of this capital crunch our Nation is facing because of this debt, the markets got so skittish. The stock market dropped a couple days in a row. The real estate industry went crazy because they know if those rates go up, the kind of foreclosures you are experiencing in Massachusetts and we are definitely experiencing in Ohio are going to skyrocket. So the economy is at a critical edge. We are in unchartered waters in terms of the importance of these borrowings and the down draft that that is creating inside this society. It is really a very dangerous situation.

At the beginning of the 21st century when President Clinton left office, and there was much I disagreed with him about, but we had a balanced annual budget and were beginning to pay down our accumulated debt. And I can remember Alan Greenspan saying when we are getting down to zero and we were starting to pay not just the annual deficit down but the accumulated debt, he said, well, gosh, you know, it might be dangerous for America not to have some debt. And I remember hearing that statement and I thought what? What? America's strength comes from standing on her own two feet. What kind of international investments does he have?

Mr. DELAHUNT. What a dangerous thing, Ms. KAPTUR, a debt-free America.

Ms. KAPTUR. A debt-free America. And I thought, hey, wait a minute, which bondholders is he having dinner with up there on Wall Street? What is going on?

And look at what happened on NAFTA. When the peso went south after NAFTA was passed, Wall Street bailed them out. Well, who are their little friends? Who is the club up there, the Wall Street club, that governs what happens across this society?

The person on Main Street in Toledo, Ohio, wants a balanced budget. They want a debt-free America. They know that makes America strong. They are not willing to accept this kind of financial dependence that our country has gotten itself into.

Mr. DELAHUNT. They do not want a Wall Street. They do not want a financial market that has not moved upward in 6 years. It has just slid and stagnated. That is what has happened here. All you have got to do is pick up the paper every morning and check the Dow Jones.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. When you talk about NAFTA, I remember during the whole debate that was supposed to fix the whole illegal immigration problem. So I do not think we can have this immigration debate without putting it into some context to say I thought NAFTA was supposed to fix this problem. Wages would rise, standards of living would rise, and people would not want to come back over here. That was a part of that big debate.

Ms. KAPTUR. Could I just comment on that to say the reason we have all this illegal immigration from south of our border is because NAFTA for the Mexican people totally disemboweled their rural countryside. It was planned. We have had over 2 million people who have lost their livelihoods. Peasant farmers. It is a sacrilege on this continent as far as what is going on. And the people have nowhere to go but to try to come up here to get food. They run across deserts. They risk their own lives lives. And why? Because their farmsteads were taken away from them. They have nowhere to go.

I tried to get agricultural amendments for transition in Mexico passed when NAFTA was considered. They were disallowed on the floor of this Congress under the Fast Track procedure, and now we are reaping the wrath of that agreement.

□ 2100

Those folks that are coming up here, illiterate, risking everything, for why? To feed their families. That is the reason for the illegal immigration. Unless we fix NAFTA, we are not going to fix the illegal immigration problem in this country. I don't care how many fences they build.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. As we wrap up, there is a lot of rhetoric, but you have just got to look at the facts. President Bush says America's economy is strong and benefiting all Americans. Ask yourself, regardless of the rhetoric, what the reality is. College tuition, up 40 percent. Gas prices, up 47 percent. Health care costs, up 55 percent. Median household incomes, down 4 percent. Don't listen to us. Don't listen to Newt Gingrich. Don't listen to the other side. Judge for yourself. Is this the kind of America you believe in? If so, continue to put the Republicans in charge of the government. Quite frankly, I believe as much as we like them, they are unable to govern. Katrina, the war, all of these statistics, unable to govern.

Let's take the country in another direction and really embody the freedom that this country is supposed to have. Www.housedemocrats.gov/30something, if any of you would like to email later.

Www.housedemocrats.gov/30something. Dana from Pittsburgh and Amanda from Connecticut emailed us last time. Both emailed saying, Congress needs to talk about the priorities of college costs and gas prices and get on the stick.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Ms. KAPTUR, I know that you are still under that cutoff of 40, but it is great having you on board because I feel very lonely here with these young people.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I sense a mutiny coming.

KANSAS FARMERS NEED RELIEF

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHL of New York). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, there is an occurrence and an occasion in Kansas that occurs each and every year. It is a very special time in our State. It is the harvest time for wheat. Of course, Kansas is known as the Wheat State. It is a time in which families, sons and daughters, return home to the family farm. There is a lot of work to be done, but there is a history, a culture, a tradition, a family time each and every year in which harvest is a special moment.

But, Mr. Speaker, this year unfortunately is one of those times in which it appears that the Kansas wheat harvest and, in fact, the harvest across the Midwest is going to be less than what we would hope. In fact, the 2006 crop is expected to be the worst in the last 10 years, and many yields are expected to be less than 50 percent of normal. This is a huge consequence to the economy of our State, to the Midwest, and really to the country.

Rainfall has been about 28 percent of normal this year. In fact, 84 of Kansas' 105 counties received no precipitation during the month of February when that wheat crop is attempting to grow. Of those remaining counties, the greatest amount of rainfall in those other counties was thirty one-hundredths of an inch for the month. This is the fifth and sixth years across many portions of our State and in Nebraska and eastern Colorado and Oklahoma and Texas and South Dakota and Wyoming in which drought has had serious consequences. In 2005, drought damage was also exacerbated by tornadoes and hailstorm and freeze. In 2005, every county

but four in our State was declared a disaster county.

Today we debated the emergency supplemental appropriations act. I am very supportive of the efforts to bring disaster assistance to the farmers of the gulf coast and those affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. But, Mr. Speaker, $500 million was included in that bill but directed only to those farmers and other producers who were in hurricane-affected counties.

It is one thing, Mr. Speaker, for us to deny farmers across the country any assistance due to budget considerations, due to our desire to work toward balancing the budget; but it is not understandable in my State that we would pick and choose which farmers receive assistance based upon whether or not the event is a result of a hurricane. Those farmers who have had inadequate moisture in the Midwest for the last 5 and 6 years are no less damaged than those farmers who were affected by the rains and the breaking of the levee and the saltwater in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi.

I can explain to my constituents about the desire to hold the line on spending, but I can't explain to them why their problems are not addressed in this emergency supplemental but some other producers, some other farmers have been.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I am hoping to set the stage tonight as we conclude the debate on the emergency supplemental, but as we work our way through the remainder of Congress to see that there is some level of disaster assistance provided to all farmers, regardless of the cause of their losses.

Many in this body will say, but Congressman, isn't it crop insurance's duty to provide that kind of assistance? And isn't ad hoc disaster, isn't this disaster assistance package unnecessary?

Well, Mr. Speaker, I chair the subcommittee responsible for crop insurance. The reality is that crop insurance policies insure about 50 percent of the crop losses. The best policies cover 85 percent of the losses. And there is no insurance coverage for livestock. When you have 5 and 6 years of disaster in which you are only being compensated for 50 percent of your losses and you have paid the premiums for that coverage and your average return on equity as a farmer in our State is 3.66 percent, you can't lose year after year after year and stay in business.

The average age of a farmer in Kansas is 59 years old. Our farmers are reaching the conclusion that there is no future in agriculture, and that is not only detrimental to the communities of Kansas, to that individual farm family, but it is detrimental to the people of this country to lose agriculture as a way of life and as an economic driver of our economy.

So we do need to work to improve crop insurance in our subcommittee. Our agriculture committee is working to do that. But the reality is the problem is with us today, and we are losing another generation of farmers. We will revisit the issue, I hope. 2005, which should be included in this year, is not in this bill; but 2006 may be even worse.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues, the leadership of this House in an effort to make sure that farmers can survive into the future.

EULOGY TO MAYTAG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I want to identify with the remarks of the gentleman from Kansas and say that this is likely to be the first year in America when we will import more food than we export. It is another sign of what is happening to the innards of this economy. Agriculture has always helped America maintain her independence. We best keep that in front of us as we move forward.

I wanted to come to the floor tonight to talk about and pay tribute to something on the manufacturing side of our economy, a company that has been noted for excellence as a top-of-the-line firm. I talked about it a little bit earlier during the Special Order dealing with the economy; but Maytag Corporation, headquartered in Newton, Iowa, sadly, will be closing. I own no stock in this company. I have no personal worth associated with it, but I am one of the millions of American homeowners and householders who says ''thank you'' to those who helped build and maintain this great American company. Thank you for the excellence of your products.

The company was founded in 1893 by F.L. Maytag, 35 miles east of Des Moines, Iowa, in Newton, Iowa. Soon it, along with sister plants in Arkansas and Illinois, will be closing, idling 3,000 more people losing their jobs in manufacturing in those places. Hopefully, some of them will be able to find other jobs.

But the point I want to talk about tonight is you just don't replace a Maytag company. The generations of Americans who crafted, built, and serviced this all-American product deserve recognition in this Congress. They should be proud of the heritage of which they are a part and of their commitment to quality. Maytag Corporation when it shuts its doors will be closing a chapter in American history that for generations stood for quality and high performance. It was America's industry leader. Maytag helped define America's manufacturing heartland. In fact, Maytag itself symbolized the words ''quality'' and ''dependability.''

Some people will say, well, a washing machine is a washing machine. A dryer is a dryer. What does it matter? Yes, there are other companies, Mr. Speaker. There are other companies. But they don't match Maytag's sterling reputation for product quality. How often have we seen in the age in which we are living the dumbing down of American manufacturing and its displacement by lesser quality products made with lesser quality parts, many of which are imported from foreign countries?

We have witnessed the demise of the U.S. television industry, the furniture industry, the automotive industry, the loss of our energy independence, and now probably this year the loss of our agricultural independence.

It is correct. The average age of farmers in this country is now 59 years old. What about America's agricultural future? But in this industry of home appliances, an industry leader is brought to its knees as excellence again gives way to global market pressures.

As I have studied Maytag's componentry compared to competing products, I am struck by how much America is really losing. It is losing more than a company. It is losing a standard of excellence.

Mr. Speaker, Maytag's quality was more than marketing. Maytag was real. It really was excellent. Its corporate success began with fine design, careful craftsmanship, investment in research and development, and employment of excellent raw materials. Maytag's employees were proud citizens, living in a proud Republic. They knew they were helping to build a strong America, and they did that every day for over a hundred years.

For Maytag, quality was achieved on several levels. Most Americans know Maytag through its commercials which show the lonely Maytag repairman who never got a call for servicing because America's homemakers simply didn't have problems, or rarely did, with Maytag machines. Quality was number one. Maytag's performance was assured by a long history of investments in research and design that assured that quality. Only recently when they became a victim of the downsizing that is hitting U.S. manufacturing did the firm begin to cut back on research and development. The trickle down effect of foreign competition and the cheapening of componentry affected Maytag.

The list of Maytag's engineering bests compared to competitors has been documented and is extensive. This is what we are losing, to name a few: heavy duty stabilizing springs that assured best performance. That sounds like a simple thing to make, but it isn't. Heavy duty base leveling legs; gauge quality in the metals; high torque motor; counterbalancing tubs. And the type of transmission that had only three parts, not 30, and, therefore, repairs were kept to a minimum.

Mr. Speaker, as I end this evening, Maytag earned our trust: ''The value you demand from the brand you trust.'' America can't afford to lose a company like Maytag.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109–498) on the resolution (H. Res. 862) waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

WE'RE MAKING GREAT PROGRESS IN IRAQ

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, despite what some on the left may say, we are making terrific progress in the global war on terror. Last week, U.S. forces took out al Qaeda's number one terrorist in Iraq who was responsible for countless murders and terrorist attacks around the globe. This was an incredible victory for the U.S. military and intelligence communities. This great accomplishment is concrete evidence that the Iraqi people are cooperating with our troops. They are supporting our mission and are demonstrating their desire to be free.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of our troops for the great strides they have made. We have crushed Saddam Hussein's brutal dictatorship and have captured thousands of terrorists. Iraqi children are in school and Iraqi businesses are prospering. Iraq has had several successful elections and has formed their government under a new prime minister. And although it is rarely reported by the media, there is undeniable progress and hope in Iraq with each new day. The Iraqi people have proven they long for freedom and will continue to fight the terrorists by establishing a free, democratically elected government. However, our work is not done. We must stand firm in this war on terror until the job is done and until Iraq can defend and govern itself completely.

□ 2115

CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT—NOT—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, there are a select few men and women in this world who know in advance the exact time of their death. The crime victims are not in that group. Without time to prepare, they never get to say goodbye for the last time. They never get to hug their kids goodbye, their parents for the last time. The last person they usually see on earth is the killer, the one who steals their life.

One of those victims was Pensacola, Florida, police officer Stephen Taylor. He was handcuffing a bank robber that he had captured when another bandit named Clarence Hill cowardly shot Officer Taylor in the back, killing him. This was in 1982, 24 years ago.

Hill was tried and sentenced to death, and his sentence was proper. He was to be executed with a date and time predetermined by law. He knew when he was to meet his maker.

When at the very last minute he claimed that lethal injection is cruel and unusual punishment, our Supreme Court today agreed that his civil rights might have been violated and stayed the execution indefinitely. The courts have to figure this all out, according to the Supreme Court.

Today the Supreme Court's wayward ruling will undo sentences and the sanity of grieving families.

Mr. Speaker, has the Supreme Court lost its way? Soon many murderers and child rapists and armed robbers will scurry to have their sentence stopped. They will claim their deaths might be too cruel and unusual. Cruel and unusual they are not. Mr. Speaker, 37 of the 38 States in the United States that use the death penalty use lethal injection, a hardly unusual means of death when most States use it.

Note the phrase is cruel and unusual punishment, not cruel or unusual punishment. Lethal injection drugs, those are the same drugs given to surgery patients every day, just in a different dosage.

But the people on death row who hope Hill's case will serve their lives have committed crimes more painful than any drug could be, holding someone's head under water, stabbing someone dozens of times till they bleed to death, raping, robbing and bludgeoning their victims until every cry is silenced. Those folks have earned the right to be executed.

I spent 22 years as a felony trial judge and 8 years as a felony court prosecutor in Texas. I have probably tried more cases and more death penalty cases than all the Justices on the Supreme Court put together, and I dealt with the Constitution every day, especially the issues of the Bill of Rights.

I have been down there in the trial court, down in the mud and the blood and the beer with vicious criminal cases, and I have seen the families of murder victims grieve and pray and hope that justice will occur in their case when some outlaw snuffs out the life of their loved one. The death penalty is proper in proper cases. Some people deserve that punishment. Hill is one of those people.

Mr. Speaker, his guilt is not in doubt, just the means of his execution is in doubt, according to the Supreme Court. You know we went from hanging criminals to the electric chair to the gas chamber to the firing squad to this, quote, put them to a quiet peaceful death, the lethal injection.

Now those that are more concerned about the way criminals die than they are concerned about the way victims die say this death will be and may be a little painful. This ought not to be. Criminals should not have more rights than victims. This case is 26 years old. That absurd delay in sentencing is cruel and unusual to the family of the victims.

Gunning down officer Taylor by shooting him in cold blood is cruel and unusual punishment for him, the victim. Lethal injection for this killer is neither cruel nor unusual, it is just justice.

And that's the way it is.

THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I am going to be joined by some of our colleagues tonight as we begin our discussion in this great body, in this great House talking about the war on terrorism and the global war that we face.

Mr. Speaker, before I began that discussion with my colleagues, I want to take just a few moments and address some of the statements that the minority made during their hour that preceded this. They have talked a lot about spending, and they have talked a good bit about their dissatisfaction with spending.

One of the things that I would like to remind the Members of this body and those that are watching this debate tonight is that much of that spending takes place because of the bureaucracy that has been built in this Congress over the past 50 years.

Now, you go back and you look at what transpired in the 1960s and the way the bureaucracies grew, and the way programs grew. You see all around here that this bureaucracy has been built as a monument to many of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. They have put their energy into that. They have put that into growing this government here in Washington. Many of them believe that the government here in Washington knows better than the folks back home. I disagree with that.

I would encourage our colleagues to join with us as we work on waste, fraud and abuse, as we work toward reducing the size of this government. When we passed the Deficit Reduction Act that would have made nearly 1 percent across the board cut, they chose not to cast a vote in favor of that.

But they do enjoy coming and talking about how wonderful they feel it would be to have a debt-free America and a balanced budget, and, yes, that is something we would like to do, but we don't want that budget to be balanced

by raising taxes. We want that budget to be balanced by reducing spending. That is a big part of our focus as we continue to work.

Soon we are going to have a spring cleaning week where we are going to talk about 150 of these different agencies that absolutely need to go through a house cleaning. They need to reduce their size. They need to get their priorities in order, and bureaucrats that are in these buildings need to start responding to the citizens of this great Nation. They should be held accountable, and we are going to press forward on that issue.

One of my colleagues also made a comment about economic growth, and I would invite our Members to look at the economic stats from 1995 and the economic stats from 2005. If you compare those 2 years, what happened in the economy in 1995 during the Clinton years and what has happened in 2005 during the Bush years? What you are going to see is on every single economic indicator, whether you are talking GDP, unemployment rates, economic growth, homeownership, every single indicator, the 2005 economy beats the 1995 economy on every single point.

I would commend that to individuals that are watching tonight, to be certain that they look at those facts, that they look at those statistics and add those numbers.

It was also mentioned on the floor tonight what type of America do you believe in? I always love it when I hear that type of comment. What type of America do you believe in? I think the colleagues that join me here tonight would join me in saying we believe in an America that is strong. We believe in an America that is free. We believe in an America that is compassionate and caring and wants the best, the very best, for all of our citizens. We believe in an America where children can dream big dreams, where they can grow up happy and free and educated and watch those dreams become reality, where they can take hold of their best efforts and say you know what, we are going to make this even better.

We are going to make it better. We really believe in an America that is focused on hope and not focused on fear. We believe in an America that is strong on individual freedom that understands the importance of freedom for being able to freely live, to freely think, to freely work. We know that that requires that we have a secure homeland, and that is why this majority has been focused on our security agenda, being certain that we look at the moral security of this great Nation, the retirement security, the economic security and, of course, the national security of this wonderful free land that is a beacon of democracy to every single nation on the face of the earth.

You know, when you talk about what kind of America you believe in, I love it sometimes when we are visiting with our troops in war-torn areas, and you meet somebody, and they walk up to you, and they say, you are an American. You are an American? You are an American.

There is a certain awe that comes out of their mouth when they look at us and they know we are what they would like to be. We have got something they want. That is something that we have got that they want, that other nations want, is freedom. It is the chance to do and to be and to have your children do and be all that they would hope to be.

That is why the majority is going to take this entire week and we are going to have a discussion with the American people. We are going to bring forth our hopes. We are going to bring forth our thoughts of what is happening in this war on terrorism. We are going to talk about the progress we have made. We are also going to talk about the areas where we want to improve.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to talk about the big picture. We are going to hold a debate on the Republican and the Democrat approaches to winning the war on terror. We are going to compare, and we are going to contrast the different philosophies that each party has toward the war on terrorism. Our military's elimination of al-Qaeda's top leader in Iraq is an auspicious start to this debate. That success should make it clear that winning takes patience, and it takes perseverance. But things that are worth fighting for and things that are worth working for are items that are worth waiting for because we don't live in a world of instant gratification where everything is decided within 30 minutes. Some things take time to do them right.

History has taught us, history has taught us that it is important that when we look at democracy, when we look at working with other Nations that we get this right. It also takes excellent work by our military and our intelligence folks, and God bless them all. God bless them all.

I am especially grateful for our troops from Fort Campbell from the 101st who are in Iraq now and are certainly working diligently on this effort. Many of our National Guardsmen are there, and they are working as well.

□ 2130

I am very grateful to them and to their families.

Last week, we got to see part of the big picture in the war on terrorism more quickly with Zarqawi's death, with the destruction of a major leader in the global terrorist network. The big picture is the U.S. chasing these people down and eliminating them.

It is helping free nations, Mr. Speaker, free nations develop and throw off the shackles of terrorism in the Middle East. This, Mr. Speaker, will be our topic and our discussion for the week.

At this time, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) who is so focused on protecting this great Nation and our Nation's security.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) especially for organizing this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to be here amongst my colleagues for whom I have such respect and gratitude for the work that they do on a daily basis to help lead this country in the right direction.

As the gentlewoman from Tennessee mentioned, we are going to talk about the big picture in the global war on terror, and oftentimes we lose sight of the big picture. One of the reasons is because we are watching the news every night, and it seems as though they are setting up television cameras or movie cameras in Iraq wherever the IEDs might be planted, and they seem to be able to turn the cameras on seconds before they detonate an IED and seconds before there is some kind of an atrocity that takes place over there. That gives us a very narrow picture of what is going on in Iraq, Mr. Speaker.

But the bigger picture over there is this, and that is that Iraq is a battlefield in the global war on terror, and we began this 20 years ago or so. It came home to roost when we all realized September 11, 2001, that this was not just a sometime enemy, not just an enemy that attacked the USS Cole or the U.S. embassies in Africa or did the bombing on the Marine barracks in Lebanon, and the list of those kind of terrorist attacks went on and on; but it came home to roost in a way that Americans all understood on September 11, 2001.

The bigger picture of it is this that there is a culture out there that believes that their path to salvation is in killing people who are not like them, and I will contend that that organization that is out there, al Qaeda, also remnants of the Taliban, those that are left, are really a parasite; and it is radical Islam which is a parasite on the religion of Islam. Islam itself as mainstream may well be a peaceful religion, but the parasite that rides on them is not.

The definition of parasite, I would remind you, Mr. Speaker, and the other listeners as well, it is a species that rides upon the host. The host is Islam. The parasite is radical Islam, and that parasite species rides on the host, feeds off the host and reproduces on the host, sometimes attacks the host and drops off and attacks other species and sometimes gets picked up back up again and rides on the host again and starts the cycle all over. That is the case with ticks and mites, the whole series of parasites that are there throughout all we know in the animal kingdom, and that is the case also with radical Islam and the overall religion of Islam.

We are faced with that kind of an enemy, and that enemy has killed a lot of Christians. That enemy has killed a lot of Jews, but that enemy has also killed more Muslims than anything else. It gives us a broader picture, Mr. Speaker, of what this enemy is that we are up against.

But the question we needed to ask ourselves, probably well before September 11, 2001, and certainly on that date and every date after that, is how do we conduct a war against a global enemy that is amorphous, an enemy that does not have uniforms or a territory, maybe has a leader or group of leaders, an enemy that simply has an ideology of hatred and terror that comes out and attacks people who are not like them in order to destabilize and somehow gain their presumably greater glory and somehow their salvation in the next life, which I think is down below rather than up above?

Well, as I asked that question subsequent to September 11, 2001, I had the privilege to be listening to an address by Benazir Bhutto, who is the former Prime Minister of Pakistan. She served two different periods of time there, mostly back in the 1990s. She gave an address back in Storm Lake, Iowa, town of my birth, to Buena Vista University, a small private university there, and a very excellent one, that tracks outstanding speakers.

After her profound address, she and I sat down one-on-one, knee-to-knee, so to speak, and this certainly was on my mind and it is on all of our minds even today. I asked her how do we get to this point of victory? How do we bring forth a war on these terrorists to the point where we can declare victory? What is our objective going to be and how shall we carry out this and conduct this war to reach this objective?

And she sat for a little while and she said, You have got to give them a chance at freedom. You have got to give them a chance at democracy. Today, the people in these countries do not have hope. They do not have a way to vent their anger. They do not have a way to apply their energy for change in a constructive fashion with any kind of hope that they can make progress and make this world a better place for themselves, their family, their children, and the subsequent generations.

So, consequently, if we can provide that opportunity, then the climate that breeds terror will turn into a climate that turns that energy towards constructive ends, constructive ends where they would be working to improve their families, their homes, their communities, their country, their churches, their mosques, their synagogues, whatever it might be.

As I listened to that, I asked her a series of questions about it for clarification. I began to think as I drove home that evening this is a pretty good formula to put Benazir Bhutto back in power in Pakistan, but I am not convinced that it is a solution on how we could prosecute and win a war on terror. Yet, I sat down and began to read more and more about Islam, in particular the book, ''Radical Islam Visits America'' by Daniel Pipes, and I read that through twice with a red ink underliner and a highlighter to try to understand the culture, the religion, the psychology.

I put that together with Natan Sharansky's book, ''In Defense of Democracy.'' When Natan writes that all human beings have a certain energy within them that they will use to try to effect a change, and that they will use that energy if that change is to keep them alive or if that change is to deal with the minutiae that may seem irrelevant to people who will struggle just to stay alive.

Then, to understand, that we never go to war against another free people. Free people do not go to war against free people. So if we put that into the equation, there is an energy and a drive for change, by Natan Sharansky. We never go to war against another free people. So to the extent we can promote freedom and a form of democracy around the world is also a formula for more peace and more safety for all Americans and all free people.

We add that then to Daniel Pipes' understanding and to the idea to promote freedom, and the President's doctrine which he gave out in his second inaugural address, which now we know as the Bush Doctrine, and that is, that all people yearn to breathe free, and it is the duty and it is the obligation of all freedom-loving people to promote freedom throughout the globe and throughout the ages.

Put that formula all together, and that is the formula for how to move forward on this global war on terror and how to finally declare victory.

So we began operations in Afghanistan a couple of months after September 11 very successfully, and 25 million people that had never before in that place on the globe gone to the polls to select their leaders and to direct their national destiny went to the polls and voted, and there were American troops in the field, especially our troops that I noticed in the field, guarding those paths to the polls, guarding those polling sites, and now you have 25 million people in Afghanistan. Some would say, and there were many detractors over on this side of the aisle, that said, oh, it is another Vietnam; you will never be able to get through the Khyber Pass, no one's ever been able to go into Afghanistan and come out of there having won a victory; that country has always fought off all of its invaders.

Well, we did not invade them. We liberated them and the Afghani people now breathe free and have selected their leaders, and the same formula with the same advisers and the same advice was to go to Iraq and do the same thing for the same number of people, 25 million people, and the American soldiers did that and the marines did that and our airmen and our sailors did that and liberated 25 million people.

They went to the polls three times, Mr. Speaker, in 2005 to select their leaders, to ratify a constitution and to put a legitimate government in place, and now they are a sovereign Arab nation in the Middle East. This sovereign Arab nation has had a difficult struggle, and the casualties have been by some measures high, not by measures of previous wars, by measures of the contemporary media. It is tragic to lose America's best in a struggle like this, but it is the highest calling.

So, today, Iraqis breathe free, and we think that somehow, because there is casualties there in the streets of Iraq, it is an intolerable level in that civilization. I asked the question, how can they tolerate living in a society with this high level of violence, this high level of casualties?

So I went back and took a look at the level of casualties that were there, and they need to be measured as a percentage of the overall population. We do that, we do that statistically by measuring how many people out of every 100,000 die a violent death. Well, that would be murder in most societies; and in Iraq, the civilians would be the measure, some are victims of IED bombings, some are victims of murder. We added up those numbers. There are several Web pages that provide that information. We took the most reasonable numbers that we could find. It comes to this number: 27.51 Iraqis per 100,000 die a violent death on an annual basis, 27.51.

Now, what does that mean, and to me it really does not mean a lot until I compare it to places that I know where I have a feel for the rhythm of this place. Well, I by now have a feel for the rhythm of this place called Washington, D.C., and my wife lives here with me. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, she is in far greater risk being a civilian in Washington, D.C., than an average civilian in Iraq.

Forty-five out of every 100,000 Washington, D.C., residents die a violent death on an annual basis, 45. 27.51 in Iraq out of 100,000, 45 out of every 100,000 in Washington, D.C.

If you go to New Orleans, pre-Katrina, before Katrina, 53 per 100,000, almost twice as many violent fatalities in the city of the New Orleans than there are in Iraq as an average civilian.

Now, we took out the military, took out the police because they are involved in combat, but that gives you a measure, Mr. Speaker, of what is it like in Iraq. The United States military has provided, first of all, liberation for the Iraqis that were dying at an average rate of 182 a day at the hands of Saddam Hussein, collared him, put him on trial, took out Zarqawi and gave them a safer, free society than the society that they lived in.

Statistically, if you want to chart that for the duration of this operation from the liberation of the Iraqis in March of 2003 until today, there are over a 100,000 Iraqis alive today because the United States and coalition forces went into Iraq and took on that calling to promote freedom throughout the globe. Now, Iraq stands as near the end of the military security solution of the operation in Iraq, at the beginning of

the political solution in the operation of Iraq, where now they have a sovereign Arab government, and they are on the cusp of the solution for their economics. When they are able to start pumping oil out of that ground and sending it around the world and cashing the checks, we will see then this lode star of Iraqi being an inspiration for all the Arab world. A free Arab world, a prosperous Arab nation, and inspiration for all the Arab world.

I have to believe that as the Berlin Wall went down on November 9, 1989, and freedom echoed across Eastern Europe, hundreds of millions of people breathe free today, I have to believe that same kind of contagious desire for freedom will take place in the Middle East among the Arab people.

That is the big picture, Mr. Speaker. That is the vision of our President. That is the sacrifice of our military. That is the commitment of this Congress, and that is where we are headed. I believe and I pray that we will arrive there one day soon, and I expect to be around to celebrate that joyous day. I will stand here with our military every day until that is accomplished.

Thank you to the gentlewoman from Tennessee. I appreciate this privilege to address this Chamber and the Speaker.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Iowa, and I am so appreciative that he mentioned that this is not a sometime enemy that we are dealing with. This is an enemy, as he said, that is amorphous. They are located everywhere. Terrorist cells are around the globe, but it is an enemy with an agenda. Their agenda is to end freedom as we know it, and they work at it 24/7. They are an enemy to freedom, and we do know that the Iraqi people are grasping at their chance for freedom.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I think it is really quite important to note that a development that got swamped by the Zarqawi news, but a development that I certainly believe is very critical to our long-term security goals, was that the Iraqi Government's confirmation of its top three security chiefs was last week. You had Sunnis and Shiites standing together as the security chiefs for this nation.

What an enormous step in the right direction, and we have now had tremendously successful elections in Iraq. We have a unified government. We now have 275,000 Iraqi security forces that are in place.

□ 2145

So we do know that we are seeing progress in the right direction. There are no guarantees, but it is steps in the right direction.

At this time, I want to yield to the gentleman from Texas, Mr. CARTER, who has Fort Hood in his district. Judge Carter has worked so diligently with our men and women in uniform, and I thank him for coming to talk a little bit about the big picture, about the global war on terror, and why it is imperative that we persevere. And I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CARTER. I thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee. She is a real asset to this Congress, and I am just proud to be able to be with her tonight to talk about the war on terror.

I live in a district where on any given day we have between 15,000 and 20,000 American heroes standing on that wall protecting freedom in the United States, in harm's way, giving their lives and limbs and time so that we can sit here in this House and so that our children and our wives and our loved ones can walk the streets of the United States free.

You know, this war on terror is a war on a cancerous idea that is, when you really think about it, is really one of the most horrible, horrible things there is; that there is a group of people that are fighting a war not against military soldiers as proud warriors marching off to war. No. In fact, they do not want to even see an American soldier anywhere near them, if they can help it. They want to terrorize society. And that terrorism, in their way of thinking, starts with civilians, not military.

We got a real good dose of that on 9/11, a dose that I do not know how the American people can ever get it out of their minds. When we were attacked at Pearl Harbor by the Japanese, they attacked our military installations at Pearl Harbor. But when we were attacked on 9/11, a building full of business folks was attacked. This was not an attack on a military target, this was an attack on a civilian target, and its sole purpose was to kill American citizens.

We need to thank the Lord that their timing was slightly off and that the building was not completely full. If it had been, instead of numbering in the thousands we might have been numbering in the hundreds of thousands of people in those two buildings that might have died. But that was their purpose. Their purpose was to change how we live by hitting us where we live. I just can't think of anything more horrible.

You know, I was in the judge business for a while, as were several people in this room here today, and we know from experience that there's a lot of evil out there in the world, and we spent our time trying to deal with that evil. And I think, from what I know of my colleagues here in the House, we did a pretty good job of fighting evil. One of the things we did to curtail evil was we put them away, and we put them down so that the price of being evil was a high price in the places where we lived. And we are proud of that.

I think the American soldier knows that the hard part of fighting the war on terror, on fighting people who are really not out to fight them but are out to fight their children and their wives and their moms and dads back home, and moms and dads and children of people in Iraq and Afghanistan and many other countries in this world, the Philippines, Indonesia, and the list goes on and on and on, they are always attacking the innocent trying to live their lives.

But what is their theory behind this? I have thought about this. And I want to say that Mr. KING gives some great insight into some of the things he has read, and I was fascinated by some of the things he had to say. But I think about this, and what they are really trying to do is to change the way we live until we just really cannot tolerate living that way any longer and we are willing to compromise and give in to what they view as a world view, until their radical Islam dominates the world.

They want our school children in Texas, or our school children in Tennessee, or our school children in Iowa to get up in the morning, every morning, and be afraid to stand at the bus stop, be afraid to ride on the school bus, be afraid to go to their school for fear that somebody might blow it up, somebody might shoot at the bus, somebody might hijack them or kidnap nap them. That is the world they are developing right now that we are tearing apart right now in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This is not easy work for our soldiers. Our soldiers are out there in a special role that soldiers have never been in. Soldiers are trained to fight soldiers. Soldiers are trained to go onto a battlefield and fight a battle. And sometimes it is an unconventional battle, and we are trained to fight unconventional battles. Our soldiers are not policemen, although some are trained as policemen. Our soldiers shouldn't be policemen, but today the American Marine on patrol in Iraq or Afghanistan has a special mission, and that mission is to make sure that the safety of that population is as safe as the safety he wants for his population back home.

And he cares about those people. He cares about those kids. A great story I heard when I was back in Iraq was about a soldier walking down the street and a little girl comes running out and hands him one rose. A beautiful rose. He later gave it to a lady at the hospital who told me the story. She explained, and somebody was able to speak the language and tell this to the soldier, that that was the only thing living left in their garden. But she knew he deserved to have that rose because he was keeping her garden safe. This was a little 10-year-old girl.

Now, I'm sure that soldier will go for the rest of his life with the memory of that little girl. And I know sometimes they have to be standing out there in 115 degree heat with all that armor on and saying, man, this is a tough job. But that is the kind of thing that tells us what we are fighting for. We are fighting to protect innocent human

beings. Not warriors, but to protect innocent human beings from being terrorized until they surrender their freedom and their will to terrorism.

That is what terrorists want. That is what they do. They just attack the innocent until the innocent throw up their hands and say, whatever you want, you can have it.

And we have examples of how they have done that. Look at Lebanon. Look at the other places around the world where the terrorists have just run rampant through the streets until Lebanon, which used to be called the Riviera of the Middle East, is now an example of destruction when people use the term Lebanon.

So why are our American soldiers doing this? They are doing their duty with pride and with conviction. And I will tell my friends on the other side of the aisle who seem to have this cut-and-run mentality, I want them to think about the times, and I know they have visited Iraq and they have to have talked to the same soldiers that I have talked to, but the soldiers that I talked to are proud of what they are doing in Iraq. They are confident that they are succeeding in what they are doing. They do not understand why the American people don't hear about their successes.

But, folks, even when we don't publicize their successes, they are having them. This last week has been a huge step forward in the war on terror because we took out the top terrorist. And from his little notebook, over the next couple of days we took out 17 other locations. Today we had another very successful raid. And we are not only getting rid of the bad guys and punishing them for their misbehavior by putting them into the Never-Never Land, but we are also capturing things that tells us more.

So I say to the terrorists: Beware. The American soldiers are coming. Beware. We are learning every day and we are getting better and we are learning more and more information about you, and we are coming to get you. We are going to stop what is going on.

I was real proud to know when Zarqawi was killed that the first people at the site were my boys in the 4th Infantry Division. Proud of them. They are the guys who caught Saddam Hussein. They are the guys who have been up front on every war, as has the 1st Cav. The 1st Cav. Gave us free elections. The 4th Infantry Division gave us Saddam Hussein, and now the first people on site after that beautiful job the Air Force did.

But you know what, the real war on terror, and we need as American citizens to think about this real strongly, is the first time the President spoke, I think it was after this thing happened, and he said what would be our top policy on the war on terror. He said if you help our enemies, you are our enemy. We are taking the fight to the enemy.

I think that is the right policy. I think the right policy is to say, we are not going to stand for people who kill innocent civilians no matter where they are, and we are going to stand up to them. Why? Because as Prime Minister Blair said right here in this House, it is our turn. We are the beacon of freedom in the world. We have the resources, intelligently used, to meet the challenge.

People say, oh, but it is going to be a long war. You know what? I think it is going to be a long conflict, but it's going to be a conflict that is going to have a series of battles in it. We are misdefining Iraq by calling it the war in Iraq. We are misdefining Afghanistan by calling it the war in Afghanistan. It is the battles in Iraq, the battle in Afghanistan. And maybe whatever we do in the way of successes will postpone the next battle.

Folks, we went into what we called the Cold War, and the Cold War included the battle of Korea and the battle of Vietnam and the battle of Panama and a lot of other battles that took place. But we won the Cold War by sticking to the principle that freedom and democracy and the ability to live your life in a world that was peaceful and loving was worth fighting for and worth standing up to people who wanted to change that and put totalitarianism in place of freedom.

We have now got a group of people who are fanatics and who want to put this radical Islam in place of freedom. And, unfortunately, once again, we have to stand up and be counted. And we will, as long as we produce people like I have met at Fort Hood and many other places where I have gone with the military, these quality young men and women. And as long as the American people are willing to stand the ground and do the job we back here have to do to win the war on terrorism, we will succeed.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical that the American public realize that the only thing standing between us and another 9/11 is the will to face the terrorists' onslaught not only with our troops but with our hearts and minds in America we should stand up for what is right. There is right and there is wrong in this world, and imposing the will by terror, by Islamic terrorists, is wrong.

Standing up for freedom and letting our kids be able to go to the park and play without fear of terrorism or wander the streets or your wife to go shopping at the grocery store or you be able to go to work every day without the fear of terrorism, that is right. It is the freedom we fought for and died for in this American country, and it is the freedom the whole world should be able to enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say, I am proud to say that I am an American and that Americans stand for right, I yield back to the gentlewoman.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate so much how well the gentleman represents his constituents at Fort Hood, and I know he is so very proud of them and the work that they do.

I, likewise, am so very proud of my men and women at Fort Campbell, men and women of the 101st, there in Montgomery County, Tennessee.

□ 2200

How appropriate that the gentleman from Texas referred to them as heroes, because indeed they are. And as they work to gather in the trust and confidence of the Iraqi people, the trust of a little girl who brings the rose from her garden to one of our military men and women, the trust of an Iraqi citizen who takes the key out of a lock of one of Saddam Hussein's former jails and hands it to an American soldier and says, ''Thank you, thank you for my chance at freedom.''

Mr. Speaker, those are the stories that we are hearing day in and day out. They are coming to us from our men and women in uniform who do understand the big picture, who do understand that we have an enemy that would like to change our way of life.

It is imperative that we communicate that message that we are not going to stand for that. We are not going to stand still and let that happen. You know, I think it is really quite interesting that sometimes the liberal elites try to couch this debate about Iraq as to whether it was wrong or whether it was right to go in and free millions of people from Saddam Hussein, whether it was worth it. Many of the leftists think it was not worth it. They would like to just sit down and talk about this. I believe we should put that question aside for a moment because it really does simplify the question of our involvement in Iraq. It oversimplifies it. The question ignores the relevance of Iraq to America's national security framework.

You know, as the gentleman from Texas said, our daily lives, how we go about them, when we are made more unsafe, when our national security is made unsafe by the existence of a hostile and isolated Middle East ruled by murderous thugs and their terrorist supporters, then we have to do something about that. That is a fact. I challenge anybody to come in and argue with that.

The truth of this fact is written in the blood of Americans and the citizens of dozens of other free nations, the people who have been murdered by terrorists, spawned in the Middle East over the past 40 years. Whether anyone believes we should be in Iraq for the sake of freeing an oppressed people is something we could haggle about all night, but it is not the point of our mission there. We should be in Afghanistan, Iraq and in the Middle East actively working to put an end once and for all to the systems of government that have promoted and celebrated brutal attacks on America, on Europe, and in countries across Africa.

If we do not, we are going to suffer again and again. We are in Iraq, we are in Afghanistan because President Bush and the American people decided on

September 11, 2001, that enough was enough. Could we have stayed out? Of course. Could we have continued responding to terrorism as a case of civil disobedience? Of course.

We could have decided to simply contain this region and hope to contain the terrorism that grew there, but that did not get to the root of the problem. And the price of that policy would have continued to be periodic September 11s. That would be the price. This country had to decide whether we were willing to pay this steep price of letting the Middle East continue for another 30 years as it had for the past 30 years.

We have had a real champion of freedom join us in the U.S. House of Representatives this year, another judge from the great State of Texas; and at this time I want to yield to Judge POE from the great State of Texas.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee for allowing me to make some comments on the war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Tennessee is named the Volunteer State. It was some of those Tennesseeans who volunteered to help my State, Texas, become a free and independent nation back in 1836, another example that to be free it always costs something. We called upon those volunteers to make a difference in freedom, noting that every person serving in Iraq and Afghanistan is a volunteer. Many of them are on their second and third tours of duty, volunteered because they understand the importance of what they do.

We just recently learned that the United States Army has met not only its enlistment goals but more enlistments than they had predicted because many Americans, the young of our Nation, understand the importance of what is going on. They know there is a war going on out there, and it is a war against terrorists. It is a war the terrorists started, and terrorism is not something we desire; but it is certainly something we must destroy.

We cannot negotiate with terrorists. We cannot sit down at a conference table and say come let us reason together. It is not going to work because you see, terrorists are determined to kill people, not just soldiers, not just sailors or marines, but all people, any people that get in their way. And that includes their own people. That includes military and nonmilitary. It includes civilians, the old, the elderly, women, children. It includes people in hospitals recovering from sickness. Anybody they think will cause terror in the hearts and souls of the world they murder, and they kill throughout the world. That is the way terrorists operate, and the idea that we can even negotiate with them is almost as absurd as the idea that we can appease those individuals.

Appeasement comes up every time some nation, like our Nation, has to go to war to fight for our freedoms and liberties. It came up in World War II, and appeasement was talked about even in Washington, D.C., appease the Germans, appease the Japanese, give in, try to ignore. Of course, we saw what happens. Appeasement never works with terrorists because they are determined to become more criminal-like in their activity and promote their desires no matter what it takes.

I, like you and many Members of the House, have been to Iraq. I have seen the Iraqi people. I have seen our military and was fortunate to be there last year and when the Iraqi people had their first free elections in the history of their nation. It was quite the honor to be one of two Members of Congress to see that event.

Of course, the skeptics and critics say, as the gentlewoman from Tennessee says, the northeastern elites, they said the Iraqis do not understand freedom or democracy, it will never work; and every election starting with that first election and every subsequent election after that proved that Iraqis want freedom. They have tasted it, and they do not want to let it go. And they are fighting for it just as much as our troops are fighting for it.

Of course, I visited with our troops. They all say that we are winning the war on terror. And we are winning the war on terror. One thing that an Iraqi woman said to me at the voting booth, she had cast her ballot, had that purple stain on her finger, proudly walking down the street defiant of the terrorists because they said if you vote, the terrorists will kill you, and of course they did kill 57 Iraqis that voted that day. Anyway, she came up to me, she had tears in her eyes. I had an interpreter with me and she said to the interpreter and he told me, she said, We Iraqis are grateful to America for giving their youth to us.

What she was saying was she was aware, as the Iraqis are, that Americans die so other people can live and live free.

You know, 2,400-plus Americans have died in this war. Eight of those who have died are from my congressional district down in southeast Texas. I have talked to the families of those marines and sailors and airmen and soldiers that have been killed. Those families grieve in their own way, but they say to a family that they were proud of their son and they will be proud of America if America stays the course and finishes the job that their kids started in Iraq and Afghanistan. Finish the war, win the war, Mr. POE, win the war. I heard that so many times. Win the war that my son died in.

And I say to those families and other families that this country will win that war on terror. As has been said here on the House floor, it is going to be a long war. It is not an easy war. It is an unconventional war because we fight by the rules of engagement, the United States. We go after the terrorists. The terrorists, unlike any other war in world history, are determined to kill anybody in their way, including the innocent.

But we will not let those that have died and those that will die, die for nothing because they are dying for something. They are dying for two things. They are dying for the welfare of the United States of America. It is in our best interest to take the fight to the enemy, and we are doing that. We are going to track them down wherever they show up in the world, and we are going to eliminate them. They are beginning to believe us that we will track them down. And we also are fighting this war because of that word freedom.

It is important that Iraq and Afghanistan be free nations. They have never tasted freedom. They have tasted it now; and as I said, they do not want to let go of it. President Kennedy said it better than I can. He said, you know, this country will bear any burden. We will pay any price. We will support any friend, we will oppose any foe to preserve liberty.

That is our mission statement given by President Kennedy over 40 years ago, and that is what our troops are doing.

Freedom has always cost. It always will. Good things have cost. It cost us 7 years of hard war against the British. After we gained our independence, gained our freedom, the British did not believe it, and they attacked us again in the War of 1812. They burned this building down, and they burned the White House. They burned every building in Washington, D.C. except for two because they were trying to make sure that America was not a free Nation. So we had to fight them again.

Freedom has cost this country, and it has cost other countries; and Iraq is one of them. We do not get freedom by sitting down at a conference table and saying, let us reason together so we can be a free people.

There is no substitute for victory. It is the only path to freedom, and I hope that folks in this Nation understand the great job our troops are doing and are as committed as they are to winning the war.

Down in southeast Texas, I have the distinction of having the Port of Beaumont. It is the number one military deployment port of cargo going to Iraq. It comes from Fort Hood and Fort Bliss, and it is the place where our troops come home. Most of the troops coming back to my area are National Guard troops. You see, down in southeast Texas when the National Guard comes home, we have parades for them. Schools and businesses close, and everybody turns out on Main Street waving the American flag. We are proud of what our troops are doing. We understand, as most Americans understand, they are doing a good job and they are putting their lives on the line for that simple word that people since the beginning of the world have wanted, and that is freedom.

So this country I do not think is ever going to flinch and it is never going to

flee and we certainly are never going to fear because we will never fail the war against terrorism, and I hope we will be successful.

I appreciate the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) allowing me to make these comments. I hope we will continue the dialogue and the perseverance to be successful and to spread the word not only in America but to those terrorists who live throughout the world that they can run, but they can certainly never hide because the American fighting man is going to track them down.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas. I thank him for mentioning that our men and women in uniform are volunteers and they have chosen to fight.

I, like him, have spent time with these men and women and their families and on Memorial Day talked with the aunt of a young man who came to one of the memorial services. And after I spoke, she came up and with her broken heart she said, Mrs. BLACKBURN, you're so right, he was there because he wanted to be there and you're so right. He knows, he knew that we were winning, that we are winning the war on terror.

□ 2215

And yes indeed, he understood the mission. Our families, our military families know this, Mr. Speaker, and they know that this Nation has decided not to play hostage, not to be held hostage. Our men and women in uniform are paying the price to fight this war so that we are not having to fight it on the streets of Washington, D.C., or Memphis or Nashville or L.A. or anywhere else in this country. We have made a choice not to be bullied and not to live with the gun pointed at our head. And I give credit to our President. And, Mr. Speaker, I credit the American people for making a tough decision. War is never easy. War is never, ever easy, but we have to remember the big picture in this and that picture is we have to have a democratic ally in the Middle East. This is about freedom and free people. It is about expanded democracy and education. It is about rooting out terrorists and disrupting their networks and their way of working and their beliefs so that they don't import it and place it on us. It is about slowing them down and eventually making it impossible for them to work.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of talk about whether we are winning or not. And we are winning. But this is not easy. There are going to be a lot of dark days ahead. This is not an easy fight. It is not easy for us. It is not easy for our military men and women and their families. It is not easy for the Iraqi people. And there is a tremendous amount of frustration when they take a couple of steps forward and then a few steps back and a couple of steps forward and another step back. And just as in the past 3 years we have had some victories to celebrate, we have also had some very tough times. But we come to the point of saying, is it a necessary action? And yes, indeed, Mr. Speaker, it is a necessary action. The defense of freedom is a necessary action for our great Nation. It was the only decision that put America on the offensive when it came to the war on terrorism and our national security because freedom is worth fighting for.

As I close the hour this evening and begin this week's debate, I want to focus where I began in talking about the big picture. Ronald Reagan often said, we could bet on hope or we could bet on fear. You can bet on hope or you can bet on fear. He chose to bet on hope. And, Mr. Speaker, I know why. And I know why the American people choose to bet on hope. It is that hope, that desire that lives in our heart for a better tomorrow.

I love quoting Margaret Thatcher and her comment when she talks about America. She would say it is more than a superpower, more than a great Nation. America is an idea. America is an idea. What a great idea it is. It is the idea of freedom. It is the idea of opportunity. It is the idea of hope. And this week we look forward to talking about hope for our future, hope for the future of our children, hope for the future of the Nation of Iraq.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. BERKLEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and June 13 on account of a death in the family.

Mr. CAPUANO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. CARDOZA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. DELAURO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and June 13 on account of a death in the family.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of important congressional business in the district.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. CALVERT (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of travel delays.

Mr. GIBBONS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. GINGREY (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of personal business.

Mr. SESSIONS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for the week of June 12 on account of taking his son, Alex, to Scout camp.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. RYAN of Ohio) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ROSS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LEWIS of California) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MCHENRY, for 5 minutes, today and June 13, 14, 15, and 16.

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, today and June 13.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and June 13, 14, 15, and 16.

Mr. BILIRAKIS, for 5 minutes, today and June 13 and 14.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today and June 13, 14, and 15.

Mr. GOODE, for 5 minutes, June 13.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 13, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., for morning hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7969. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Requirements for Requests To Amend Import Regulations [Docket No. 02-132-2] (RIN: 0579-AB63) received June 2, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7970. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Food Labeling: Health Claims; Soluble Dietary Fiber From Certain Foods and Coronary Heart Disease [Docket No. 2004P-0512] received June 2, 2006', pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7971. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment, Department of Defense, transmitting Notice of the decision to conduct a standard competition of the support services function performed by civilian personnel in the Department of the Navy for possible performance by private contractors, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2461; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7972. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Deposit Insurance Regulations; Inflation Index; Certain Retirement Accounts and Employee Benefit Plan Accounts (RIN: 3064-AD01) received May 1, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7973. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Report to Congress on the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) for FY 2002 and FY 2003, pursuant to Public Law 104-193, section 658L; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7974. A letter from the Deputy Bureau Chief, CGB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 [CG Docket No. 02-278]; Junk Fax Prevention Act of 2005 [CG Docket No. 05-338] received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7975. A letter from the Legal Advsior, WTB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Implementation of the Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act and Modernization of the Commission's Competitive Bidding Rules and Procedures [WT Docket No. 05-211] received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7976. A letter from the Chief, Pricing Policy Division, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Request to Update Default Compensation Rate for Dial-Around Calls from Payphones [WC Docket No. 03-225] received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7977. A letter from the Associate Bureau Chief, WTB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's Rules to Implement Certain World Radio Conference 2003 Final Acts —— received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7978. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, MB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Coalgate, Oklahoma) [MB Docket No. 05-274; RM-11274] (Silver Springs Shores, Florida) [MB Docket No. 05-275; RM-11275] received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7979. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, MB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), FM Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Dover and North Canton, Ohio) [MB Docket No. 04-377; RM-11077] received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7980. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, MB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Portage and Stoughton, Wisconsin) [MB Docket No. 04-239; RM-10998] received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7981. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, MB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Aguila, Apache Junction, Buckeye, Glendale, Peoria, Wenden, and Wickenburg, Arizona) [MB Docket No. 05-270; RM-11268; RM-11272] received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7982. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, MB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Hallettsville, Meyersville, and Yoakum, Texas) [MB Docket No. 05-246; RM-11263; RM-11309]; Reclassification of License of Station KCYY(FM), San Antonio, Texas [BMLH-20001010AC0] received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7983. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, MB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Franklin, Addis, and Eunice, Louisiana) [MB Docket No. 05-291; RM-11270] received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7984. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, MB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Paint Rock and Big Lake, Texas) [MB Docket No. 05-31; RM-11150] received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7985. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, MB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Encino, Texas) [MB Docket No. 05-100; RM-11181]; (Steamboat Springs, Colorado) [MB Docket No. 05-153; RM-11223] received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7986. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Less Than 60 ft (18.3m) LOA Using Pot or Hook-and-Line Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 060216045-6045-01; I.D. 040606A] received April 25, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7987. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification of an Accountability Review Board to examine the facts and the circumstances of the loss of life at a U.S. mission abroad and to report and make recommendations, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 4831; to the Committee on International Relations.

7988. A letter from the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Potomac Electric Power Company, transmitting a copy of the Balance Sheet of Potomac Electric Power Company as of December 31, 2005, pursuant to D.C. Code section 43-513; to the Committee on Government Reform.

7989. A letter from the Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National & Community Service, transmitting the Corporation's Report on Final Action as a result of Audits in respect to the semiannual report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7990. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting in accordance with the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Department's Buy American Report for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

7991. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

7992. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, Office of Legislative Affairs, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting a report on the Administration's category rating system covering the period from November 23, 2004 through November 22, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3319(d); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7993. A letter from the Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for the period ending March 31, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7994. A letter from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Report on Final Action Resulting from Audit Reports for the period October 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7995. A letter from the Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting in accordance Section 641 of Division H of the Fiscal Year 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act, Pub. L. 108-447, the Corportation's report for fiscal year 2005 on the amount of acquisitions made by the Corporation from entities that manufacture the articles, materials, or supplies outside the United States; to the Committee on Government Reform.

7996. A letter from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006 and the Management Response for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7997. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Utah Regulatory Program [UT-043-FOR] received June 5, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7998. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Missouri Regulatory Program [Docket No. MO-038-FOR] received June 5, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7999. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; 2006 Management Measures and a Temporary Rule [Docket No. 060427113-6113-01; I.D. 042406A] (RIN: 0648-AT34) received May 23, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

8000. A letter from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery [Docket No. 051213334-6119-02; I.D. 112905C] (RIN: 0648-AT98) received June 2, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

8001. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Commercial Shark Management Measures [Docket No. 060131019-6080-02; I.D. 012006B] (RIN: 0648-AU17) received April 21, 2006, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

8002. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Swordfish Quotas [Docket No. 060201021-6124-02; I.D. 100405C] (RIN: 0648-AT73) received June 2, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

8003. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Recreational Management Measures for the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries; Fishing Year 2006 [Docket No. 060317073-6125-02; I.D. 031406A] (RIN: 0648-AT28) received June 2, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

8004. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fisheries; Biennial Specifications and Management Meaures; Correction [Docket No. 060424110-6110-01; I.D. 081304C] (RIN: 0648-AU39) received June 2, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

8005. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer [Docket No. 041110317-4364-02; I.D. 042706A] received May 18, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

8006. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Commercial Quota Adjustment for New York [Docket No. 051128313-6029-02; I.D. 050906C] received May 24, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

8007. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Alaska Plaice in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 060216045-6045-01; I.D. 051006A] received June 2, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

8008. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery; Allocation of Trips to Closed Area (CA) II Yellowtail Flounder Special Access Program (SAP) [Docket No. I.D. 050906B] received June 2, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

8009. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Report on Denial of Visas to Confiscators of American Property for the period of April 22, 2005 through April 21, 2006, pursuant to 8 U.S.C. 1182d; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8010. A letter from the Chairman, Naval Sea Cadet Corps, transmitting the 2005 Annual Audit and the 2005 Annual Report of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC), pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 1101(39) and 1103; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8011. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Report to Congress on Catastrophic Hurricane Evacuation Plan Evaluation,'' pursuant to Public Law 109-59, section 10204 Public Law 109-115, section 187; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8012. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's report to Congress on FY 2005 acquisitions from entities that manufacture articles, materials, or supplies outside the United States, pursuant to Public Law 108-447, section 641; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8013. A letter from the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's March 2006 ''Treasury Bulletin,'' pursuant to 26 U.S.C. 9602(a); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means, Transportation and Infrastructure, Resources, Energy and Commerce, Education and the Workforce, and Agriculture.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 4894. A bill to provide for certain access to national crime information databases by schools and educational agencies for employment purposes, with respect to individuals who work with children; with an amendment (Rept. 109–497). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 862. Resolution waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (Rept. 109–498). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. LANTOS:

H.R. 5582. A bill to require Federal agencies, and persons engaged in interstate commerce, in possession of data containing personal information, to disclose any unauthorized acquisition of such information; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Government Reform, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BEAN (for herself and Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 5583. A bill to provide a temporary minimum standard mileage rate for computing the deductible costs of operating a vehicle for business purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HAYES (for himself and Mr. MCINTYRE):

H.R. 5584. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the inclusion of certain special and incentive pays in the computation of military retired pay for members of the Armed Forces who have a special operations forces designation; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MCHENRY (for himself and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 5585. A bill to improve the netting process for financial contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself and Mr. CANTOR):

H.R. 5586. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow distributions from health savings accounts to be used for the purchase of non-group coverage under high deductible health insurance; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEEK of Florida (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of Florida):

H.R. 5587. A bill to establish a bipartisan commission on insurance reform; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SALAZAR (for himself and Mr. EVANS):

H.R. 5588. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to protect sensitive personal information of veterans, to ensure that veterans are appropriately notified of any breach of data security with respect to such information, to provide free credit monitoring and credit reports for veterans and others affected by any such breach of data security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SOUDER (for himself, Mr. SHADEGG, and Mr. KING of Iowa):

H.R. 5589. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to transfer to United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement all functions of the Customs Patrol Officers unit operating on the Tohono O'odham Indian reservation; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. BARTON of Texas (for himself and Mr. DINGELL):

H. Con. Res. 426. Concurrent resolution recognizing the Food and Drug Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the passage of the Food and Drugs Act for the important service it provides to the Nation; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HYDE:

H. Res. 861. A resolution declaring that the United States will prevail in the Global War on Terror, the struggle to protect freedom from the terrorist adversary; to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. WYNN, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. WATERS, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. CARTER, and Mrs. CAPPS):

H. Res. 863. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be an increased Federal commitment to supporting the development of innovative advanced imaging technologies for prostate cancer detection and treatment; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SANDERS:

H. Res. 864. A resolution recognizing the importance of shared housing in the United

States; to the Committee on Government Reform.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

334. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to Senate Resolution No. 272 memorializing the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States and the Department of Defense to oppose any increase in the cost of enrollment in health care programs for members of the United States military; to the Committee on Armed Services.

335. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 94 memorializing the Congress of the United States to oppose the SMART Act and other preemptive federal insurance regulatory measures; to the Committee on Financial Services.

336. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Hawaii, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 52 requesting the House and Senate Committees on Human Services to conduct a joint study of the Department of Human Services' reunification and kinship placement policies and procedure; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

337. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 209 memorializing the Congress of the United States to provide flexible funding to help states and local communities clean up and deal with the disastrous effects of clandestine methamphetamine labs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

338. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to Senate Resolution No. 301 urging the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States to bring humanitarian assistance and lasting peace to the Darfur region; to the Committee on International Relations.

339. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Iowa, relative to Senate Resolution No. 137 requesting the Congress of the United States give due consideration to the readiness of the Republic of China on Taiwan for membership in the United Nations; to the Committee on International Relations.

340. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of New Hampshire, relative to House Resolution No. 22 urging the Congress of the United States to promote and publicize the report to the Congress entitled, ''A Review of the Restrictions on Persons if Italian Ancestry During World War II''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

341. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 105 memorializing the Congress of the United States to adopt and transmit to the states for ratification an amendment to the United States Constitution that would ensure that apportionment is based on citizens and not non-citizens; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

342. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 27 memorializing the Congress of the United States to take immediate action to provide federal financial assistance to aid Louisiana's recovery following the devastation caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, to expeditiously complete the needed repair to the levee system in the greater New Orleans area, to provide for the prompt construction of hurricane and tidal water protection for Southern Louisiana, and to provide assistance with coastal restoration and marsh management; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

343. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 25 memorializing the Congress of the United States to take such actions as are necessary to provide funding for Louisiana's indigent defense system and to amend the Stafford Act or any other appropriate legislation to permit funding for Louisiana's indigent defense system; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

344. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 62 memorializing the Congress of the United States to take such action as are necessary to amend the Stafford Act to allow the use of emergency funds under the Federal Emergency Management Agency for stabilization and restoration of barrier islands; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

345. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 63 memorializing the Congress of the United States to review and consider eliminating provisions of law which reduce social security benefits for those receiving benefits from federal, state, or local government retirement systems; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

346. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 182 requesting the President of the United States to direct the United States Attorney General and the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission to investigate all potential price gouging, price fixing, collusion, and other anti-competitive practices related to gasoline prices; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS TO PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 25: Mr. MICA.

H.R. 408: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 783: Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 819: Mrs. MALONEY.

H.R. 1229: Mr. WICKER.

H.R. 1248: Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 1384: Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. BACHUS, and Mr. HAYES.

H.R. 1424: Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 1632: Mr. LATHAM and Mr. BONNER.

H.R. 1671: Mr. MCCRERY.

H.R. 1876: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 2421: Mr. BOREN, Mr. PORTER, and Ms. HERSETH.

H.R. 2646: Mrs. BIGGERT.

H.R. 2808: Mr. ROTHMAN and Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 2949: Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 3019: Mr. BRADY of Texas.

H.R. 3336: Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 3361: Mr. GONZALEZ.

H.R. 3413: Mr. SHAYS.

H.R. 3689: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 3875: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, and Mr. DENT.

H.R. 3936: Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. FORD, and Ms. CARSON.

H.R. 4386: Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 4441: Mr. SAXTON.

H.R. 4542: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 4547: Mr. STRICKLAND.

H.R. 4597: Mr. FOLEY.

H.R. 4640: Mr. DENT.

H.R. 4705: Mr. EHLERS.

H.R. 4725: Mr. KING of Iowa, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. POMBO, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. SHADEGG, and Mr. EVERETT.

H.R. 4761: Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 4777: Mr. HAYWORTH.

H.R. 4873: Mr. GORDON.

H.R. 4890: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 4894: Mr. BOUSTANY.

H.R. 4962: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 4963: Mr. CRAMER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. COSTELLO.

H.R. 4974: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 5013: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. NORWOOD, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. BERRY, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5024: Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5047: Mr. BECERRA.

H.R. 5063: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H.R. 5150: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 5159: Ms. HARMAN.

H.R. 5182: Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 5225: Mr. HINCHEY and Mr. MOLLOHAN.

H.R. 5242: Mr. PAUL and Mr. JONES of North Carolina.

H.R. 5244: Ms. HARMAN.

H.R. 5248: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. KILDEE, and Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan.

H.R. 5290: Mr. BROWN of Ohio.

H.R. 5315: Mr. BROWN of Ohio.

H.R. 5316: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. JEFFERSON.

H.R. 5337: Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 5356: Mr. MELANCON and Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 5358: Mr. MELANCON and Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 5442: Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan.

H.R. 5444: Mr. REHBERG.

H.R. 5499: Mr. SIMMONS, Ms. HARMAN, and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5526: Mr. MARSHALL.

H.R. 5563: Ms. ESHOO, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 5578: Mr. OWENS.

H. Con. Res. 344: Mr. BROWN of Ohio.

H. Con. Res. 346: Mr. BEAUPREZ.

H. Res. 318: Mr. MURPHY.

H. Res. 350: Mr. HIGGINS.

H. Res. 723: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.

H. Res. 745: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. DENT, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. TANNER, and Ms. HARRIS.

H. Res. 760: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. STUPAK, and Mr. YOUNG of Florida.

H. Res. 787: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. REYES, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H. Res. 790: Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut.

H. Res. 800: Mr. CONYERS and Mr. MARCHANT.

H. Res. 820: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H. Res. 858: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H. Con. Res. 318: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 5576

OFFERED BY: MR. HEFLEY

AMENDMENT NO. 1: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. Total appropriations made in this Act are hereby reduced by $678,000,000.

H.R. 5576

OFFERED BY: MR. KENNEDY

AMENDMENT NO. 2: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to apply the revised cost-effectiveness index rating system established by the Federal Transit Administration (described in its April 29, 2005, ''Dear Colleague'' letter) to the Northstar Corridor Rail project.

H.R. 5576

OFFERED BY: MR. KUCINICH

AMENDMENT NO. 3: Page 71, line 23, insert after the first dollar amount the following: ''(increased by $4,800,000) (reduced by $4,800,000)''.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *109th* CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

We praise You, O God, for the good Earth out of which sustenance comes. Thank You for the fertile fields, for the productive seeds, for the Sun and the rain, for the strength for our tasks, and for the harvest that comes from our labors.

Sustain our Senators today in their legislative work of sowing and reaping. May they faithfully plant and water the seeds of truth in our laws. Help them to cultivate the soil of debate with kind words and courteous actions. Lord, whatever they do in word or deed, may they do all in and for Your honor.

Continue to sustain our military men and women who sacrifice daily for freedom.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today, we are opening with a period of morning business to allow Senators to make statements. At 3 this afternoon we will begin consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill. Chairman WARNER will be here at 3 to begin debate on this important measure. Later this afternoon, following the opening remarks of the ranking member, we expect our first amendment to be offered. Although we have stated that no votes will occur today, we hope to debate an amendment and then set a vote at a time certain tomorrow morning.

Tomorrow morning we have set aside another period of morning business. Following that time, we will return to the Defense bill with the expectation of a rollcall vote prior to the policy meetings.

I remind my colleagues that we have scheduled our official Chamber photograph for 2:15 tomorrow afternoon, and Senators should be seated at their desks at that time.

Following the photograph, we have debate on the nomination of Richard Stickler to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health. A cloture vote will occur on that nomination around 3:30 or so on Tuesday.

I also announce that the House will take action on the supplemental appropriations conference report Tuesday, and, therefore, we expect to begin consideration of that measure on Tuesday as well. We will try to reach an agreement for debate and a time certain for a vote on that emergency spending bill.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today marks an extraordinary—extraordinary—milestone in the history of the Senate and in the life of one of our most distinguished colleagues.

Today, ROBERT C. BYRD, the senior Senator from West Virginia, becomes the longest serving Senator in the history of the United States.

Today, he will have served 17,327 days in office, and outlasted 1,885 Senators who have graced this Chamber since 1789. He has cast more votes than any other Senator. And this year, Senator BYRD is running for an unprecedented ninth term.

Our distinguished colleague has amassed an astonishing record of service, and it is my privilege and honor to pay tribute to the Dean of the Senate—one of the greatest orators in the grand tradition of this august institution.

Senator BYRD won his first election to the Senate back in 1958. Lyndon Johnson was the majority leader. Dwight Eisenhower was President. And the Soviets had won the space race with the launch of Sputnik.

Senator BYRD joined the Appropriations Committee and quickly got to work learning the ins and outs of parliamentary procedure.

Senator BYRD has been called a walking encyclopedia of Congress. Indeed, in his career he has authored a four-volume history of the U.S. Senate.

In 1971, Senator BYRD was chosen Senate Democratic whip. In 1977, he was elected Democratic leader, a position held for six consecutive terms.

He led the Senate as majority leader for 6 years, and served as minority leader for another 6.

Senator BYRD has twice been elected President pro tempore.

All told, ROBERT C. BYRD has held more leadership positions in the Senate than any other Senator in history.

But even having attained this extraordinary influence, Senator BYRD has never forgotten where he came from or who sent him here.

From early on in his career, he demonstrated his deep commitment to the people of West Virginia. His loyalty, closeness, and respect have been rewarded. Senator BYRD has won overwhelming majorities in each of his re-election campaigns, winning with 78 percent in 2000.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

He is known across his State for his unflagging support for his constituents and the future and welfare of those people of West Virginia. In 2001, he was named by his State ''West Virginian of the 20th Century.''

Today marks a great achievement for the senior Senator, but in some ways it is also bittersweet.

Today, Erma Byrd, the Senator's wife of nearly 7 decades, would have turned 89 years old. The Senator has said that his love for Erma was greater than anything in his life. Without her, he could not have reached such great heights, nor could he have endured the inevitable rough patches of political life.

On the occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary, the Senator paid an eloquent tribute to his high school sweetheart. His words:

Erma and I are complete and whole, a total that is more than the sum of its parts. In my life, Erma Byrd is the diamond. She is the priceless treasure, a multifaceted woman of great insight and wisdom, of quiet humor and common sense.

Senator BYRD has said that, for him, today's achievement will pass with little fanfare or pride. Today, he will do what he has always done on June 12. He will honor his dear wife Erma, remember her and pray for her.

So we will celebrate on his behalf and pay honor to them both—Senator BYRD for his lifelong service to his country, and Erma for her quiet and steady support for the country gentleman from West Virginia.

When history is written, I am certain that Senator BYRD will hold a prominent place as a Senate legend—and in no small part because of the love of a kind and gentle lady, Erma Ora Byrd.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is Monday. The Galleries do not have many people in them. We have a new batch of pages. Others graduated recently. But everyone here—pages and those in the Gallery—should recognize that today is a day of history in America.

Public service is about personal sacrifice for the greater good. It is about reaching for the better angels of our human nature.

That quote is a great quote for today, but that quote is from ROBERT BYRD, which should come as no surprise because the description fits him to a tee.

As we have heard from the distinguished majority leader, Senator BYRD passes Strom Thurmond, who I had the good fortune to serve with, and becomes the longest serving Senator in American history, with 17,327 days—17,327 days—of service in the Senate.

You add that to his 6 years in the House of Representatives, and ROBERT BYRD has served in the Congress 25 percent of the time we have been a nation. Seventy-five percent of the time other people served in the Congress. But this one man has served 25 percent of the time we have been a country. This gives us some perspective of what a significant day this actually is. The U.S. Senate first met in New York City in 1789.

ROBERT C. BYRD has served a distinguished career. His career in the Senate is significant, important, and impressive. But his life is impressive.

America is a place where everyone has a chance. It does not matter that you are an orphan at age 1. It does not matter that you are raised with an aunt and uncle. It does not matter that your new parents work very, very hard in the coal mines of West Virginia. Because, you see, in America people can succeed no matter what the status of their parents.

ROBERT BYRD is testimony to that. He graduated valedictorian of his high school class. He went to work in the depths of the Great Depression because he had no way of paying to go to college. He worked at a number of different jobs. He worked odd jobs wherever he could find them, pumping gas, selling produce, working as a meat cutter, a butcher, and even during World War II doing some welding on ''Liberty'' and ''Victory'' ships.

After the war, he returned to West Virginia and began his distinguished career of public service.

The West Virginia House of Delegates was his first elected position. Then he was elected to the West Virginia Senate. Then he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in the early 1950s. In 1958, he was elected to the U.S. Senate.

His career of leadership is unsurpassed and will always be unsurpassed. He has been a mentor to me for all these many years and a leader for whom all of us in this body have the highest respect.

But as we have already heard, for all of his accolades—and there have been many—Senator BYRD himself will tell you his greatest success truly came on a late day in May, 1937, when he put on his best suit, traveled to the nearby town of Sophia, WV, and married his high school sweetheart, Erma. Today is her birthday.

Now, I had the good fortune to travel, on a couple of occasions, with Erma Byrd and the Senator. We had work to do around the world. What a wonderful, wonderful woman. She was kind, thoughtful, and quiet, but with a great presence about her. I remember having the honor, really—and it was that—of Senator BYRD asking me to go to West Virginia. We had a parliamentary exchange with the British Parliament.

I had heard this song, ''West Virginia Hills,'' but it never meant anything to me until that occasion in a mesa in West Virginia where we gathered with those British parliamentarians for an evening event to listen to some bluegrass music, to watch the Sun go down in those West Virginia hills. That is something I will always remember of ROBERT BYRD and his lovely wife Erma.

There has been no greater advocate in the almost 18,000 days this man has served in the Senate, and the more than 18,000 days he has served in the Congress, no greater advocate for the State of West Virginia than Senator ROBERT BYRD.

He has fought to improve access to education and health care. The things he has done for transportation in West Virginia are legend. He has brought jobs there. He has done things to protect pensioners.

We just passed on May 24 an example of what Senator BYRD does for West Virginia. The Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006 was passed on May 24. President Bush will sign this into law. Again, it is important legislation for miners across the country. It means a lot to me. I have spoken to Senator BYRD about miners. My father was a miner. And I am proud of the work Senator BYRD has done for West Virginia because it helps all miners.

I asked, as I was coming here, my long-serving personal assistant Janice Shelton: What do you want me to say about Senator BYRD? She has worked with me all the time I have been in the Senate.

She said: No Senator comes and talks to the country like Senator BYRD.

The Fourth of July you prepare your own speech; you read your own speech about the Fourth of July. Thanksgiving, if we are here, you give a speech on Thanksgiving. Christmas, Mother's Day, wonderful—I can still remember your speeches on Mother's Day. The reason those speeches are so important to every one of us—of course, they are important to you; they reflect upon your mother, the woman who raised you—is because it causes us to reflect on our own mothers. Every time you gave one of those speeches, I thought of my red-haired mother working so hard, taking in wash so that I could have clothes like the other kids. So every speech you give is not only for the people of West Virginia. It is for the country. It is for the people who work here with you.

I have had the good fortune—in fact, I visited with one of my friends who I practiced law with for 12 years. A brilliant man, he is so smart. He reads books, has from the time he was a boy until now, many books each week. I have always admired Rex Jemison and how smart he is. But Senator BYRD, to those of us who have worked with you, you have no peer.

I can remember as if it were yesterday when you decided you were going to take over the Appropriations Committee and no longer have a leadership position. We had an event in the Russell Building, the caucus room. There was no press, Senators, very limited staff. You stood and talked to us a little bit. You told us things we thought

we always knew, and I have retold this story so many times. I am going to retell it again. You told us you could get in your car in Virginia, drive to West Virginia and back—and it takes about 8 hours—reciting poetry over and back without stopping and never recite the same poem twice. Think about that. Calculate it for a minute. How many people have read the Encyclopedia Brittanica from cover to cover? Senator ROBERT BYRD. How many people have sat down when we have a break and read the dictionary? This man has done this. How many people can recite poetry as he did? I have just talked about this. How many people can recite Shakespeare verse after verse, passages out of Scripture?

Senator BYRD gave a series of speeches here, 10 speeches, each lasting for 1 hour. The subject was the line-item veto was going to ruin the Senate. The comparison was to the Roman Empire, the rise and fall of the Roman Empire. Senator BYRD gave 10 speeches. When I was not able to listen personally, I listened to the recording. So tremendous were those speeches that the head of the political science department at UNV–LV, Dr. Randy Tuttle, taught a course on ROBERT BYRD based on these 10 speeches.

I asked Senator BYRD: You gave those speeches, you quit right on time, you had an hour set aside. How did you know when to stop?

He said: It was easy. I memorized all 10 of them.

When we met with the British parliamentarians, as I just recounted, in West Virginia, the blue grass music stopped, and Senator BYRD had staff pass out a little tablet and pencil to everybody. He said: If I make a mistake, write it down. And he proceeded to give us a demonstration of memory that I have never seen before, starting with the first ruler in Great Britain, the years the person served, the name, how to spell it, and very briefly what was accomplished during that period of time, from the beginning to the present Queen Elizabeth. Those parliamentarians were dumbfounded. How could an American do something they had never even thought about without a note?

There are some professors, I am sure, who are experts on ancient Rome, but I would tell all those academics, they don't have anything on the Senator from West Virginia as far as knowledge of the Roman Empire.

I consider myself so fortunate to have been able to serve in the Senate with ROBERT BYRD. And not only serve in the Senate with ROBERT BYRD, but all the time I have been here, I had the good fortune of serving on his Appropriations Committee.

The great Senator Daniel Webster said that ours:

> . . . is a Senate of equals, of men of individual honor and personal character, and of absolute independence. We know no masters, we acknowledge no dictators. This is a hall for mutual consultation and discussion; not an arena for the exhibition of champions.

The prayer that was uttered today by Reverend Black, our Chaplain, says exactly what Daniel Webster said. That was a wonderful prayer, tremendously well done for this occasion. But I would say in response to the great Daniel Webster, there are champions among us. There are giants as well. I have served in public office a long time, but no one can dispute the fact, as far as I am concerned, that ROBERT BYRD is a giant.

I want him to know how much I appreciate all he has done for me. I care a great deal about this man. I love ROBERT BYRD. I love ROBERT BYRD. He is a person who sets a standard for all of us.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business until 3 p.m., with each Senator permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to pay tribute to our distinguished colleague from West Virginia who, as the majority leader and the Democratic leader pointed out, celebrates today truly a momentous occasion, becoming the longest serving U.S. Senator in the history of our country.

Senator BYRD's record and achievements have been covered by the majority leader and the Democratic leader. I would like to make a few different observations.

When Senator BYRD came to this body in 1959, he was a member of a very large Democratic class. His party had had a very good day. It was the second term of President Eisenhower. In his class were such people as Eugene McCarthy and Tom Dodd and Phil Hart. Lyndon Baines Johnson was the leader of his party in the Senate at the time. In fact, Senator BYRD was accompanied to the well on his first day in office not by the senior Senator from his State, as is tradition, but by Majority Leader Johnson, his future mentor.

Shortly before the distinguished Senator from West Virginia got here, Majority Leader Johnson had appointed a committee to pick out the five greatest United States Senators in history. John F. Kennedy was appointed to be the head of that committee. After due deliberation, they picked out five Senators: Henry Clay from my State of Kentucky, Daniel Webster, John C. Calhoun, Robert La Follette, and Robert Taft. Those five Senators, who were designated as the five greatest Senators of all time, are depicted out here off the Senate Chamber in the waiting room.

Six or 8 years ago, we decided to consider adding two more to the list. I had the opportunity to be on a committee that reviewed the possibility of adding two more. We concluded there were two more who should be added, one Democrat and one Republican.

Our colleagues on the Democratic side picked Robert Wagner of New York, who was the author of most of President Roosevelt's New Deal legislation. After due deliberation, the Republicans on the committee, of which I was one, concluded that Arthur Vandenberg was the appropriate selection for us, based upon his willingness in the late 1940s to make the Truman containment policy, the Marshall plan, and other initiatives at the beginning of the Cold War that basically set out the strategy that we followed until the Berlin Wall came down in 1989. We thought that Arthur Vandenberg would be the appropriate one for us. So two more Senators were added—Arthur Vandenberg and Robert Wagner.

Today I think it is safe to predict that some day in the future, some Senate will decide to revisit the issue of what other great Senators might be added to this pantheon off the Senate floor that now includes seven United States Senators in our history. I think I can confidently predict that near the top of the list, if not at the top of the list, some day down the road will be the distinguished Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. President, today, June 12, 2006, is our good friend from West Virginia's 17,327th day in the Senate, making him the longest-serving Senator ever.

Senator ROBERT C. BYRD's first day as a Senator was January 3, 1959, when he was 41 years old. He is the 1,579th Senator. Some of his contemporaries were John Sherman Cooper, Hubert Humphrey, Everett Dirksen, John F. Kennedy, and Richard Russell.

Over his nearly 50 years of service here—he has been elected to eight full terms—Senator BYRD has served with 405 Senators, out of a total of 1,885 Senators who ever served. That is 21.5 percent of the total number. Over a fifth of all Senators who ever served can say they served with Senator BYRD.

And I add that Senator BYRD is only the second Senator ever to be elected to eight full terms.

As the Senators from two coal-producing States, Senator BYRD and I have worked together on a number of issues over the years to ensure that coal remains a safe, cheap, and plentiful source of energy, and that coal miners and their families can continue in this industry. Together we ensured that the Capitol complex would continue to be heated by coal. And we work together as members of the Appropriations Committee. I thank the Senator for his friendship over the years.

As astounding as the Senator from West Virginia's service in this body is, I must point out that he has even more experience representing the people of West Virginia. Senator BYRD served in the West Virginia House of Delegates from 1947 to 1950, the West Virginia Senate from 1951 to 1952, and the U.S. House of Representatives from 1953 to 1959. He was elected to his first office in 1946.

He was also elected assistant majority whip here in the Senate in 1965. In 1971, he was elected majority whip. I have heard that can be a tough job.

In 1977, Senator BYRD succeeded Senator Mike Mansfield as majority leader. He has also served as minority leader and Senate President pro tempore, meaning he has held every major position in the Senate.

After serving as majority and minority leader, Senator BYRD became chairman of the Appropriations Committee in 1989, and has been chairman or ranking member ever since. Our colleague from Alaska, the current Senate President pro tempore, has served with him on that committee since 1973.

Senator BYRD set the record for number of Senate votes cast at 12,134 on April 27, 1990, breaking a record set by Senator William Proxmire. He cast his 17,000th vote in March 2004, and continues to set the record every time he votes. As of the opening of the Senate today, he has cast 17,666 votes.

As his constituents in West Virginia know so well, Senator BYRD is the son of a coal miner. Before government service, he worked as a welder in wartime shipyards and as a meat cutter in a coal company town.

Senator BYRD is also an expert on Senate history. He wrote, with the assistance of Senate historian Richard Baker, a four-volume collection of history, speeches and statistics titled ''The Senate'' 1789–1989. He also wrote a history called ''The Senate of the Roman Republic,'' and a 2005 autobiography titled ''Child of the Appalachian Coalfields.''

And my good friend from West Virginia is an accomplished fiddle player as well. He has performed on the television variety show ''Hee Haw,'' at the Grand Ole Opry, and at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He even recorded an album called ''Mountain Fiddler.''

Senator BYRD earned his law degree from American University in 1963, while serving in the Senate. He attended night school while doing a full day's work here. President Kennedy presented him with his diploma and gave the commencement address.

President Kennedy received an honorary degree from American University at the ceremony. So he began his commencement address with these words:

President Anderson, members of the faculty, Board of Trustees, distinguished guests, my old colleague Senator Bob Byrd, who has earned his degree through many years of attending night law school while I am earning mine in the next thirty minutes, ladies and gentlemen . . .

In 1994, Senator BYRD was awarded his B.A. summa cum laude by Marshall University, which he had attended for one semester in 1951. He had earned A's in all his classes, but could not afford to continue. So he actually received his law degree before his bachelor's.

Senator BYRD is the first West Virginian in history to win all 55 of that State's counties in a statewide race. I am sure many of his fellow West Virginians know of his knowledge and reverence for the Constitution, and that he always carries a copy in his left breast pocket.

Senator BYRD's legacy in this body is felt every day. Martin Gold, author of ''Senate Procedure and Practice,'' wrote:

Senator Robert Byrd (D-WV) is a giant in the field of parliamentary history and law. No Senator has had a greater impact on Senate rules and precedents.

And Michael Barone, in The Almanac of American Politics, said this of Senator BYRD:

Robert Byrd, the senior member of the United States Senate, may come closer to the kind of senator the Founding Fathers had in mind than any other.

Now, these comments from scholars are certainly to be respected. But I think Senator BYRD said it best at a spirited rally near the end of one of his recent campaigns for office. Senator BYRD said:

West Virginia has always had four friends: God Almighty, Sears Roebuck, Carter's Liver Pills and Robert C. Byrd.

Mr. President, Senator BYRD would be the first to tell us he could not have accomplished all he has without the love of his life, his partner, and his best friend—his wife, Erma Ora James Byrd. Erma passed away this March, 2 months shy of what would have been their 69th wedding anniversary.

The daughter of a coal miner, today would have been her 89th birthday. I am sure she is watching down on us from Heaven today as we honor her husband, the Senator from West Virginia.

Stories of enduring love are part of the history of any nation. ROBERT and Erma were made for each other, and were together for nearly 69 years. Mr. President, I believe they are one of our Nation's great love stories.

I say to my friend and colleague from West Virginia, no one has had a greater career here. Your service is of great distinction. We all admire you very much, and we are here today to honor you on this most important occasion.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who seeks time?

The President pro tempore.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I join those who honor my great friend, our great friend, the Senator from West Virginia. This has been a tradition. Each time a Senator has reached the position where he has served longer than anyone else before, we have had tributes such as this. It is my honor to be here with my good friend today.

Having known Carl Hayden and Strom Thurmond, both of whom have the distinction that Senator BYRD has had in my lifetime and my service in the Senate, I believe he joins a small but distinguished group of dedicated public servants, people who have devoted their lives to serving our country.

I had the honor of being the whip for 8 years, 4 years in the minority and 4 years in the majority. I remember so well what I called the Byrd history lessons. Maybe Senator BYRD didn't call them that, but each evening in those days Senator BYRD would come to the floor and give another statement about the history of the Senate. I believe those became the framework for the volumes he has written on the history of the Senate. I didn't need to read them; I listened to them. As a matter of fact, I think I listened to every one the Senator made because the then majority leader, Howard Baker, would say to me: Teddy, it is your turn. I would be in the chair listening to Senator BYRD.

Winston Churchill once said:

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

I don't know anyone in my lifetime that I would say has given so much as Senator BYRD.

Others have talked about what he did before he came into public life. I know he attended college while he was in the West Virginia House of Delegates and State Senate and finished law school as a working Member of the Senate.

He has truly given more than he ever received. But, really, I would say of my friend from West Virginia that I know of no man who has done so much to make the Senate a family. When I first came here, that was one of the first things that Senator Mike Mansfield said to me—that you have to realize you are living in a family. This is a family. Senator BYRD has made that his sort of mantra, and to be the person who represents the family, reminding us that we are part of a family.

I remember so well, Senator BYRD, when you made such kind remarks about my wife Ann after she passed away in an aircraft accident. I also recall the days that you congratulated me on getting remarried, and then on the birth of our daughter Lily when, again, Senator BYRD took the floor. I will never forget the time you came to the floor and talked about the fact that my first grandchild had been born. Senator BYRD told me at that time that I had my first taste of immortality. Now that I have become the grandfather of 11 children, I have touched immortality a little bit more than most people perhaps. I stand in awe of the honor of being a grandfather. I will never forget what he said. That means you are going to go one generation beyond the generation you helped bring into the world. You have seen your children produce children, and that really matches your love for the Senate family.

I don't know of anybody here who has had a sorrow or an achievement when Senator BYRD hasn't taken the time to seek us out and either commiserate with us in our sorrow or tell us what a great achievement it was. It is a great achievement to be part of the Senate family and to be nurturing our own families.

Others have spoken about your dear wife Erma. I know how close the two of

you were. I know that because of conversations we have had about Erma. We were all saddened when she passed away earlier this year, but I know she is looking down on you today, Senator BYRD. I know she is proud of your service and, if she were here, she would be right up there in the gallery. But she is up there somewhere looking at all of us.

Actually, many of you may not know this, but I met Senator BYRD during the Eisenhower administration. I remember sitting in the gallery the day you were sworn into the Senate in 1959. You were already in the House. When I got to the Senate, I was talking to the wife of Bob Bartlett, my predecessor, the Senator's good friend. I was told that the one person in the Senate I could trust would be BOB BYRD. Coming from her, that meant a great deal to me personally. We have worked together for 35 years now on the Appropriations Committee. I wish I could count the days when we were chairmen; when Senator BYRD was chairman, I would wander over to his room, and when I was chairman, he would come to my room. I remember one day—and he will not like this—he came over and said someone had given him some cigars, and he suggested that we ought to smoke a cigar. I had not smoked a cigar in 20 years, but I said it would be a good idea. When Senator BYRD makes a suggestion, it is a good idea. I joined him then. About 6 months later, I had somebody give me a couple of cigars, and I wandered over to Senator BYRD's office and said, ''Let's share a cigar again.'' Senator BYRD said, ''I have quit.''

I was on that trip to London, too, at the British Parliamentary Conference, and in West Virginia when Senator BYRD was the host. I don't know if you know this, Senator.

I have a video of you when we were in London when we sat around, those Members of the American Senate who were there, after meeting with our colleagues from Britain, and we talked and you told us about your own history. I remember that so well. I remember asking you to recite the poem about your dog. We talk about this prodigious memory of Senator BYRD. I have never known anything that I could ask him to recite that he didn't have the ability to recite.

Having been here so long together, I come back to where I started. You have kept alive the spirit of family in this Senate. I think without the spirit of family, we would lose the essence of what it is to be here. I tell people that sometimes I sort of pinch myself to realize that I really am a Member of the Senate. Others can talk about their backgrounds. I don't talk about mine very much, but I certainly never had any reason to believe I would ever be standing here, and I think Senator BYRD could say the same thing.

We are here to honor the son of West Virginia, the patriarch of our Senate family. He is, as Senator MCCONNELL said, a symbol of our history. I am here to thank you, Senator, for being a good friend. I think you have been one of the best friends I have had in the Senate, and you have really sustained me in times of sorrow and encouraged me in times of joy. I am here to honor you for your service; it is a great service. But mostly I am here because I am honored to be able to call you my friend.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, this is truly a unique day in the life of the Senate, with the spotlight shining on Senator ROBERT BYRD in recognition of an enormous achievement, being the longest serving Senator in the history of the body. It is a remarkable achievement.

Senator BYRD started his political career with an election in 1946, 60 years ago, and is still going strong. He served in the Senate at the same time that Harry S. Truman was President of the United States.

Just think about that for moment. This is a man whose service has spanned the Presidencies of President Truman, President Eisenhower, President Kennedy, President Johnson, President Nixon, President Ford, President Carter, President Reagan, President Bush, President Clinton, and President Bush. It is quite an accolade. And Senator BYRD accurately states that he hasn't served under any President, however, he has served with Presidents. He is a scholar and devotee of the doctrine of separation of powers, something which seems to have been forgotten lately. But when the issue arose as to the line-item veto and the constitutional amendment for the balanced budget, Senator BYRD has been vociferous in defending the prerogatives of the Congress of the United States. He even goes so far from time to time to remind people that article I of the Constitution is for the Congress. You don't get to the executive branch until you get to article II. You don't get to the judicial branch until article III. In many ways the Supreme Court has rewritten the sequence of the Constitution taking primacy. There is an effort on the expansion of Executive power, but Senator BYRD is the bulwark for separation of powers. To think that he was here when Jack Kennedy was here, as well as when Lyndon Baines Johnson was here—about whom so much has been written as the master of the Senate. There will be a sequel to that, and it will be about BOB BYRD. Senator BYRD was here when great men like Lyndon Johnson and Jack Kennedy strode these corridors for so many years. It is an enormous slice of history.

As a newcomer to the Senate, I watched Senator BYRD very closely. There is a lot to be learned from Senator BYRD. Senator BYRD was chairman of the Appropriations Committee when I was one of the younger members of the Appropriations Committee. One day, I thought Senator BYRD's allocations didn't match the budget resolution and I told him. It is sort of untoward to disagree with the chairman. I saw a magnanimity in Senator BYRD to listen to one of the younger Senators. I even called for a vote. The vote was 26 to 3. People said it was a great accomplishment to get two other Senators to join me, Alfonse D'Amato and Bob Kasten. We only lost 26 to 3, but it was considered a victory, which is a testament to Senator BYRD's power.

Senator BYRD said to me on that day: Some day, you will be chairman of the Appropriations Committee and you can make the allocations. I thought it entirely farfetched at that time that I would ever be chairman of the Appropriations Committee, but it may happen. I am next in line behind Senator THAD COCHRAN. It will be quite a formidable challenge because Senator BYRD continues to be ranking Democrat on the committee. To come up against this titan, this legend, he will probably do more to make the allocations if, as, and when I become chairman.

Senator BYRD has been a master tactician. I recall one early morning, about 3 a.m., when we Republicans were carrying on a filibuster. I believe it was on campaign finance reform. Senator Dole gathered us all together in a remote spot and said: Guys, don't show up on the Senate floor. Make Senator BYRD maintain a quorum.

For those who don't know the Senate rules, they are sufficiently complicated and we would not expect C–SPAN II watchers to know, if anybody is watching on C–SPAN II. But you have to have a quorum on the floor to conduct business, or somebody can suggest the absence of a quorum, and it just stops. So Senator BYRD had this idea about having some Republicans on the floor. Knowing the rules as he did, he directed the Sergeant at Arms to execute warrants of arrest for absent Senators. I have never seen this in my long tenure. Remember that, Senator BYRD?

Mr. BYRD. Yes, I do.

Mr. SPECTER. Now we have confirmation. I have called a witness here. The Sergeant at Arms was a little fellow, Henry Giugni. He started to patrol the halls. He came upon Senator Lowell Weicker. Now, Henry was about 5-foot-4, and Lowell Weicker was 6-foot-4. Lowell was at his fighting weight of about 240 at the time. It was about 3:30 in the morning. Do you know what happens with Senators at 3:30 in the morning? I won't say on the Senate floor. The Sergeant at Arms decided not to arrest Lowell Weicker. He made a very wise judgment. Instead, he went knocking on Senate doors. Senator Robert Packwood made the mistake of answering the door. Senator Packwood compelled them to carry him out of his office. He agreed to walk here, but he insisted on being carried into the Senate Chamber. I don't think Senator BYRD got his quorum, but he got his man, Senator Packwood.

I once had the temerity to engage Senator BYRD in a debate. I have

watched Senator BYRD very closely when he would control the floor with the parliamentary maneuver of getting unanimous consent before yielding the floor, which gave him the right to the floor.

I had read the rule book, and Senator BYRD contended that he could do that without unanimous consent if there had been no objection. I thought I had watched him with the rules to the contrary and engage him in a lengthy debate. I did not win that debate, but it was a great learning experience.

Senator BYRD commanded the floor with great authority. In the old days, we used to have sessions that went all night. Senator BYRD was sitting in that chair, and he rose at about 12:18 a.m.—this is another true story; you get very few true stories out of Washington. We were all enervated. Some of us were even tired, but not BOB BYRD. He rose from his chair and he said: I ask unanimous consent that I may speak as long as I choose.

A Senator in this chair, whom I will not identify, rose as if to object. Senator BYRD looked at him as if his eyes like were laser beams, and the Senator sat down. Past midnight, Senator BYRD had unanimous consent to speak as long as he chose. It wasn't too long, but it was a great display of fortitude and authority.

My final comment about Senator BYRD is about the debates we have had on constitutional law. His scholarship on the institution is unparalleled, and that is a record which will never be broken. It is pretty hard to say ''never,'' but when one looks at the volumes of his work, when one looks at the magnitude of his speeches—he used to speak every Friday afternoon for as long as he liked. He spoke to an empty Chamber, but he spoke to a full history book.

Senator BYRD once said to me that if he became President, he would make me his Attorney General. May the RECORD show that Senator BYRD is nodding in the affirmative, and Senator BYRD, if you become President, I expect you to live up to that promise.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate my good friend, Senator ROBERT BYRD, on becoming the longest serving Senator in the history of our great Nation. Senator BYRD has now served as Senator for 17,327 days. That is almost as long as I have been alive. I fully expect to continue serving with him for many more days.

I know that during those 17,000-plus days in the Senate, Senator BYRD has inspired many. I also know that as we continue to witness his service in the days ahead in the Senate, he will continue to provide inspiration to this body and to all of my colleagues and to me. I am sure that in those days, just as he has in the past, Senator BYRD will continue to implore our colleagues to respect the wisdom of the Founders and the brilliance of our Constitution, which he so proudly carries as a symbol on his lapel every day, and during those days in the future, he will continue to remind us all in the Senate of how much we can and should learn from the history of our great country and the experience of this democracy.

He will continue, as he always has, fighting for the hard-working people of his beloved West Virginia, and he will, as he always has, continue to provide generous counsel to those of us who have far less experience than he does, for Senator BYRD truly has been and continues to be a mentor to all of us, and always, with his grace and with his dignity, setting an example for all Senators to act with that dignity, with that courtesy, and with that eloquence which is truly a legacy of ROBERT BYRD in the Senate. For me, as the No. 99 Senator and as one of the most junior in this body today, I am personally inspired and grateful to Senator BYRD for his achievements and for his example.

Just as my family has given me strength in my life, I know Senator BYRD's remarkable service would not have been possible without the love and support of his own family. I have often been moved by Senator BYRD's words about the power of the love and the bond he and his late wife Erma shared for decades. So as we honor Senator BYRD today, as we honor this institution, we also honor the memory of Erma, and we honor the rest of Senator BYRD's family as well.

It is a great privilege for me to represent the people of Colorado in this great Chamber. It is also a true honor to be a colleague to a historic figure in the name of Senator ROBERT C. BYRD of West Virginia.

Once again, I congratulate him.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues who came to the floor earlier today to mark a historic milestone. It isn't just a milestone for one man, it is a milestone for our Senate and our Nation.

Today our colleague, ROBERT C. BYRD of West Virginia, who just left the Chamber, becomes the longest serving Senator in the history of the United States of America. Today marks Senator BYRD's 17,327th day in office; that is 47 years, 5 months, 1 week, and 2 days spent in service in the Senate on behalf of his beloved people of the State of West Virginia.

Many of us know Senator BYRD's impressive official biography. He has held more leadership positions in the Senate than any other Senator in our history, including 6 years as Senate majority leader, 6 years as minority leader, twice Senator BYRD has served as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and twice he has been elected by his colleagues as President pro tempore, a position that places him third in line to the Presidency of the United States.

In many ways, Senator BYRD's life is the story of the 20th century of America. He started from the most humble origins and has risen to the greatest heights, and he has done this not on the backs of others but by the sweat of his brow and the power of his massive intellect.

To me, one of the most impressive facts about Senator BYRD is that he studied for his law degree while he was serving as a Member of Congress. He would make law by day and study it at night. True to form, Senator BYRD not only earned his doctorate of jurisprudence from American University in 1963, it was awarded cum laude.

Senator BYRD may also be one of the last great orators in the U.S. Senate, and whether the topic is the war in Iraq or the Peloponnesian War, the basic ingredients of a great speech are always present in Senator BYRD's address: clear, substantive thinking and the rhetorical skills to effectively express it.

For Senator BYRD, noble purposes are foremost as his motive and objective. He doesn't take the easy road, and he doesn't pander. When President Bill Clinton signed the line-item veto into law in 1996, it was immediately challenged in court by a group of six Senators, the first of whom, of course, was Senator ROBERT C. BYRD. Senator BYRD, though loyal to his party and loyal to his President, was loyal first to his view of the Constitution. He believed the law was unconstitutional and concentrated too much power in the executive branch of Government. Ultimately, the Supreme Court agreed with Senator BYRD and disagreed with the Congress and the President who enacted the law.

Almost 10 years later, Senator BYRD took to the floor of the Senate, speaking out and facing the wrath of popular sentiment in opposing the invasion of Iraq. At the time, it wasn't easy for him to vote no, nor was it a comfortable decision to defend at home, but Senator BYRD didn't shrink from the challenge—he never has—and he did something which has become quite rare in American politics: He stood up and led. He said that of all the thousands of votes he has cast—more than 17,000 to be exact—that vote opposing the war in Iraq is the one in which he takes the greatest pride.

I might add just parenthetically, I share that sentiment. In this case, too, I believe ultimately history will prove all of us right who voted no on the use of force in Iraq.

Senator BYRD has an unquenchable willingness to serve, a willingness to lead and carry the burdens and responsibilities of leadership. Above all else,

he has done these things while continuing to be a truly honorable man. When all is said and done, the most important words that will be spoken about ROBERT C. BYRD will not be that he was a great speaker or great statesman or great U.S. Senator—he is certainly all of that—the true measure of this man will not be found in recounting the number of days he has served in this body; rather, it will be found in his strength of character and in his integrity.

That character and integrity are evidenced in so many ways: his love of his beloved late wife Erma. He was such a devoted husband and partner. Even as she suffered serious illness in the last years and months of her life, he never left her side. To his children and grandchildren, he remains a loving father, a caring grandfather, and a wise teacher. To his friends, he is a man whose word can always be counted on. To his country, he is a leader who found power only in the commitment to service. And to his State, he is a shining example of the very best that is in all of us.

I am honored to be counted as one of those who call ROBERT C. BYRD a friend, and I know this about my friend: Today he marks a milestone that no other Senator in the history of the United States has marked, but his success will be measured in terms of his faithfulness to the people who placed him here and the trust of the people of West Virginia. They have never been betrayed by this great man.

Although he has risen to the highest levels of power, he has never forgotten where he comes from, who sent him, and what his mission is.

If my colleagues will allow me two personal observations about Senator BYRD and to tell two stories that I think really are symbols of his view of the world and the great power of his intellect. One of the first involved a debate on the floor of the U.S. Senate about the National Endowment for the Arts. It occurred a few years ago. A Senator on the other side of the aisle offered an amendment to eliminate the National Endowment for the Arts with the argument that there were art displays or exhibits that were being funded with Federal dollars that were embarrassing. This Senator went on to argue that it really made no sense for us to subsidize the arts in America because they were out of the reach of the common man and we should allow the patrons of the arts, those private benefactors, to take care and not our Government.

I came to the floor to argue against that position, telling the story of how my immigrant mother used to take me in the car across the bridge to the art museum in St. Louis, this woman with an eighth grade education, to show me works of art and talk about artists she knew very little about but wanted to learn more about. As I was telling my story, I saw Senator BYRD come on to the floor, and I assumed he was coming to talk about some other issue, but he asked for recognition. He stood here at his desk, as he has so many times, and completely enthralled this Chamber as he told the story of his simple life in West Virginia where he was orphaned and raised by other members of the family and how one fine day, his new stepfather took him out and bought him a fiddle. With that fiddle, he started taking music lessons and developed a passion for music. He talked about what music and the arts meant to him growing up as a poor boy in a small town in West Virginia. It was a classic ROBERT C. BYRD moment, taking a chapter in his life from many years ago and bringing it to application today.

The second experience I recall is one that I have told over and over to friends in Illinois. If I hadn't been there to see it, I would not have believed it. It goes back to the days when I was a Member of the House of Representatives on the Appropriations Committee. Senator BYRD, a leader in the Senate, had a Transportation appropriations bill that passed the Senate that had several noteworthy projects for his State of West Virginia. A Republican Senator across the Rotunda took exception to these earmarks for the State of West Virginia and vowed that when he came to conference between the Senate and the House, he would take out these projects for the State of West Virginia. They were excessive, in his view. He was interviewed by several news media, including The Washington Post.

The day of the great confrontation took place just a couple floors—one floor below us in the appropriations conference room. It is a long room with a huge table. The Senate conferees sit on one side of the table. Senator Mark Hatfield was then chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, of which Senator BYRD was a member, and I sat on the other side of the table with House Appropriations Committee members, waiting for this classic, historic confrontation between Senator ROBERT C. BYRD and his critic from the House of Representatives. It was interesting because as we all sat down, there was one chair that was left empty. Directly across the table from his House critic was the empty chair Senator BYRD would occupy. The moment came when finally the House member was recognized, and he stood up and with a lengthy speech took exception to the fact that Senator BYRD was putting these projects in for the State of West Virginia. When he finished and had exhausted himself—no one interrupted him—and sat down, Senator BYRD asked for recognition in this appropriations conference room.

I am going to get a few of these facts wrong because I didn't write them down. Senator BYRD would never get them wrong. But I trust that at the end of the story, you will understand what happened that day.

Senator BYRD reflected for a moment, as he often does, looking to the ceiling, and then he spoke. He said: In 1830, Daniel Webster wrote his famous letter to Mr. Hayne. And then he paused, and Senator BYRD said: If my memory serves me, it was January that he wrote the letter. January the 28th, Senator BYRD said. And if I am not mistaken, he said, it was a Thursday. And he went on to explain how Webster wrote the letter to Hayne explaining the basics of our Constitution, explaining that in the House of Representatives, a State as small as West Virginia doesn't stand a chance with a limited population and very little political power to get things done; the State of West Virginia has to rely on the Senate, where every State has two Senators. And if he, ROBERT C. BYRD, didn't stand up for his small State of West Virginia in the Senate, who would? What chance would a small State have?

It was the classic argument that really was the foundation for the creation of Congress. Senator BYRD that day won the argument, won his case before the conference committee.

I thought at the time, years before I was elected to the Senate, I wish I had a videotape of that moment. That was one of those great moments which I have seen here in the Congress. So when I came to the Senate a few years later, I went up to Senator BYRD and I said to him: I will never forget that day when you had the debate in the appropriations conference committee about the projects for West Virginia and how you not only recalled the exchange between Daniel Webster and Mr. Hayne and the historical and constitutional significance, you not only recalled the year and the day, but you recalled the day of the week it occurred. I said: When you said, ''I believe it was a Thursday,'' I was just absolutely amazed. Senator BYRD reflected for a moment, and he said: Well, I believe it was a Thursday. I said: I am not questioning you; no, I am not questioning you; I am just telling you that I thought that detail brought more to that debate than anyone could imagine.

So as luck would have it, 2 hours later, we had a vote on the floor here, and Senator BYRD at this desk called me over. I came over to his desk, and he said: Senator DURBIN, I was almost certain it was a Thursday, and I asked my staff to pull out a perpetual calendar, and if you will look here, January 28, 1820, was, in fact, a Thursday. I said: I never doubted you for a moment.

I have heard him stand on the floor reciting poetry at length. I have heard him recount the debates of this Senate and the history of this Nation in the type of detail that puts all the rest of us to shame. He is truly not just an institution of West Virginia, not just an institution of the Senate; he is a national treasure. He brings to debate in this Chamber—what little debate we have anymore—a certain gravity, a certain importance that reminds us

why we are here, that we have been fortunate enough to be called by the people who vote in our States to be one of the few men and women to serve in this great Chamber, and in serving, we not only represent them, we represent a long line of history, of great men and women who have had this opportunity to serve in the U.S. Senate.

Today, of course, is recognition of his special place in the history of our Nation and in the history of the Senate: 17,327 days in office—47 years, 5 months, 1 week, and 2 days—not only witnessing the parade of history but being such a major part of it.

Senator BYRD, I salute you and your service to the people of West Virginia and this Nation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I have been very much looking forward to this moment.

First, I ask unanimous consent that an article which appeared in the Charleston Gazette on June 12, 2006, be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, this article embraces the comments of many dear friends of the Senator, and I say with some humility, a few of my own comments as well.

I think back to reminisce on the 28 years that I have been privileged to have represented the Commonwealth of Virginia in this Chamber.

There is no single individual for whom I have greater reverence or respect than my dear friend, the senior Senator from West Virginia. We were bonded together early on. When I arrived here, he sought me out, and I sought him out because our two great States at one time, were one State, the State of Virginia. But now, even though we are two States, our states have so many issues in common.

How many times Senator BYRD and I have come to this floor with regard to the subject of the coal miners, their safety, their ability to operate and provide that essential component to America's energy needs, coal; how dangerous is the profession, how much we respect their families and other ones who share the risk that the miners take every day.

Then, more specifically, I remember so well how we have worked together all of these many years in support of clean-coal-burning technology.

Coal is the largest single reserve of energy that this Nation possesses—the largest, far beyond petroleum, far beyond natural gas, far beyond the other renewables, and so forth. Coal is there. Our research and industrial base works year after year to try to see how we can consume these vast coal reserves and thereby become less and less dependent on importing our energy needs, but burning it in such a way that it does the least possible harm to the environment, be it the air we breathe or the problems associated with acid rain, and so forth.

I commend my dear friend for all the work that he has done and will continue to do for years on clean coal technology.

Virginia and West Virginia also share a common border that is basically established by the Appalachian Mountains. This part of Virginia and West Virginia has its own magnificent qualities, particularly the sturdy lifestyle of the people who choose purposefully to live in those hills and valleys and those mountains which are so often ravaged by heavy floods and so often ravaged by other natural disasters, such as snowstorms.

Senator BYRD and I many times have gone to visit those regions in the aftermath of a natural disaster. We find no desire on the part of those people to leave those regions, only to remain.

Senator BYRD was instrumental in passing legislation which provides recognition for those geographic areas of the Appalachian range that are deserving of financial assistance and other forms of assistance because of the rigorous, challenging lifestyle in these regions. He has seen that funding has remained these many years equitably allocated between the several States.

I think of him foremost as one who is a family man. How often he has reminisced about the members of his family. He speaks with a great sense of pride and humility on how his family, much like every Member of this Senate, is closely involved in the life of the Senate, closely involved because of the commitments the families make: the many long hours Senators are required to either be in the Chamber or traveling throughout their States, traveling throughout the 50 States, or, indeed, around the world. It is a challenge for the families, and BOB BYRD is a family man, along with his beloved wife Erma.

I remember so well early on in my career, I had the privilege to be invited by Senator BYRD, to join him on a number of codels to various parts of the world. We served together on the Senate Committee on Armed Services these many years. So often we would visit the troops and others throughout the world.

One trip I remember ever so vividly, he took the first congressional codel to the then-Soviet Union to visit with Gorbachev, who had risen to a powerful position in the Soviet Union after a lot of strife and turmoil. That man exhibited extraordinary courage. I so looked forward to our important visit, as did every member of that codel—I think there were about a dozen of us who joined Senator BYRD to go over to the Soviet Union.

Senator Strom Thurmond, whose record Senator BYRD, with a sense of humility, passes today, was on that codel. And as we flew to the Soviet Union, I had the privilege—and maybe with one or two others—of working with BOB BYRD on remarks he wanted to make. That was an important set of remarks. Strom Thurmond represented the Republican side of that delegation. We were basically equally divided. I remember working through that statement well into the wee hours of the night as that plane was traversing that long distance.

The following day, Gorbachev announced he was going to allocate an hour and a half time to meet this delegation. The time was carefully allocated by Senator BYRD and Senator Thurmond to members of the delegation.

I recall that I was the junior man on that delegation. When he got to me, I had 2 minutes. I was proud to get 2 minutes. Our dear colleague and friend, the retiring Senator this year, Senator SARBANES, senior, of course, to me at that time, turned to me and said: I will give you my 3 minutes so you can have 5 minutes because you are on that Committee on Armed Services, and there is nothing more important to be covered today than the issues relating to national defense. I will never forget that act of courtesy by Senator SARBANES.

Senator BYRD delivered his remarks flawlessly. Gorbachev listened very carefully. Gorbachev made a few notes on a pad. He was followed, then, by Strom Thurmond, who delivered one of his thunderous, heartfelt remarks, beginning with how he stormed the shore on D-Day and how the Soviet Army was pressing on Germany from another direction. It was a confluence of primarily those two forces and Great Britain and, of course, their allies and the free French who brought a conclusion to the war. Gorbachev's father had been in the war. Strom reminisced, jokingly saying that he hoped he had not hurt his father. I recall Gorbachev very much was moved by that comment.

That was the type of thing for which Senator BYRD was so famous: putting together those delegations, going to those places in the world around which the axle of history was evolving at that time, or the spokes of history around that axle. What a privilege it was to travel with this great man.

I think of him as a historian. This Senator does not have the temerity, and I don't know of anyone who would challenge BOB BYRD on the history of this great institution. No man hath greater love for this Senate than ROBERT BYRD. He has expressed that with a sense of humility many times in speeches in the Senate.

When he reaches into his pocket and pulls out a copy of the Constitution—he almost knows it by heart—he always opens that little book. He can, as quickly as anyone in this Senate, find those passages that are relevant to the debate at hand or the issues at hand. Those are things we remember about him with such great respect.

He is a humorist. He can be tough. He can be firm. But, oh, can he bring a chuckle about in the hearts of all of us.

Sometimes in this Senate when things hit the high point of stress, I have seen BOB BYRD take to the floor with his very soft voice, dispel tension, dispel some of the rancor, and inject a note of humor.

BOB BYRD is also, it might surprise Members, an artist. One painting he did many years ago, some of us through the years have been privileged to get a copy of that painting. He has an eye for art. He also has an eye for music. I do recall the times when he played the fiddle, the music that he loved and still loves. I think he composed a little bit on the side from time to time.

I can recount so many things where he is far more capable than I. I have never considered myself a poet, but BOB BYRD can recall from memory hundreds of poems and recite them at times when it seems most appropriate.

He is a family man, historian, humorous, artist, musician, composer, poet, and then we think back always to his respect for the Bible, and second only to the Bible, his respect and love for the United States Constitution.

I went back and checked a little history. This Chamber honored me the other night after I cast my 10,000th vote, a very modest accomplishment in the face of BOB BYRD's accomplishment, my 28 years. He has been here just short of twice as long.

Also, someone thoughtfully said that I was the second longest serving Senator from Virginia. Lo and behold, who was the longest serving Senator from Virginia? None other than BOB BYRD's close friend of years past, Harry F. Byrd, Sr. I repeat, senior, because when I came to the Senate, Harry F. Byrd, Jr., was the Member of the Senate with whom I was privileged to serve as his junior Senator. But it is interesting, Harry F. Byrd, Sr., was born in Martinsburg, Berkeley County, WV. There you have it. He was the longest serving Senator and remains with that record at 32 years and 8 months for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Now BOB BYRD takes it not only for the State but for the whole of the history of the Senate.

There has to be something, I say most respectfully, in the water down in West Virginia, or the lifestyle, the hardiness, or the courage of the people that enabled these two distinguished Virginians, ROBERT C. BYRD and Harry Flood Byrd, Sr., to become the longest serving in their respective States.

EXHIBIT 1

[From the Charleston (WV) Gazette, June 12, 2006]

THE PILLAR OF THE SENATE: 10 PRESIDENTS LATER, BYRD LONGEST-SERVING SENATOR

(By Paul J. Nyden)

Sen. Robert C. Byrd becomes the longest-serving member of the U.S. Senate today, having represented West Virginians for 17,327 days in the chamber.

Byrd began serving in the Senate more than 47 years ago, on Jan. 3, 1959, after spending six years in the House of Representatives and six years in the West Virginia Legislature.

He also has cast more votes by far than any member of the Senate: 17,662 times, as of last Friday.

''I consider him to be the pillar of the Senate,'' says Sen. Paul Sarbanes, D–Md. ''His commitment to the United States Senate and its history, customs and procedures is equaled only by his commitment to the state of West Virginia, our nation and our Constitution.''

Byrd's impact on fellow senators personally rivals his institutional role, some of his colleagues said.

''Senator Byrd has been a very, very important figure in my life,'' said Sen. John Warner, a Virginia Republican. ''He is such a magnificent teacher of the history the Senate.''

Warner recalls a conversation he had with Byrd when Warner was new to the Senate. ''He said, 'At one time, our states were together. I don't want to put them back together, but I want to work together as full and equal partners,' '' Warner said.

''I enjoy the man, ''Warner said. ''He is wonderful.''

Up to now, the Senate's longest-serving member had been the late Strom Thurmond, R–S.C. The third- and fourth-longest-serving members are Ted Kennedy, D–Mass., and Daniel K. Inouye, D–Hawaii, both of whom have been there more than 43 years.

''Byrd epitomizes the role that the framers of our Constittion envisioned for the legislative branch,'' Sarbanes said.

In fact, The Almanac of American Politics, a widely consulted volume on federal politics, describes Byrd as the politician who ''may come closer to the kind of senator the Founding Fathers had in mind than any other.''

Since President Bush took office, Byrd has been one of the Senate's leading voices on challenging the war in Iraq, preserving Social Security and protecting workers' jobs and safety.

Despite his strong positions, however, Byrd said he regrets the increasing animosity in both legislative bodies. He said he has always worked to be bipartisan.

''I thank the people of West Virginia for having repeatedly expressed their faith in me,'' Byrd said. ''I never lose sight of that. Every morning of every day of my life, my first thought is, 'What can I do today for West Virginia?' ''

Byrd's contribution to the state has been immense, said Gov. Joe Manchin and members of West Virginia's congressional delegation.

''I don't know of a person in West Virginia who has not been touched, or benefited in a most positive way, by Senator Byrd's service,'' Manchin said. ''I mean, Democrats, Republicans, independents and people who don't vote—they all benefit.''

Byrd has long been known as a ''legend'' in West Virginia, said Jay Rockefeller, Byrd's junior Democratic colleague for the state. ''But now he has surpassed even the great legends of the Senate to become the longest serving senator in U.S. history.''

He can take credit for ''highways, dams, bridges, federal facilities and jobs, health centers and educational institutions,'' Rockefeller said. ''And the best part is, he's not finished.''

''What do you get when you multiply the power of the beacon by the strength of a workhorse by the steadiness of an anchor? Robert C. Byrd,'' said Rep. Nick J. Rahall, D–W.Va.

Byrd's ''ability to deliver for our state'' is awe-inspiring, said David Hardesty, the president of West Virginia University. ''His votes are guided by his understanding of the Constitution and by his dedication to the people of this state.''

Manchin also emphasized Byrd's future.

''People also need to know that Senator Byrd has a lot of years of service left in him,'' he said. ''When people ask about what he has done, he says, 'I want to talk about people who can help me do what we still need to do.' ''

Born in Wilkesboro, N.C., in 1917, Byrd grew up in a coal mining family in Sophia, Raleigh County.

Nearly 20 years later, he married Erma Ora James, who passed away on March 25 of this year. Today, Mrs. Byrd would have turned 89.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is an extraordinary honor to be able to speak a few words about my friend, the senior Senator from the State of West Virginia, as he makes history yet again.

There are precious few opportunities in life to recognize greatness in our midst, but today we have that opportunity. We honor our friend not simply because he's become the longest-serving Senator in our history, but also because there's no doubt that he's earned his rightful place besides Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, John Calhoun, and other giants in Senate history.

BOB BYRD's life is a tribute to the power of the American dream—rising from humble beginnings, this son of the Appalachian coal fields reached the pinnacle of power and accomplishment through decades of hard work and unwavering dedication.

His life is also a tribute to the power of love and commitment. BOB BYRD's commitment and love for the Senate and the country is total and complete, just as they are for the people of West Virginia and his beloved Erma, with whom he shared one of America's great love stories.

Erma and BOB would have celebrated her birthday today—and we're saddened that she could not be here to share this extraordinary moment. But we know she's looking down from heaven with a smile for the young boy who once shared his chewing gum with her more than 70 years ago.

This is a special day for me as well, because it's a time to tell my friend how much he means to me, and how much I believe his service means to our Nation.

For longer than I've been in public life, I've known ROBERT C. BYRD. I first came to know him during the famed West Virginia Presidential primary of 1960.

BOB was a new Senator and moving up through the ranks as a protege of Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson. My brother Jack and BOB were colleagues in the Senate, but Jack knew it was inevitable that BOB would be looking out for LBJ in the Mountain State, and hoping to deny us the victory we needed.

Jack had won the Wisconsin primary, and the stakes were high in West Virginia.

It was a spirited campaign in which all of us in the Kennedy family got to see the extraordinary qualities of the people of West Virginia—kindness, compassion for their fellow citizens, and perseverance even in the face of enormous obstacles—the qualities that BOB BYRD knew and loved. Jack campaigned extremely well in the state and

came love the people too, and he never forgot the boost they gave him during that hard-fought campaign.

President Kennedy and ROBERT C. BYRD formed a powerful partnership, and one of Jack's first official acts in office was to authorize the shipment of emergency rations to help the people of Appalachia recover from a disaster.

They worked together to create the Appalachian Regional Commission, which lifted thousands out of poverty, and eliminated many of the barriers that had isolated the region from the economic mainstream of the Nation. They invested in the people, and it worked. President Kennedy and Senator ROBERT C. BYRD understood that if you give Americans opportunity and hope, there is no limit to what they can accomplish.

For me personally, it's impossible to imagine the Senate without Senator BYRD. He defeated me for Majority Whip in 1971. We both thought we had the votes lined up to win, and it was BOB who taught me how to count votes as he went on to become an outstanding Whip and later an outstanding Majority Leader. My consolation prize was being set free to focus on the legislative issues I care most about.

Over the years in the Senate together, we've all come to rely on Senator BYRD as the great defender of this institution and the champion of the Constitution.

He doesn't defend the Constitution simply when it's in fashion to do so. He doesn't yield when political convenience suggests that the Legislative Branch should demur for the sake of comity or to accomplish a popular goal.

BOB BYRD understands that the founders intended each branch of government to have powers that could place them in conflict, and that the powers Congress cedes to the executive today may have dire consequences for the Nation tomorrow.

In this role, he is the guardian of the Senate and the ideals that Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, and Hamilton fought to enshrine when they created our government.

I have many warm memories of BOB BYRD as leader, as friend, and as scholar. One that comes to mind now is our barnstorming trip through West Virginia during the 2004 Presidential campaign.

We traveled by bus around the state from Charleston to Mingo and Logan counties and wherever we stopped, you could feel the love and respect that the people of West Virginia had for BOB BYRD. At one stop, he even jumped up onto the back of a flatbed truck to deliver a stemwinder. I was committed to the campaign as well, but that was a tactic I thought best be left to BOB.

In the end we came up short in the West Virginia on election day, but I'll never forget the fun we had those last few weeks of October, and I'm eternally grateful to BOB for inviting me. I'll cherish the memory forever.

Of all the remarkable attributes of Senator BYRD, few have impressed more than his ability to memorize and recite poetry. As a child, this was always one of my greatest challenges at school and I'm awed by BOB's extraordinary talent.

His mind must hold hundreds of verses that he can recite at a moment's notice. One of my favorites describes the responsibilities we have as public servants to address the causes of the problems that confront us, not just the consequences of those problems.

It's about whether it's better to build a fence around the edge of a cliff, or keep an ambulance ready in the valley below.

I can't recite it from memory like he can, but this is how it goes. It was written by Joseph Malins in 1895:

Twas a dangerous cliff, as they freely confessed,
Though to walk near its crest was so pleasant;
But over its terrible edge there had slipped
A duke, and full many a peasant.
The people said something would have to be done,
But their projects did not at all tally.
Some said ''Put a fence 'round the edge of the cliff,''
Some, ''An ambulance down in the valley.''
The lament of the crowd was profound and was loud,
As the tears overflowed with their pity;
But the cry for the ambulance carried the day
As it spread through the neighbouring city.
A collection was made, to accumulate aid,
And the dwellers in highway and alley
Gave dollars or cents—not to furnish a fence—
But an ambulance down in the valley.
''For the cliff is all right if you're careful,'' they said;
''And if folks ever slip and are dropping,
It isn't the slipping that hurts them so much
As the shock down below—when they're stopping.''
So for years (we have heard), as these mishaps
occurred Quick forth would the rescuers sally,
To pick up the victims who fell from the cliff,
With the ambulance down in the valley.
Said one, to his pleas, ''It's marvel to me
That you'd give so much greater attention
To repairing results than to curing the cause;
You had much better aim at prevention.
For the mischief, of course, should be stopped at its source;
Come, neighbours and friends, let us rally.
It is far better sense to rely on a fence
Than an ambulance down in the valley.''
''He is wrong in his head,'' the majority said;
''He would end all our earnest endeavour.
He's a man who would shirk this responsible work,
But we will support it forever.
Aren't we picking up all, just as fast as they fall,
And giving them care liberally?
A superfluous fence is of no consequence,
If the ambulance works in the valley.''
The story looks queer as we've written it here,
But things oft occur that are stranger.
More humane, we assert, than to succour the hurt
Is the plan of removing the danger.
The best possible course is to safeguard the source
By attending to things rationally.
Yes, build up the fence and let us dispense
With the ambulance down in the valley.

That's the principle BOB BYRD has followed throughout his brilliant career in the Senate. He's a Senator for the ages, and it's an extraordinary honor and privilege to know him, to serve with him, and to learn from him.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I will soon have been here 34 years. That is not very long compared to the man about whom I rise to say a few words. I understand this was the day. I was in my office and, having heard the eloquence that was spoken today to my good friend, Senator BYRD, I figured that I couldn't do him justice just coming down at this very moment, as I am. But everybody knows why we speak today when we attempt to honor him for his devotion to his colleagues, to the institution, to the Constitution, and to the United States of America.

The distinguished Senator knows what each of us thinks of him. He knows, better than we each do, what we think of him. He could tell me what PETE DOMENICI thinks about BOB BYRD, and probably be close to right. And vice versa. He has occasionally spoken about what he thinks of me. I don't think he takes it lightly. I think what he says he means. He has been far too generous in what he has said. But I will choose, among all the things, for just a moment, to say what I think mostly about him, as I think about his time here and revere it.

First, there is something about learning to appreciate what the Senate is as a place, as a house, as an institution. Woe be it any man or woman who is elected to this place and who serves for any length of time and doesn't feel it, doesn't understand it, doesn't quite grasp what a rare place this Senate is. It is hard to say why it is. One could talk about the men and women who made it like this. We could talk about the rules of the Senate that made it like this. We could talk about the two or three great qualities, the fact that you can offer amendments freely—which has been known as one of those real attributes of this place. You can come down here on an afternoon while something is being debated on health, and if you can get the floor you can offer an amendment about Iraq. Somehow or another, you get the feel of the place, the limitation on trying to get things done that this threat to filibuster offers, and how that plays, and the minority and majority and what it means in this place.

You know at some point in time if you have ever had to make a decision on the floor of the Senate that was important just because it was important to the Senate, then ROBERT BYRD would be there to stand up and congratulate you. That is, if as chairman of the Budget Committee I had to get up and say to the Senate: I want to ad-

monish you that if you do this or that you are challenging the rules of the Senate—if I would look around and expect some help, the walls would give me help. And it would be ROBERT BYRD saying: Listen carefully, if you are talking about the Senate.

That is why I came here because, of all the qualities, I think he will best be known as a man of the Senate, as a man who understood the Senate—what made it great and different, unique. He is noted for his great ability to manifest so many great historic concepts, of modern times and ancient times, and today debate them, deliver them, state them from memory, and truly inform us what they mean.

His understanding of freedom is legendary, what American freedom is. But today I chose to congratulate him for not letting up, in all his years—never letting up on the proposition that the Senate is a special place. He will go down in history because he has regularly, habitually, without hesitance informed us of what a special place the Senate is by virtue of what we have been given, what was bestowed upon us in the Constitution, how our Founding Fathers have accredited this place, what its rules have become through its leaders of the past, and how the halls just reek with all of that past and just keep making it the Senate.

That is what he is; that is what he has done. He is the Senate. The longer he is here, the more he is that. I don't know how many years it took him to become it, to know it, to relish it as he has passed it on to each of us. Certainly, by the time I came in 1972, and I have been here 33 going on 34 years, he already was there and was preaching that to all of us. Some of us began to understand it to where we could stand up and say: Hey, don't forget, fellow Senators, this is the Senate. Let's not do an injustice to it. Let's not violate it.

I won't state names, but I remember very young Senators who wouldn't think of talking that way. But 10 years later, that is the way they talked, that is the way they behaved. I venture to say each and every one who comes to my mind, if you ask them where they got that feeling, that rapture for this place, probably among the very few things they would mention, they would mention ROBERT C. BYRD.

Congratulations for all the times spent in breaking all the records for the time, but most of all congratulations from me, to a Senate man, a man who makes the Senate what it is and likes to tell everybody else around what it is, and in particular likes to make sure Senators grow up and begin to relish it as he has, and never forgets what it is.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). The Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I first came to the U.S. Senate 40 years ago next year, not as a Senator but as a legislative assistant. Senator KENNEDY was here then in his second term. Senator BYRD had been in the Congress since 1953. I was working for Howard Baker, the first Republican Senator to be elected from Tennessee.

I noticed over the years how he and Senator BYRD became good friends. The strength of that friendship was demonstrated in 1980 when the Republicans gained control of the Senate—which surprised virtually everyone, gaining 12 seats. Among the shocks that would occur is that Howard Baker, who was then the Republican leader—he refused to call himself the minority leader, but the Republican leader—was to become majority leader and ROBERT BYRD, who was the Democratic leader, would have to be the minority leader.

I remember two stories Senator Baker tells about that incident which had a lot to do with shaping what happened in the Senate shortly after that.

Senator Baker went to see Senator BYRD, and as I have been told, he said: BOB, I wonder if you would be willing to keep your office. Well, that got him off to a good start with BOB BYRD. I am sure that incident must have caused the Senate to work much more smoothly over the next few years. Senator Baker kept the minority leader's office and expanded it, and Senator BYRD kept the majority leader's office even though he was the minority leader.

But the second thing that happened was this: The new majority leader, Howard Baker, said to the stepping down majority leader, BOB BYRD: BOB, I would like to make an arrangement with you. Senator BYRD said to Senator Baker: What is that, Howard? He said: I would like to make an arrangement about surprises. I will not surprise you if you won't surprise me. According to Senator Baker, Senator BYRD replied: Let me think about it. They got back together the next day, and BOB BYRD gave Howard Baker his word: No surprises. According to Senator Baker, that word was never broken during the entire time Senator Baker was the majority leader and Senator BYRD was the minority leader. I am sure the Senate and this country benefitted greatly because of the trust those two men, who usually had very different opinions on issues, had with one another.

The other thing I would like to say about Senator BYRD is this: I came to the U.S. Senate as a Senator many years later, the same year the Presiding Officer came from Texas. It was in 2003 when we were sworn in, and that was exactly a half century after BOB BYRD came to the Congress. Each of us in our class made what I believe we still call maiden speeches—our first speech on the subject that was most important to us. The subject that was most important to me—and still is—is what it means to be an American, concepts that unify our country. I find it absolutely remarkable how our country, among all others, has accumulated this magnificent diversity but has found a way to bind it into a single country based on a few fragile principles that are found in our founding documents and by our common language and by our saga of American history.

There is no one in the Senate—even though many of us try—no one in the Senate who understands and expresses that better than Senator ROBERT C. BYRD. He understands what it means to be an American. He votes that way. For example, when the No Child Left Behind Act came up in the Senate before I was elected to this body, the legislation focused on reading and math. Senator BYRD insisted that the Senate bill include a $100 million authorization for the teaching of what he called traditional American history. Our seniors in high school are scoring lower on U.S. history than on any other subject. In other words, our high school seniors don't score lowest on math or science; they score lowest on U.S. history. Those are the worst scores our seniors have. In focusing on the need to do a better job of teaching history to young Americans, Senator BYRD is making an effort to make sure we remember where our country came from.

When I made my maiden speech and then introduced a modest bill to try to create summer academies for outstanding teachers and students of American history in 2003, Senator BYRD came to the floor. Senator BYRD cosponsored the bill, and then he showed the great compliment to me of showing up at the hearing before the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee to testify for the bill. As I said, it was my first year in the Senate; it was his 50th year in Congress.

So I congratulate him for his service. I congratulate him for his relationship with other Senators, his word being his bond, as it was in the example with Senator Baker, and I admire his work in helping to remind us in this body and all of us in this country of what it means to be an American. That will be one of his lasting legacies.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I cannot be in the Chamber on this somewhat historic day without recognizing the fact that one of our colleagues today becomes the longest serving Member of the U.S. Senate. Senator BOB BYRD is a special Member of this body and has been a good friend to all 99 current Members, as well as all the previous Members of the Senate who have had the pleasure of serving with him.

I will never forget the first week I was here making my rounds of the other Senators I did not know. When I came to Senator BYRD, he, of course, knew immediately who I was and engaged in a conversation about some facts regarding my service in the House and some other issues that were personal that let me know how much he cared about the Senate by taking the

time to research the background of individuals who become Members of the Senate.

I will always cherish the fact that during that conversation and in subsequent conversations I have had with him, he shared with me the fact that his favorite Member of the Senate has always been Senator Richard B. Russell of my home State. Senator Russell served in this body for 34 years, and I happen to hold the class of the seat of Senator Russell. I have an office in the Senate Russell Building. So I have a number of ties to Senator Russell, and I also have such great respect and admiration for him. To hear Senator BYRD talk in such glowing terms about a man from my State for whom I have such respect gave me a warm feeling about this man with whom I was about to engage in service in the Senate.

He is a remarkable man. He is a man who, without question, believes in the Constitution of the United States and thinks we ought to be more bold in our adherence to that Constitution.

In that respect, again, in that same first week I was here, I received in my office mail a copy of the U.S. Constitution from Senator BYRD, along with a letter from him saying that as a Member of the Senate, I should always remember that this has been our guiding light and has served us well during every single day that our country has been free and democratic.

As we help share and celebrate with him on this historic day, I extend my congratulations to him on his service to our country and his service in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, before the distinguished Senator departs, I thank him for his kind remarks and thank him for his service on the Armed Services Committee.

He mentioned Richard Russell. Indeed, he had many years of service on the Armed Services Committee. I know he would be very proud of what Senator CHAMBLISS has done to carry on the traditions which he instituted.

I earlier shared my respect for ROBERT BYRD and that great class of Senators with whom he worked in this institution, among them Harry F. Byrd, Sr., Richard B. Russell, and John Stennis. They were quite a team, and we have all learned from them. I must say, Senator CHAMBLISS carries on those traditions with his great State.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I congratulate my good friend, ROBERT C. BYRD, on becoming the longest serving Senator in American history. Senator BYRD is an institution within this institution that we all dearly love. For more than 47 years in the Senate, he has served America and his beloved West Virginia with firm purpose, confident that his work is to do their work. He has done it extraordinarily well.

Senator BYRD's place in history was assured long before this milestone. He is distinguished more by his love for the Senate than by the length of his service. Senator BYRD knows the history and rules of the Senate better than any of us serving today—perhaps better than anyone who has ever served this body. He has defended the traditions and prerogatives of the Senate as strongly as any Senator ever has. Senator BYRD reveres our Constitution, a copy of which he always carries in his pocket, and is as firmly committed to our Constitution as any American ever has been.

To just give one example, I saw that commitment in our work together against the line-item veto, which Congress passed and President Clinton signed into law in 1996. In the floor consideration of that bill, Senator BYRD illuminated the debate, as he so often does, by reaching back into history. He quoted the 18th century English jurist, Sir William Blackstone, who wrote:

> In all tyrannical governments, the supreme magistery, or the right of both making and enforcing the laws, is vested in one and the same man, or one and the same body of men. And wherever these two powers are united together, there can be no public liberty.

After the bill became law, despite that opposition, I joined Senator BYRD and Senator Moynihan in filing an amicus brief at the Supreme Court, arguing that the line-item veto was an unconstitutional surrender of legislative power to the executive branch. In June 1998, the Supreme Court agreed in a 6-to-3 decision. Senator BYRD came to the Senate floor, and he declared:

> This is a great day for the United States of America, a great day for the Constitution of the United States. Today we feel that the liberties of the American people have been assured. God save this honorable Court.

Well, we are honored to have this giant in the Senate—a true living legend—among us and guiding us in our daily work.

The determination with which Senator BYRD approaches his work in Washington is born of his devotion to the people of West Virginia.

Through his arduous work, he has brought needed infrastructure to an area that has lacked for economic development. He has fought, first and foremost, for the working people and particularly the coal miners of West Virginia. Just last week—I guess the week before now—the Senate passed the mine safety bill that he championed along with his colleague, Senator ROCKEFELLER. West Virginia has had no finer advocate in its history than ROBERT BYRD, a fact the State recognized when it selected him ''West Virginian of the 20th century.''

In addition to his service in the Senate, Senator BYRD has lived, and hopefully will continue to lead for many years, an amazing and an amazingly full life. He is a man of great abilities and many passions. He plays the fiddle, he reads the classics, he is a master orator, he has worked as a butcher and welder, he is a writer and historian, he has lived in a shack with no electricity, and now keeps the company of Presidents and of Kings.

He has known true and deep love with his cherished wife Erma whose birthday they would have celebrated today. His life and his love for the Senate and for the Constitution is exceeded only by his love for Erma.

When I was elected to the Senate in 1978, ROBERT BYRD was majority leader. The first vote I cast was on a Robert Byrd motion. And since that day, I have learned more about this institution from ROBERT BYRD than I have from anyone or from anywhere else. The greatest tribute we can pay to ROBERT BYRD is to stand firm for Senate procedures which have made the Senate the most notable place in the world of democratic institutions where the protection of minority rights to debate and to amend legislation are the most protected. There is no other place like the Senate in the world. It is here where the right to debate is given a privileged position, a protected position so that minority views can be aired fully and so that, hopefully, consensus can be arrived at rather than just simply adopted by prompt majority votes.

So that is the tribute we can all pay to ROBERT BYRD: to defend this institution, to stand for its procedures, and to carry, as he does, at least in our hearts, the Constitution, as he carries the Constitution on his body.

Congratulations to Senator BYRD on this historic milestone in his lifetime of service to our Nation and his now record length of service to the Senate of the United States.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I am pleased to come to the floor today to pay my personal tribute and the tribute of all Georgians to the service of ROBERT BYRD in the U.S. Senate. Today marks the 48th year of his service, and now, today, he is the longest serving U.S. Senator in history.

I am distinctly honored to be in Senate and to have been elected here, and there are many reasons why I am honored. But one of the most wonderful experiences since my election has been the chance to come to know ROBERT BYRD. He, obviously, is a legend. He, obviously, is a great orator. But he is also a wonderful human being.

On Fridays it is my occasion to preside over the U.S. Senate for 3 hours. As the other Members of the Senate know, on Friday mornings we are not always in business. Therefore, Friday is the day where a lot of Members come to make speeches about issues of importance to them and their constituents.

On occasion, I have had the chance to hear ROBERT BYRD make one of his famous Friday morning speeches, probably the most enjoyable of which took place three Fridays ago when I was presiding over the Senate. Senator BYRD arrived in the Chamber, asked for recognition, and then spoke, basically without notes, for 48 minutes. I remember counting the minutes because I did

not want it to be over because he gave his famous Mother's Day speech. He paid tribute to his mom and all moms in the United States of America.

ROBERT BYRD is a wonderful, unique institution, a man of great honor, great intellect, and great capacity.

One of my other great experiences since coming to the Senate has been to work with him on the bill we recently passed and is now on the President's desk, the mine safety bill. As chairman of the Subcommittee on Occupational Safety, it fell my lot to deal with the tragedies of the Sago mine disaster and subsequent disasters that took place in Kentucky.

Obviously, the Sago mine is in West Virginia, and I traveled to West Virginia and met with those mine families. But I also met with ROBERT BYRD on numerous occasions, talking about what we as the U.S. Senate could do to try to see to it that we reacted to where there might be shortcomings in the mine safety laws and to help institutionalize better practices not only in our inspections but in the operations of those mines.

With all the energy of a teenager, love and compassion for those widows, and with great effort on his own part, Senator BYRD worked closely with us over the last 6 months since that disaster, and a couple weeks ago we passed in this body—and the House passed 2 days later—the mine safety bill.

Today, mining is a safer profession because of ROBERT BYRD and his compassionate love for the people of West Virginia and the coal miners who work there.

I could go on and on telling personal stories, but I will not do that. I simply close by saying, of all the great distinctions and honors I have had to serve in this body, none is greater than to get to know the great man of great capacity and great compassion, the honorable ROBERT BYRD from the State of West Virginia—now the longest serving Senator in the history of the U.S. Senate.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD).

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, on January 3, 1959, ROBERT CARLYLE BYRD entered his first term as West Virginia's junior Senator. Today, June 12, 2006, after serving 17,327 days representing West Virginians, ROBERT C. BYRD is now the longest serving U.S. Senator in our Nation's great history. He has surpassed giants and legends of the Senate to be in a class by himself. Although his 47 plus years and 17,666 votes are what we celebrate today, we also know that he is just as much West Virginia's future as he has been part of its past.

During his tenure, Senator BYRD has brought over $1 billion to West Virginia's highways, dams, educational institutions, and more—earning him the moniker of West Virginia's billion-dollar industry. Senator BYRD has also created a number of other health care and educational opportunities across the State such as the Robert C. Byrd Center for Rural Health, based at Marshall University, the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center at West Virginia University, and the Scholastic Recognition Award for West Virginia's public and private school valedictorians. Senator BYRD's projects are so numerous it would take me hours to name them all; however, the improvements he has brought to West Virginia are immeasurable. And West Virginia's future is much brighter as a result of his years of service and his continued desire to work for our State.

His dedication to the people of West Virginia is unmatched, and in the years to come, we all look to Senator BYRD to continue to fight for a State that would have much less without him. Today he is working to secure a Federal prison in McDowell County, continuing to improve our State's highways, updating the safety laws for our miners, protecting the checks and balances in our government structure, securing our borders, and creating opportunities for the youth of West Virginia.

Sadly, this year, Senator BYRD lost a pillar of strength and the most beloved person in his life—his wife Erma Ora Byrd. When Senator BYRD earned his law degree while serving in Congress, Erma and his children sacrificed time with him for the betterment of our Nation. Erma served as a spiritual companion and as an emotional support for him. When elected as Majority Leader, many said that his life was the Senate, but those who know him, know that the love of his life and his eternal companion truly was Erma. Her values and strengths are those of all West Virginians. She was a coal miner's daughter and a daughter of Appalachia. She provided Senator BYRD with everything he needed throughout his life, and provided unfailing support during his lifetime of public service.

Senator BYRD's love for West Virginia and its people is extraordinary. Throughout his unprecedented public service in the West Virginia House of Delegates, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the U.S. Senate, ROBERT C. BYRD has never lost an election—a tribute to his resounding support in our State of West Virginia and something very few of his colleagues can say. One reason for this perfect record is that he never fails to work for the future of our State—he is on the cutting edge of West Virginia's needs, and he is fast to respond to new problems, such as border security, and homeland security, with new solutions.

Senator BYRD's contributions to this country extend far past West Virginia's mountains. He has served as a leader on the Senate Appropriations Committee, worked to create a Federal compensation system for black lung victims, worked to secure passage of the Panama Canal treaties, led the effort to pass legislation keeping the Social Security system solvent, worked to ratify the INF treaty with the Soviet Union, went to court to block the recently passed line-item veto, among many other historic pieces of legislation, treaties, nominations, and resolutions. Most recently, Senator BYRD has worked tirelessly to help pass the MINER Act in light of the tragedies at the Sago and Alma mines.

In addition to his stellar legislative record, Senator BYRD has been a proven leader in the Senate, holding more leadership positions in the Senate than any other Senator of any party in Senate history. He has held leadership positions including secretary of the Democratic Conference, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senate Democratic whip, Democratic leader, majority leader, and minority leader. On three occasions Senator ROBERT C. BYRD has served as President Pro Tempore of the Senate, demonstrating the tremendous amount of respect that the Senator has from his colleagues and placing him in direct line of succession to the Presidency.

Throughout his career, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD has remained a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend. A man of deep faith, his dedication to our country and our State is exceeded only by his dedication to his family. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Senator ROBERT C. BYRD for the incredible amount of time and effort he has given to our Nation and to the State of West Virginia. I know my colleagues join me in hoping that he will continue to serve West Virginia for many more years to come.•

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I want to add my voice in tribute and recognition of the continuing service of our distinguished colleague, the senior Senator from West Virginia, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD. Today he becomes the real dean of the Senate, the longest serving of all the 1,855 men and women who have served in this body.

It will not surprise any of my colleagues that others will make more of this remarkable milestone than the Senator from West Virginia himself. For him, Day 17,327 is just another day serving the people of West Virginia and the United States here in the Senate. But for the rest of us, this milestone recognizes not simply the length of Senator BYRD's tenure, but what he has done with that tenure.

The Senator from West Virginia brings a sense of history and perspective to the politics of the moment. He is as determined as anyone here to achieve his political goals, but his emphasis on the institution's history and prerogatives helps us place the immediate in a larger context. In that sense, he is not just a Senator, not just a colleague, but he is a teacher for the many Senators who have walked on this floor for the first time since he came here so long ago.

The Senator from West Virginia is truly an original. I ask my colleagues:

do you know anyone else who feels equally comfortable, giving a discourse on the Roman Senate and appearing on the television show ''Hee Haw''?

Many Senators, for example, receive academic degrees during their service in this body. Most, however, are honorary degrees. The Senator from West Virginia received a law degree from American University in 1963, but he earned it after taking night classes for a decade.

Senators have written books during their service in this body. The Senator from West Virginia, however, has written books about this body. He is widely known as the author of a four-volume work on the history of the U.S. Senate, published in 1987 for the Senate's bicentennial. Those are not simply history books. The project began as a series of speeches about this institution and its history, delivered right here on this Senate floor. A book about Senate history arising while participating in that history.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. Inside the front cover of volume two of his work on the Senate is a photograph of the Senator from West Virginia and his wife, whom he has so often simply called ''my dear Erma,'' standing on a staircase in the Senate. We all mourned Erma Byrd's passing just a few months ago and today would have been her birthday. That photograph was on the occasion of their 50th anniversary in 1987. I do not doubt that in his left breast pocket was that familiar copy of the U.S. Constitution which, I might add, was celebrating its own bicentennial that same year. How fitting that one photograph would capture these loves of his life, the institutions to which he was so committed: his marriage, the Constitution, and the Senate.

So much more could be said, but I just want to pay tribute and honor to my colleague of nearly 30 years, a man of character and integrity, a caring man passionately devoted to his faith, his family, and his country, a good man, a great Senator.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Senate's most enduring figure, Senator ROBERT BYRD, of West Virginia. Today marks the day that Senator BYRD becomes the longest serving member in the history of the U.S. Senate, with almost 50 years of senatorial experience. I extend to Senator BYRD my congratulations on this momentous occasion.

Born in 1917, Senator BYRD had a hardscrabble childhood. After the death of his parents when Senator BYRD was just 1 year old, he was raised by his aunt and uncle in various communities in West Virginia. He graduated at the top of his high school class in the 1930s, in the midst of the Great Depression. Taking work wherever he was able to find it, Senator BYRD pumped gas, sold produce, and cut meat. These jobs grounded Senator BYRD in the realities of the working world. During World War II, he became a welder and worked on the Liberty and Victory ships.

After the war, Senator BYRD began his political life with a successful run for the West Virginia House of Delegates. After serving two terms, Senator BYRD was elected to the West Virginia Senate, then to the U.S. House of Representatives. Finally, in 1958, Senator BYRD was elected to the U.S. Senate. He has subsequently been reelected by large margins again and again. In numerous elections, he has carried all 55 counties in West Virginia and in 2000 carried nearly every precinct in the State, an unheard of achievement. Additionally, Senator BYRD has held more positions in the Senate leadership than any other Senator in the history of the institution, including 12 years as Democratic Leader.

While outside of the Senate Chamber, Senator BYRD became the first member to initiate and complete the courses needed for a law degree while simultaneously serving in Congress by taking night classes from American University over the course of 10 years. In May 2001, Senator BYRD was named ''West Virginian of the 20th Century'' by Gov, Bob Wise and both houses of the West Virginia Legisature. He is also blessed with two daughters, six grandchildren, and five-great granddaughters.

I am pleased to recognize my colleague, Senator BYRD, on this historic day. The work he has done throughout his life has bestowed countless benefits to the people of West Virginia and to the Nation. It is a pleasure to work with such a creative and dedicated lawmaker, and I once again congratulate Senator BYRD on reaching this milestone.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate my longtime friend and colleague, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD, on his landmark accomplishment of becoming the longest serving member of the U.S. Senate. Today is Senator BYRD's 17,327th day in office—that is 48 years. And he is still going strong—gearing up for his race for a ninth term this fall.

Senator BYRD's life shows the power of America's unique opportunity structure. His mother died when he was a baby. He was raised by his aunt and uncle, a coal miner, during the Great Depression. In his early life, he worked pumping gas, cutting meat, and even welding war ships in various ports—including in my own hometown of Baltimore. Yet Senator BYRD never forgot his roots, and he never forgot those miners. In fact, his new mine safety legislation—the MINER Act—just passed the Senate last week. Like me, he stands up for the little guy.

Senator BYRD and I have a long history together. When I first came to the Senate in 1986, one of the people who was most welcoming to me was Senator BYRD. I reached out to him. I told him I not only wanted to be a fighter—I wanted to be an effective player. I wanted to be there not only to change the law books. I wanted to be sure there was money in the Federal checkbook for my State and for the national priorities that would help ordinary families. ROBERT BYRD said to me, ''You should come on my Appropriations Committee.''

Senator BYRD helped me become the first woman on the Appropriations Committee and one of the first freshman members of the Senate on the Appropriations Committee. With Senator BYRD as the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee and I as a member, we have been working together ever since to build coalitions to get things done.

Senator BYRD's home State of West Virginia is right next door to Maryland. We share a common border—with Allegheny, Garret, and parts of Washington Counties just across the State line in Western Maryland. But we share more than a common border. We share a common set of values—rooted in faith, family commitment and patriotism.

Senator BYRD is no stranger to breaking records. He has done this before. He has already cast more votes and held more leadership positions—including serving as minority leader for 6 years and serving two stints as President pro tempore—than any other U.S. Senator in history. Today's record is further evidence of Senator BYRD's unwavering dedication to his State. When asked about this accomplishment, Senator BYRD told the press: ''Records are fine. But what's important is what I do for the people of West Virginia. They are the ones who sent me here 48 years ago.'' It is this dedication that keeps the people of West Virginia voting for Senator BYRD. I like to say that I am the ''Senator from Maryland and for Maryland,'' and it is this kind of shared value that makes me feel so close to Senator BYRD.

So today—June 12, 2006—we congratulate Senator ROBERT C. BYRD for his historic contributions to his State and to our Nation.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a longtime friend and colleague, the esteemed senior Senator from West Virginia, Senator ROBERT BYRD. This is a historic day in his career and a historic day in the history of the Senate. Today Senator BYRD adds to his many accomplishments and honors the distinction of becoming the longest-serving Member in Senate history.

Senator BYRD's years of service to this country are an inspiration to all of us. His lifelong devotion to the institution of the Senate sets an example that we can only try to emulate. For almost half a century, he has been a tireless advocate for the people of West Virginia and the Nation. He believes that government can improve the lives of the citizens that it serves, and that we can all be advocates for justice. We are better Senators and better citizens when we attempt to live up to the legacy that he has established.

I first worked with Senator BYRD during the early days of my husband's

administration. At the time, he had already served in the Senate for 34 years. I remember him being stately and silver-haired when we met. He was already the unofficial historian of the Senate, famous for standing in the well of the Chamber and dazzling his colleagues with quotations from the classics. I also learned then that he was a strict disciplinarian when it came to procedural rules and decorum, a quality that he retains to this day.

It is his devotion to the institution of the Senate that has made him a mentor to so many of us, and I am honored to include myself among the ranks of those who he has counseled.

When I was elected to the Senate, it took me only a minute to conclude that I should start my preparation by going to see the great sage and historian of the Senate, Senator BYRD.

To this day I still very fondly remember the visit that I paid to Senator BYRD's office in the Capitol in late November of 2000. I will be forever indebted to him for the guidance that he provided when I first came to the Senate.

Of course, I am not the only recipient of his kind advice and guidance. In fact, Senator BYRD has codified his vast knowledge of the history of the Senate into a multi-volume book. The four volumes published in 1989, 1991, 1993 and finally in 1995 were a labor of love for Senator BYRD. They will continue to be a resource and a treasure for many generations to come.

And let me tell you what Senator ROBERT BYRD did for the people of New York in the aftermath of the attack on lower Manhattan in 2001.

After that terrible day, the White House sent up a supplemental spending bill to finance the war, and there was not a single penny in it for New York. I told the President of the United States in the Oval Office that we were going to need at least $20 billion to rebuild Ground Zero.

And thanks to the leadership and dedication of Senator BYRD, who chaired the Appropriations Committee at that time, we got that funding for New York. Thanks to his commitment, our firefighters, police officers, first responders, and volunteers who came to the rescue that day will have some help as they continue to cope with the health effects of exposure to the site.

Because of Senator BYRD's efforts, where once a pile of rubble stood, one day a tower will stand.

Because of Senator BYRD, our businesses and homeowners who lost everything are on the road to recovery.

As Senator BYRD has himself said, New York gained a third Senator on that day, and we are unquestionably better off for it.

ROBERT BYRD was born in North Wilkesboro, NC, and raised in West Virginia by his aunt and uncle. He is an avid fiddler, steeped in the rich musical traditions of the Appalachian folk life. He grew up in the coal mining community that he proudly defends today. As a member of the HELP Committee, I continue to be impressed by his vigilance on behalf of the coal miners of West Virginia and elsewhere in the Nation.

He was first elected to this Senate in 1958. He became a member of the Senate leadership in 1967, when he was selected to be secretary of the Democratic Conference. He was chosen to be Senate Democratic whip in 1971 and Democratic leader in 1977. He has held more leadership positions in the Senate than any other Member in Senate history.

Through all of his years of Senate service, there was one person who was always by his side, as his partner, friend, and as he said on many occasions, his teacher.

Erma Ora James was born in Floyd County, VA, and moved from there to the coal mines of West Virginia with her family. It was there that she met ROBERT BYRD at Mark Twain High School over 70 years ago. He first tried to woo her with gifts of bubble gum that he took from a classmate and stored up for her. And apparently it worked, because they became high school sweethearts and were married on May 29, 1937. Over the years, their family grew to include two daughters, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

It is a tradition of Senator BYRD's to go to the floor of the Senate each Mother's Day and pay tribute to the Nation's mothers. When he does that he has often mentioned Erma and the joy that they shared together for so many years.

They had been married nearly 69 years when she passed away 3 months ago on March 15, 2006, after a long illness. Theirs has been called one of the great American love stories.

On his 63rd wedding anniversary he went to the Senate floor and said of her, ''I have to frankly say that what little I have amounted, if it is anything much, I owe for the most part to [Erma.]'' I know that today, as his colleagues who respect and admire him so very much come to the floor to praise his service in the Senate, Erma is looking down on us as well.

It is truly an honor to serve in the Senate with Senator BYRD. I wish him all the best on this day and I look forward to continuing our work together on behalf of the American people.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOND). Morning business is closed.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 3 o'clock having arrived, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S. 2766, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2766) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if there is no one seeking recognition, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, we are now on the bill. Is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent if I may depart from the bill to speak as if in morning business regarding our distinguished colleague, Senator ROBERT BYRD of West Virginia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. WARNER are printed in the RECORD under ''Morning Business.'')

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, to accommodate Members, we will be on the bill for some period of time. I will be joined by the distinguished ranking member, Mr. LEVIN, shortly after 5 o'clock today. In the meantime, we are open for statements.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I appreciate this.

I rise today to discuss several noteworthy provisions in the fiscal year 2007 Defense authorization bill. I will provide an overview of a couple of amendments I will offer.

First, I commend the managers of this bill, Senators JOHN WARNER and CARL LEVIN, for the work they have put into this legislation. I also recognize in a public way the fine work Chairman WARNER has done. I have had an opportunity to work with the chairman both as a member of the Committee on Armed Services, and after leaving that committee to serve on the Committee on Appropriations. I found Senator WARNER certainly has been very gracious and helpful on many issues and has certainly kept the men and women of the Armed Forces primary in his mind.

It is comprehensive and addresses many of the issues important to our Armed Forces. Indeed, many of the provisions in this bill are essential to the health and well being of our soldiers and are needed in order to defeat terrorism and defend our Nation from future attacks.

In the missile defense arena, for example, the Senate Armed Services Committee took several steps to encourage the Department of Defense to focus on near-term missile defense systems over longer-term next generation

systems. I support this direction and agree that MDA is not investing enough time and money in those systems that may be able to provide limited defense capability in the near term.

I personally believe we need to be conducting more tests within the missile defense mid-course intercept program. Although the Missile Defense Agency will be conducting two flight intercepts later this year, the agency only requested funding for one intercept in fiscal year 2007. This test plan is insufficient in my eyes and should be greatly expanded.

We need to conduct many more flight intercepts, much more often. We need to be challenging the system with our tests and working on the areas we need improve upon. I do not expect perfection. In fact, I expect some failures. But, in the context of several missile defense intercepts tests per year, one or two failures only means that we are pushing to find out the real capabilities of the system. They do not mean missile defense is not possible.

The bottom line here is that I do expect for the Missile Defense Agency to try. We all know that hit-to-kill technology works. We have used it successfully in the Patriot and Aegis Programs. We now need to further develop the mid-course system and introduce greater capability to that system.

Let me turn to another provision in the Senate version of the defense authorization bill that I thought was appropriate and deserved mention. That provision pertained to the Department's request for $127 million for the development and procurement of Trident conventional submarine launched ballistic missiles. Under the Pentagon's proposal, the Navy would equip several of its Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines with Trident missiles tipped with conventional warheads.

These missiles are intended to give the President a real option for a responsive, global strike capability in the short term.

I support the concept of developing a conventional ballistic missile capable of reaching almost any target in the world in under an hour. In an era when targets of opportunity shift rapidly, there is a real need for systems that can reach these targets within narrow time frames. A conventional ballistic missile is perhaps the best option for this purpose in the near term.

That being said, this is still a very new concept, and the Department of Defense has yet to work out all the details. Of particular concern is the fact that the Department is still developing a variety of transparency, confidence building, and operational measures to ensure, there is no confusion about our intentions. The last thing we want is for Russia or China to think we are launching a nuclear strike when we use one of these submarine-launched conventional missiles.

To address this concern, the Senate Armed Services Committee included a provision in this bill that prohibits the expenditure of this funding until the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State submit a joint report that discusses potential alternatives, describes the discrimination capabilities of other nations, and states how the United States would work with other nations to prevent an inadvertent nuclear attack by another country.

I believe this provision is a reasonable approach to this issue and still allows the Department of Defense to go forward with the development and procurement of this system. I think there might be other less challenging global strike options available, such as land-based conventional ballistic missiles in California or Guam, so I look forward to the Department's discussion about possible alternatives.

I next wish to address the Senate Armed Services Committee's decision to increase by $30 million the Department of Defense buffer zone conservation projects account. These projects help military bases around the country address the growing problem of encroachment from residential and industrial development. At Fort Carson, CO, we have seen the fruits of conservation projects such as those funded under this account.

Fort Carson's southeastern and southern borders are now protected with money from this account. I believe as more conservation projects come on line, competition for the funding in this account will grow exponentially. We needed extra money to meet this demand, and the funding provided by this bill is a step in the right direction.

Now let me turn to another provision in the bill that I think should be highlighted. Section 372 provides the Secretary of Defense with authority to include incentivized clauses in contracts for the destruction of chemical weapons within the U.S. stockpile.

To my extreme disappointment, the Department of Defense announced last April that it most likely would not be able to comply with our treaty obligations under the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention. I was displeased by this announcement because the way the Department had managed its chemical demilitarization program virtually assured our Nation's noncompliance.

Nevertheless, I still believe if we use the incentivized contracts this section provides, we might be able to complete the destruction of our chemical weapons stockpile earlier than what is currently expected. Those contractors who can meet a more aggressive schedule should be rewarded for their effort. At the same time, I believe that the penalties for safety or environmental violations should also be increased.

At Rocky Flats, a former Department of Energy plutonium pit production facility located just outside of Denver, we have seen the value of these contracts. This facility was initially expected to cost as much as $70 billion and take over 30 years to clean up. The Department of Energy was able to find a contractor who was willing to accelerate the contract in return for a huge incentive. I am pleased to tell you today that the contractor safely completed the cleanup of Rocky Flats last December, over a year ahead of schedule and several hundred million dollars under budget.

This incentive provision puts the Department of Defense in position to use similar contracts to encourage contractors to finish earlier and cheaper than expected while protecting the environment and ensuring safety. I strongly support it and commend the managers of the bill for including it in the bill before us.

The last provision I would like to discuss is section 911. This provision creates an office for the management and acquisition of operationally responsive space capabilities. I support this provision because the Department of Defense has not done enough to investigate the value of operationally responsive space.

One of the reasons why this has occurred is because of the absence of a dedicated office to manage our operationally responsive space, known as ORS, efforts. The GAO recently reported that the absence of a strategic direction within the Department on operationally responsive space activities was hindering the program. This provision solves that problem and should encourage the Department to move forward with ORS types of systems.

Over the next couple of days, I plan to offer several amendments which I hope will be accepted by the managers of this bill. Most of these amendments should be noncontroversial and helpful but are important to the global war against terror and to helping the families of our servicemembers. I look forward to working with Chairman WARNER and Senator LEVIN so we can get these amendments cleared as quickly as possible.

Again, I thank the chairman of the Armed Services Committee for his exceptionally good work on this bill. I know he has put in hours of thought and deliberation on this bill, and his committee, working with him, has done a good job.

So, I say to the Senator, I want to recognize that I believe this is your last year as the chairman of the Armed Services Committee because of our term limits, and I am sorry to see you have to step down because I think you have done a tremendous job as chairman. Again, I appreciate the opportunity to work with you as chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALEXANDER). The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, before the Senator parts the floor, I say thank you for your kind remarks.

Yes, I do graciously and willingly step down. It is the rules of our caucus, and I respect that. But it has been a marvelous opportunity for me to have

this 6 years, and, indeed, a year or 2 before that as chairman. But I want to particularly comment on the long association and continued association of the senior Senator from Colorado with respect to issues of national security. The Senator has served on our committee, I think, about 8 years.

How many years?

Mr. ALLARD. Six years, I believe, yes.

Mr. WARNER. That is correct. And you are distinguished in your steadfastness on the subject of missile defense and how to protect this country. How many times have you taken the floor and asked and received silence from the Senate: Do we have one—one—system that can knock down an intercontinental ballistic missile should we have the misfortune, be it accidental or otherwise, to have it targeted against our country? There has been silence in this Chamber until we started the missile defense program, and you steadfastly fought for that.

I say to the Senator, I also commend you for Rocky Flats. Year after year after year, you shepherded through the Senate, in the appropriations cycle, the funds to do that because of not just the importance of Rocky Flats but the importance of the overall program, what we call the cleanup program, the environmental program, in the Department of Defense to clean up a lot of the former military installations and particularly those associated with the production of fissionable material.

So I commend the Senator.

Mr. ALLARD. I thank the chairman. We do these things by working together as a team, and the Senator is a great team leader. I appreciate all the support of my efforts in trying to get some of these things done. The Chairman has always set a good example for the rest of us by way of his diligence and working through legislation. So I want to thank him publicly for a job well done.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank my distinguished colleague.

Mr. President, it is my privilege to bring forward on behalf of the Armed Services Committee, and now on behalf of all of our colleagues, the annual Defense authorization bill. I do so with my longtime colleague and dear friend of 28 years serving on this committee, the senior Senator from Michigan, Mr. CARL LEVIN, who is currently the ranking member of the committee. He has been a working partner of mine, and I have been a working partner of his. He was once chairman of this committee. We have always been able to put aside such differences that we may have. I respect his difference of views, and he respects mine. We work as a team on behalf of our committee and all of our colleagues in producing this annual bill, and in all of these 28 years we have been together.

I thank all members of the Armed Services Committee. We have one of the larger committees. I thank our senior staff, particularly Mr. Charles Abell, my current chief of staff, and Rick DeBobes, the current chief of staff of the minority, and each and every one of their team, because it is a team effort. Our committee, I think almost more so than any others I know of, relies on this professional staff. It is really a professional staff that we have, in many respects, to put together this bill.

The bill before the Senate was unanimously reported out of the committee on May 9 after holding 36 hearings and receiving numerous policy and operational briefings on the President's budget request for fiscal year 2007 and related Defense issues. I commend my colleagues for their hard work and the swift manner in which they contributed to developing and writing this important legislation, not only at the hearings we had but in the subcommittee structure that worked so effectively to produce this bill.

Since the Armed Services Committee reported out this legislation, the United States remains engaged in the global war on terrorism, now in its fifth year.

Currently, the central battlegrounds in the war on terrorism are in Iraq and Afghanistan. But there are many, many other areas throughout the world where quietly, yet no less effectively, the men and women of the Armed Forces are stationed and joining in this collective effort of all uniformed personnel to perform the duties necessary to let this country remain free and those of our allies in the face of this terrorist threat.

It is so important, as we go through this bill, to pay our respects collectively to the men and women in uniform and their many civilian counterparts. There is an enormous cadre of civilians in the Department of Defense and serving elsewhere who are alongside the uniformed men and women throughout the world. But I want to pay particular respect to the Guard and Reserve who have risen to the call far beyond expectations in these conflicts of terrorism and have done their duties time and time again with great honor and distinction.

For each of the countries, the road to peace and stability and democracy has been marked by historical milestones, including a referendum in both Iraq and Afghanistan that adopted a constitution, elections that chose a democratically elected representative government, the formation of a unity government, and progress in building security forces capable of protecting their nation's freedom. Those are landmark and historical accomplishments in the course of world history, and they would not have been achievable without the sacrifices—regrettably, the loss of life, the loss of limb—by so many men and women in the Armed Forces and the support their families, by their side, have given them.

These accomplishments in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the global war on terrorism are a tribute to the dedication and skills of our uniformed men and women who are willing to respond to the call of duty, and to the military leaders who lead them.

The successes achieved in Iraq and Afghanistan have come at a great sacrifice, as I said, in life and limb. These sacrifices and service of our men and women in uniform have also removed obstacles to freedom and democracy in regions of the Middle East and elsewhere in Asia.

Throughout my many years of service I have never seen—and I repeat, I go back some 60 years, to the closing year of World War II, when I was a young 17, 18-year-old sailor—but I have had the privilege of being associated with the men and women in uniform in these 60-plus years, and we have never as a nation witnessed a finer, more dedicated professional force, both Active and Guard and Reserve, than we have today.

As I look back over the history of the U.S. Armed Forces, the challenges and responsibilities have never been greater than those that rest upon the shoulders of today's generation of the military—their leaders, their civilian leaders in the Department of Defense, with the Secretary of Defense and others, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Energy—all of this team that puts together our national security.

As such, we must take our responsibilities equally as serious to ensure that those who serve have the resources and authorities they need to win the global war on terrorism.

Again, drawing on my modest contribution in active service during World War II and again in Korea and time in the Reserve, I must say, it is so different, in this span of over a half century that I have had the privilege to be associated with these men and women, the challenges that face them today. In World War II we knew precisely who the enemy was. We knew the nations that sponsored the aggression. We knew generally the capabilities of their military, and we knew with greater specificity what we needed to do in America to arm ourselves, first and foremost, with the finest trained men and women—16 million responded in World War II to serve in uniform—and the equipment that they needed.

But today's war on terrorism is largely nonstate-sponsored. We do not know the origins of the hatred that is in the minds of those people who proudly claim the role of terrorist, what it is that engenders that hate such that they wish to strike out, often sacrificing their own life to do harm to those who love and cherish freedom. That is a particular challenge that our young men and women face today, unlike any other conflict of the magnitude we are now engaged in in Afghanistan and Iraq principally, unlike any other conflict in the history of our country. Therefore, we ask much of that individual in uniform today.

It is our privilege as Members of this venerable and distinguished Senate to,

at least once each time every year, and then, of course, in the subsequent appropriations process, provide nothing but the finest equipment obtainable, fair pay and allowances and health care and other requirements that the young men and women and their families of the Armed Forces so richly deserve. What a privilege it is to do that.

With our Armed Forces deployed in distant battlefields and countless others standing watch at home, we are committed to providing the necessary resources and authorities for each of them and their families.

Accordingly, this bill provides $467.7 billion overall in budget authority for fiscal year 2007—that is an enormous sum of money—an increase of $26.2 billion or 4.1 percent in real terms over the amount authorized by Congress for fiscal year 2006; additionally, $50 billion in emergency supplemental funding for fiscal year 2007 for activities in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and elsewhere in the global war on terrorism.

That is a new concept unlike any I have experienced in the early years in this Chamber, where we literally put in a block sum of money. Since we cannot anticipate with full specificity the needs and special requirements that flow from these operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is prudent and a necessary plan.

The bill further includes many important legislative provisions that would set forth critical policies for the Department of Defense. I would like to highlight a few provisions that would continue to support the modernization and transformation of the Armed Forces and highlight other provisions that would strengthen interagency operations abroad and at home.

The Secretary of Defense, Mr. Rumsfeld, is to be commended. When he first came to office we had no way of envisioning the magnitude of the war on terrorism. But he set in place the transformation, particularly of the United States Army but other areas of the Department of Defense. And that same transformation and modernization has gone ahead largely parallel to the efforts that we have undertaken in the actual combat of the world war on terrorism.

First of all, my colleagues and I on the committee and others in the Senate remain particularly concerned about the size of the Navy's fleet. In the past 15 years, there has been a declining trend in shipbuilding and a diminishing capacity in the shipbuilding industrial base. The fleet has been reduced to its smallest size since before World War II in terms of number of ships. There are fewer ships today than before World War II. That is an accurate statistic. But it would be incorrect if I didn't say that the smaller number of ships that we have today far exceeds the capabilities of the ships that we had when we entered World War II. So it is not just a numbers game. But it is interesting to point out that statistic in terms of the numbers.

The fleet has been reduced as a result of budget necessities and the extraordinary cost of the individual ships. That has dictated fewer ships, regrettably. But the current Chief of Naval Operations and the current Secretary of the Navy are determined to try, together with the support of the Congress, to turn that curve around and begin to increase the number of ships in the Navy. The time has come to reverse that current trend, and I commend the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, Chief of Naval Operations, and all others working to try to reverse the trend. Indeed, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Gordon England, former Secretary of the Navy, has been at the helm in trying to increase the size and number of the United States Navy. Each of those individuals is mindful of what the Constitution says. It is the duty of the Congress to maintain—I repeat, maintain—at all times a United States Navy, and then an Army and the size of the Army in accordance with what the needs are. We raise that Army depending upon the threats facing the country. But it is interesting that the Framers clearly recognized the importance of this Nation having maritime supremacy, which we do have today.

In many respects, we are an island nation—yes, bordered by our friends to the north, Canada, and our neighbors to the south. But nevertheless, with two mighty oceans on either side, it is imperative that this country maintain maritime superiority. So we worked diligently to strengthen the shipbuilding program and the industrial base which provides us those ships.

We fund the construction this year of eight warships, one above the President's request, and two new warship classes, the DDX destroyer and LHA(R) amphibious assault ship. We implement a long-range plan for the procurement of three ships of the future aircraft carrier class CVN–21 to improve the affordability of the future aircraft carrier class by authorizing multiple ship material procurements over 4-year increments. So that ship, indeed, is coming to life. The parts are being brought together to build that mighty warship of the future, the CVN–21.

We lay the groundwork to increase the submarine build rate to ensure our continued underseas superiority and increase our investment in the National Shipbuilding Research Program. The bill also includes a provision that would increase investment in unmanned systems to provide more flexible capabilities to the warfighter by requiring the Secretary of Defense to develop a departmentwide policy for development and operation of unmanned systems.

I am very proud of the record of our committee in encouraging the use here year after year of great numbers of unmanned platforms and to provide the research and development to achieve more new platforms. The recent extraordinary military accomplishment of, at long last, putting to rest the threat from Zarqawi was made possible by the use of an unmanned system in part, together with all elements of our intelligence collection, both military and civilian, and, indeed, finally the execution of a plan with great professionalism by those flying aircraft and those manning ground responsibilities. We will have further to say about that operation as this bill proceeds.

The bill further includes a provision that would continue the development and sustainment of the Joint Strike Fighter Program. After holding 2 days of hearings, I remain concerned that relying on a sole engine supplier for single-engine aircraft to do multiple missions for multiple services and multiple nations presents, indeed, a very serious challenge to the industrial base, the designers, and the manufacturers and all involved. I felt that we could not take the risk of this important program by limiting the engine base to but one single consortium of companies; rather, that we should have the two.

This concern is not a new one that I share, nor is it a concern of mine alone. Ten years ago, a decade ago, I and other colleagues on the Armed Services Committee expressed concern regarding the lack of engine competition for aircraft. In response to that concern, the committee included a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1996 that directed the Secretary of Defense to ''evaluate at least two propulsion concepts from competing engine companies.'' Now a decade later, my colleagues and I on the committee continue to have that same concern, and we want to have competition for this engine, in the development of this engine and eventually in the manufacture, because competition historically has produced a better product.

Competition requires both competitors to constantly try to improve the technology of the engine, constantly to try to find means to reduce the cost of the engine. This is an enormously expensive program. Hopefully, we will procure more than several thousand airframes of different types, some to operate on carriers, some from land, some a mix, some with destall capabilities.

It is essential that the magnitude and complexity of this program rest on a solid foundation of propulsion, propulsion provided by two very competent and capable industrial base consortiums competing not only in cost but the continuing competition of design to perfect the best engine man and woman can make for this complicated aircraft. I am proud of what the committee has achieved on this program.

Therefore, the bill includes a provision that would add $400.8 million—that is not in the President's budget but in the committee's mark, now the bill before the Senate—for the development of the interchangeable engine during fiscal year 2007. Two models will

continue to strongly compete, one by one consortium, another by a second consortium of manufacturers. Indeed, I think by doing that we better serve those nations which have signed up and committed their dollars to the development of this aircraft, nations that are dependent upon this aircraft being designed and built and at a cost that they can afford.

We direct the Secretary of Defense to continue the development and sustainment of the Joint Strike Fighter Program with two competitive propulsion systems throughout the life of the aircraft or enter into a one-time, firm-fixed price contract for a single propulsion system throughout the life of the aircraft.

In addition to modernizing and transforming the Armed Forces to meet current and future threats, we must also strengthen interagency operations abroad and at home. The challenges posed by the Second World War led to increasingly more joint and combined operations within the U.S. military.

Now operations have become more interagency and coalition in nature and will be for the foreseeable future. The success of the U.S. efforts in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere in the global war on terrorism will depend on coordinating all instruments of our national power to achieve peace and security in troubled regions around the world.

This will include deploying civilian personnel of each agency of our Government with expertise in the areas of rule of law and administration of justice, economic development, and civil administration to partner with U.S. military forces in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations to secure hard-won military successes and to preserve peace and freedom.

To strengthen interagency operations and to provide greater flexibility in the U.S. Government's ability to partner with nations in fighting terrorism, the bill includes provisions that would require the President to develop a plan to establish interagency operating procedures for Federal agencies to plan and conduct stabilization and reconstruction operations; provide to the heads of all executive branch agencies the same authorities the Secretary of State has with respect to providing allowances, benefits, and death gratuities for Foreign Service or civilian personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan; expand authorities for geographic combatant commanders to train and equip foreign military forces, and to provide urgent humanitarian relief and reconstruction assistance to foreign nations; expand authority to the Department to lease or lend equipment for personnel protection and survivability to our allies and coalition partners; and expand authority to provide logistics support, supplies, and services to our allies and coalition partners.

With the increased role of the Armed Forces in homeland security, I also remain concerned about whether current authorities on the use of the Armed Forces are adequate to deal with a serious or widespread breakdown in public order caused by a terrorist attack or natural disaster. The bill includes a provision that would update the provision in title 10 known as the Insurrection Act to clarify the President's authority to use the Armed Forces to restore order and enforce Federal laws in cases where, as a result of a terrorist attack, epidemic, or natural disaster, public order has broken down beyond the ability of local law enforcement or the State Guard, or a combination thereof, to effectively bring about law and order.

To more effectively support local, state, Federal agencies in response to manmade or natural disasters, the bill includes provisions that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to approve the deployment of Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams to Canada and Mexico, if requested.

We have perfectly equipped teams—at least one for each State—to deal with these problems. We should share them with our neighbors to the north and to the south, if so requested.

It would expand the types of emergencies for which the Secretary of Defense may prepare or employ Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams; and add $13.5 million to provide for the training and equipment of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams.

They were a concept developed in the Armed Services Committee, and I am very proud. It has taken us many years to get the funding stream to provide these teams so they cover adequately the best we can equally all 50 States.

These are just a few of the essential authorities among the more than 300 provisions included in this year's bill. I believe the National Defense Authorization Bill for Fiscal Year 2007 sustains the advances made in recent years, and provides the necessary investments to prepare for the security of our Nation in the future.

I urge my colleagues to debate this bill in a constructive manner and to bring forth those amendments which you believe would further strengthen this bill. They will be fairly considered, I assure you. Therefore, I am anxious that this bill be established and passed by the Senate, having been amended where it is necessary. It has been the tradition of the Senate for 45 years to pass this bill each year.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to offer opening remarks on the 2007 National Defense Authorization bill. Chairman WARNER and Ranking Member LEVIN, as well as the entire committee, worked very hard during the markup process to produce a bill that would support our troops and would provide what our military needs to fight and win the global war on terrorism, and I am pleased to say this bill does just that. This bill provides our service men and women with the resources necessary to continue the war on terrorism, keep our country safe, and will greatly improve the quality of life for our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, as well as their families.

Despite what one reads or hears in the news sometimes, it is absolutely clear to me that we are winning this war on terrorism; specifically, that we are winning the war in Iraq. I have heard recently from soldiers of the Third Infantry Division at Fort Benning, GA, about the great progress they made during their recent deployment to Diyala Province in Iraq. Over the course of their year there, the security situation in Diyala Province improved dramatically, as did the rule of law and the presence and capability of Iraqi security forces and police.

As we all know today, Diyala Province was where U.S. forces found and killed the leader of the anti-Iraqi insurgence, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, and I believe it was the hard work that the Third ID did in improving the security and developing relationships with the Iraqis in Diyala Province that allowed for the intelligence and network of information that allowed our forces to track Zarqawi down. I am very proud of the situation of the members of the Third ID in that effort.

We need to realize this is hard work that all of our troops are doing in Iraq and that successes often take a long time. But if we stick with it and follow the course we are on, that success will come, and this operation against Zarqawi proves this is the case.

Mr. President, having been briefed in the Intelligence Committee at the end of last week on the takedown of Zarqawi, I think it is one of the great successes, without question, we have seen in this war. Military operations are often sophisticated. The planning is very detailed, and that was exactly the case in this situation. It was a perfectly executed plan that was carried out by our military that allowed Zarqawi—one of the meanest, nastiest killers ever to inhabit this Earth—to be taken down.

We absolutely must stay the course and finish the job because the future of the Middle East, as well as our own future security, lies in the balance. I believe there might be some amendments filed to this bill that seek to immediately withdraw troops or set a timetable for troop withdrawal. Clearly, both these approaches are extremely unwise, and I hope my colleagues will join me in voting down those amendments overwhelmingly.

Related to some specific issues in the bill, I have received numerous letters and phone calls from both Active-Duty soldiers and retirees who are concerned with the proposed increases in TRICARE premiums. So I am pleased to see that the Senate bill does not approve DOD's proposed increases in TRICARE Prime enrollment fees. In my home State of Georgia, there are a large number of military personnel and retirees living in rural areas where quality health care is often not as readily available as in more urban areas. This bill will help to improve health care access for those individuals by authorizing incentive payments for civilian health care providers who provide services to TRICARE beneficiaries in rural and medically underserved areas. This is a good provision, and I commend the chairman and ranking member for its inclusion.

This legislation will authorize $45 million in supplemental education funding for local school districts that are heavily impacted by the presence of military personnel and families, including $30 million for impact aid, $5 million for educational services to severely disabled children, and an additional $10 million for districts experiencing rapid increases in the number of students due to rebasing, activation of new military units, or base realignment and closure.

This provision is of particular importance to my State. As a result of the 2005 base closure and realignment round, Fort Benning and the school systems in the surrounding area will experience an influx of approximately 10,000 students into their school systems over the next several years as new troops arrive.

This funding will ensure that areas such as Fort Benning have the facilities and teachers in place to provide the children of our Armed Forces members with a top-notch education when they do arrive.

This bill also requires DOD to report to Congress on their plan for working with other Federal agencies and local school districts to accommodate this growth. Unfortunately, DOD has been slow to recognize the burden that such unprecedented growth places on small communities, and it is important that DOD do the necessary planning and coordination in advance to ensure that military families are taken care of when they move to a new installation.

During the war in Iraq, our intra- and inter-theater airlift assets have gone above and beyond the call of duty and have been used at a much greater rate than we ever planned to use them. These airplanes played the critical role of airlifting supplies, vehicles, and other equipment to our troops. In order to recapitalize some of the losses and overuse of these airlift assets, this bill authorizes $2.6 billion for strategic airlift capability, including an increase of two C–17 aircraft above the budget request and advance procurement for continued C–17 production. These are superb airplanes and have proven to be extremely reliable and, along with the C–130, have become the backbone of the airlift fleet.

This bill also provides a well-deserved pay raise of 2.2 percent for all military personnel effective January 1, 2007, and approves targeted pay raises for midcareer and senior enlisted personnel and warrant officers effective April 1, 2007. I have heard directly from troops in the field and personnel at Georgia military installations about how important these targeted pay raises are to retaining our men and women in uniform in the service and taking advantage of their hard-to-replace skills. So I commend the chairman and ranking member for including this provision in the bill.

In order to clarify the role and use of the Armed Forces for domestic use during natural disasters or other events, the bill also includes a provision that would update the Insurrection Act to make explicit the President's authority to use the Armed Forces to restore order and enforce Federal law in cases where public order has been broken. In light of Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes along the gulf coast last year, this provision is especially important in clarifying the role that Federal troops have in these situations.

I am also pleased that the committee adds $1.4 billion for the F–22A aircraft in order to fully fund procurement of 20 aircraft, as well as fully fund the C–130J multiyear contract which this committee has worked so hard to support, even as the contract is restructured from a commercial to a traditional contract.

This is a good bill that the Chairman and ranking member have crafted with the needs of our troops and the national security of our Nation foremost in their minds. I hope my colleagues will join me in expeditiously considering this legislation so that our men and women in uniform can get the equipment, the benefits, and the support they need and deserve.

(The remarks of Mr. CHAMBLISS and Mr. WARNER are printed in today's RECORD under ''Morning Business.'')

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wish to comment on the F–22. It is a magnificent aircraft. It is absolutely essential for our inventory of weapons.

Stop to think that any use of our Armed Forces, wherever they may be in the world, is dependent on air superiority. The United States has that air superiority, but there are nations night and day trying to fashion airplanes or instruments that could take away that air superiority. This Nation is banking its future on that aircraft.

I am very pleased that our committee has marked up a strong bill on that issue. The Senator from Georgia may have some additional thoughts on it, which we will turn to in the course of the deliberations on this bill.

I salute the Senator from Georgia, Mr. CHAMBLISS, for doing everything he can to ensure that the United States of America maintains its air superiority so that the men and women of the other Armed Forces, be they at sea, on the land—wherever they may be—have the sense of confidence that the skies above will not become some instrument of war in harm's way to them.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I thank the chairman for his comments and for his leadership. It is a pleasure to serve with him in this body. It is a pleasure to serve with him as a member of the Armed Services Committee.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, we have before the Senate the extremely important Defense authorization bill, led in the Armed Services Committee by my friend, the Senator from Virginia, Mr. WARNER, and the Senator from Michigan, Mr. LEVIN. I look forward to these next several days debating this issue. I commend them, as we begin this debate, for the way they considered the various recommendations and suggestions that have been made by the members of the committee in developing this bill.

I ask unanimous consent to proceed for a few minutes in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. KENNEDY are printed in today's RECORD under ''Morning Business.'')

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. President: Is it appropriate that I ask for 5 minutes as in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. DOMENICI are printed in today's RECORD under ''Morning Business.'')

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

Mr. LEVIN. I am pleased, once again, to join the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator WARNER, in bringing the National Defense Authorization Act to the Senate floor. This bipartisan bill was favorably reported by unanimous vote of the Senate Armed Services Committee on May 4, 2006, as our distinguished Presiding Officer is well aware, since he had an important role bringing this bill to the floor.

This is the sixth Defense authorization bill that Senator WARNER has brought to the Senate floor as chairman of our committee. Under the 6-year term limitation imposed on committee chairmen under the Republican Conference, it will also be his last.

Senator WARNER served this country as an enlisted man in the Navy in World War II, as an officer in the Marine Corps in the Korean war, and as Secretary of the Navy during the Vietnam war. He has continued that service as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee since his election to the Senate in 1978.

As Senator WARNER has pointed out on many occasions, he and I came to the Senate together. We have now served side by side on the Senate Armed Services Committee for more than 27 years.

As chairman of our committee, Senator WARNER is unfailingly patient, courteous, and thoughtful. He has always been willing to listen. He has always tried to work out constructive solutions to even the most difficult problems. And when he is unable to work out those solutions, he is always up front and is always protecting the opposition's procedural rights. Senator WARNER has consistently shown his dedication to providing the resources that are needed for our national defense and meeting the needs of our men and women in uniform.

Senator WARNER has served in the finest tradition of our committee, a tradition of bipartisan dedication to the national defense established by previous giants such as Richard Russell, John Stennis, and Sam Nunn, and we thank him for it. He is now and will, hopefully for a long time, be on that list of giants—but after this year and after this bill, not as chairman of our committee.

Every Senator in this body trusts JOHN WARNER. Perhaps this is the highest of all the tributes that one can pay. The unanimous vote of the committee on the bill we bring before the Senate today is a fitting statement about Senator WARNER's chairmanship.

This bill contains many important provisions that will improve the quality of life of our men and women in uniform.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield, I wish to say with a deep sense of humility how much I appreciate his comments. To the extent I have had achievements as chairman of this committee, and before that as ranking member, it was largely due to the long-term friendship and confidence we share in each other's decisions.

Mr. LEVIN. Again, we all thank the Senator. His service on the committee is not over, and his service as chairman is not over. We still have a long way to go, through the floor of the Senate and through conference, but we have no doubt about the outcome of either the floor debate or the conference. He will pull this bill through again, as he invariably has.

This bill contains many important provisions that will improve the quality of life of our men and women in uniform. It will provide needed support and assistance to our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world, and make the investments that we need to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

First and foremost, the bill before us continues the increases in compensation and in quality of life that our service men and women and their families deserve as they face the hardships that are imposed by continuing military operations. For example, the bill contains provisions that would prohibit increases proposed by the administration in TRICARE Prime enrollment fees and require the Comptroller General to conduct a comprehensive analysis of Department of Defense health care costs and savings proposals.

The bill rejects cuts proposed by the administration for the National Guard budget, ensuring that National Guard end strength will be fully funded.

The bill would repeal provisions of the Survivor Benefit Plan that reduces military retirement payments by amounts received for dependency and indemnity compensation, and the bill would require an audit of pay accounts of wounded soldiers and actions to correct erroneous payments, including a toll-free hotline for military personnel and next-of-kin who are experiencing pay problems.

The bill also includes important funding authorities needed for our continuing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and our efforts to secure our Nation against terrorism.

For example, the bill contains provisions that would authorize over $2 billion for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund to facilitate the rapid development of new technology and tactics and the rapid redeployment of equipment to counter the IED threat.

The bill authorizes an additional $950.5 million for force protection equipment including $559.8 million for up-armored High Mobility Multi-purpose wheeled vehicles and $100.0 million for counter-IED engineer vehicles:

The bill provides $115.2 million over the President's budget request for combating terrorism and enhancing domestic preparedness:

The bill authorizes $50.0 billion supplemental to cover the cost of ongoing military operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the global war on terrorism in fiscal year 2007, and it provides expanded authorities for regional combatant commanders to train and equip foreign military forces, provide logistics support, supplies and services to allies and coalition partners, and lease or lend equipment for personnel protection and survivability to foreign forces participating in combined military operations with U.S. forces.

I am pleased that the bill contains a provision requiring that Congress be provided a coordinated U.S. Government legal opinion on whether certain specified interrogation techniques would constitute cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment under the Detainee Treatment Act of 2005 and other applicable provisions of law. This provision is necessary because the administration has refused to provide Congress existing legal opinions on the conduct of interrogations and detainee operations and failed to live up to its responsibility to provide clear guidance to our troops in the field on these issues.

Finally, the bill contains a number of provisions that will help improve the management of the Department of Defense and other Federal agencies. For example, the bill contains provisions that would improve the management of major defense acquisition programs by increasing the authority and responsibility of program managers and linking the payment of award and incentive fees directly to program outcomes; help identify and address problems with major information technology programs by establishing cost, schedule and performance requirements similar to those applicable to the acquisition of major weapon systems; ensure that the public receive accurate information on the department's budget requirements by prohibiting the ''parking'' of funds in one budget account when the funds are intended for a different purpose; continue the committee's oversight of interagency contracting by extending the current series of joint DOD inspector general audits to include interagency contracts managed by the National Institutes of Health and the Veterans' Administration; and address abusive contracting practices by requiring the Secretary of Defense to prescribe regulations prohibiting excessive pass-through fees charged on contracts and subcontracts:

For example, recent press articles have described a process in which work was passed down from the Army Corps of Engineers to a prime contractor, then to a subcontractor, then to another subcontractor—with each company charging the government for profit and overhead before finally reaching the company that would actually do the work.

In one such case, the Army Corps reportedly paid a prime contractor $1.75 per square foot to nail plastic tarps onto damaged roofs in Louisiana. The prime contractor paid another company 75 cents per square foot to do the work; that subcontractor paid a third company 35 cents per square foot to do the work; and that subcontractor paid yet another company 10 cents per square foot to do the work.

In other words, we paid the prime contractor $1.75 per square foot for their work. He used a sub, who used a sub, who used a sub, who ended up paying the people who actually did the work 10 cents per square foot to do the work that we and the taxpayers paid $1.75 per square foot to accomplish.

In a second such case, the Army Corps reportedly paid prime contractors $28 to $30 per cubic yard to remove debris. The companies that actually performed the work were paid only $6 to $10 per cubic yard. A representative of one of the companies was quoted as saying:

> Every time it passes through another layer, $4 of $5 is taken off the top. These others are taking out money, and some of them aren't doing anything.

We have many important issues to address as we consider this bill over the next few days. For example, I am sure that we will deal with amendments addressing the way forward for

our forces in Iraq. My own view, consistent with the long-held advice of our senior military commanders, is that there will be no military solution to the violence in Iraq and no way to defeat the insurgency until a political solution is achieved and accepted by the Iraqis themselves.

And we must find ways to press the Iraqis to make those political accommodations.

The good news that we received about the death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, and perhaps the more important news that the Iraqi parliament had approved the nominees for ministers of defense, national security, and the interior will hopefully foster greater cooperation among the various Iraqi parties.

The Iraqis must now turn to the difficult but critical task of making their constitution a unifying and inclusive document. The administration needs to be pressing the Iraqis to complete this essential task within the timeline which is provided by the constitution itself. Only the Iraqis can reach a political settlement that unifies their country.

Among the amendments that we will deal with in the coming days is one I intend to offer to reduce funding provided in the bill for ballistic missile interceptors and related deployment sites for the Ground-based Midcourse Defense—GMD—program. The GMD system has yet to have a single successful intercept test, yet this bill would provide funding for the final 10 operational interceptors requested by the Department of Defense. The flight tests that have occurred to date have shown the program to be immature and developmental in the test failures and numerous problems remaining to be solved, The Department's proposal to complete the acquisition of operational missiles before these missiles have been successfully tested puts us at risk of spending hundreds of millions of dollars on the deployment of a system that may not work.

I look forward to debating these and other issues as we move forward with this bill over the next few days.

As of today, more than 130,000 U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines are engaged in taking on an aggressive insurgency and helping the Iraqi security forces to prevent civil war in Iraq, almost 20,000 remain in harm's way in Afghanistan, and tens of thousands more are supporting the war effort through deployments thousands of miles from home. Our Armed Forces have also played a critical role in responding to the devastation left by Hurricane Katrina and other disasters both at home and overseas.

Senate action on this bill will improve the quality of life of our men and women in uniform. It will give them the tools that they need to remain the most effective fighting force in the world. Most important of all, it will send an important message that we, as a nation, stand behind them and appreciate their service—and that is true regardless of one's position on the wisdom of our Iraq policy.

I again congratulate our chairman, Senator WARNER, for bringing forth this bill in a unanimous way, as he has and always does. I look forward to working with our colleagues to pass this important legislation as promptly as possible.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I again thank my long-time friend, the ranking member of this committee.

We shall now be available for amendments. The bill is open for amendment. I intend to remain here for a while this evening. I think there is a strong likelihood that I will have an amendment to be offered on behalf of colleagues on our side very shortly relating to the military operation which resulted in the extinguishing of the life of al-Zarqawi.

Mr. LEVIN. We look forward to that amendment. I am sure there will be a lot of support for that operation on both sides of the aisle. We haven't seen the language, but I am sure we will support it.

Mr. WARNER. I anticipate that. The Senator from Michigan will have it as soon as it is in final form.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VOINOVICH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. ISAKSON are printed in today's RECORD under ''Morning Business.'')

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. CORNYN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator from Georgia withdraw his suggestion of the absence of a quorum?

Mr. ISAKSON. I withdraw my suggestion of the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, thank you.

Mr. President, I express my gratitude to the Senator from Georgia for his remarks.

Mr. President, I rise to speak on the National Defense Authorization Act for 2007, the bill that is on the floor. Passage of the bill is critical to ensuring that our military has the resources necessary to accomplish the demanding missions we have asked them to undertake around the globe.

I am privileged to chair, on the Senate Armed Services Committee, the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, and to work closely with my colleague on the other side of the aisle, the ranking member, Senator JACK REED. Together, we ensured that this year's National Defense Authorization Act would make a number of important contributions in the areas of combating terrorism, homeland defense, nonproliferation, and investments in defense science and technology.

I want to spend a few minutes highlighting the subcommittee's work as part of this larger Defense authorization bill. But before addressing those specifics, I commend Chairman WARNER for his outstanding leadership of the Armed Services Committee in the time I have been in the Senate.

This markup, as has already been noted, is his last markup as chairman of the committee. But I am confident that Senator WARNER will continue to contribute in many ways and play a key role in the work of the committee, even after he no longer is chairman. We are fortunate to have his expertise in the Senate, particularly on the Senate Armed Services Committee. And I congratulate him for a job well done.

This bill builds on the President's budget request of $11.1 billion for science and technology by adding $362 million in authorization language to these important programs. This year's additional science and technology investment is focused on unmanned systems, energy and power, information assurance, combat medicine, force protection, transformational technologies, and basic research.

The bill sustains the committee's investment in research and technology to defeat improvised explosive devices, otherwise known as IEDs, that are having such a devastating effect on our troops and civilians in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Reflecting a focus on transformational technologies, the bill directs the Secretary of Defense to develop a Department-wide unmanned systems policy, and to give preference to unmanned systems and vehicles in development of these new systems. The bill also directs the Secretary of Defense to establish a joint technology office to coordinate, integrate, and manage hypsersonic research, development and demonstration projects and budgets.

To support the Department's commitment to combat terrorism and to protect our homeland, this bill authorizes nearly $150 million above the President's budget request in this area. The bill adds $13.5 million for homeland defense research, equipment and operations, and $17.3 million to meet unfunded priorities of the Northern Command responsible for the area, including the continental United States.

The bill provides additional resources and authorities for the Weapons of Mass Destruction—Civil Support

Teams, including adding $8.5 million for the development of a sustainment training program for the 55 congressionally authorized WMD–CSTs—Weapons of Mass Destruction—Civil Support Teams—and an additional $5 million to address equipment upgrades for the first 32 of those teams to ensure standardization of equipment for all teams.

The bill authorizes the Secretary of Defense to approve the deployment of these teams to Canada and Mexico, with the consent of appropriate authorities in each of those countries, and expands the types of emergencies for which the Secretary may prepare or employ these civil support teams.

The recent arrests of terrorists in Canada make it all too easy to imagine a circumstance in which we might want to employ these Weapons of Mass Destruction—Civil Support Teams beyond our borders when requested by our neighbors either to the north or to the south.

Reflecting the importance the committee places on information assurance and cyber-security, the bill requires the Department to report to Congress on progress in addressing a list of identified deficiencies in the area of cybersecurity, information assurance, and network protection.

In recognition of the critical and growing role of Special Operations Forces in the global war on terrorism, this bill adds $102.4 million for Special Operations Command to address unfunded priorities, and includes a provision to enhance acquisition oversight for the Special Operations Command to make sure the dollars it does spend are spent well.

Our troops must be prepared for the possibility of a chemical or biological attack by terrorists at home or on the battlefield. Accordingly, the bill adds $68 million for chemical-biological defense, including $30 million to procure equipment to address shortfalls in National Guard units for chemical agent detection equipment and monitors, and $38 million for chemical and biological defense research, development, test, and evaluation programs to counter the threat of chemical and biological weapons.

In the area of nonproliferation and weapons of mass destruction threat reduction, this bill fully supports the President's budget request, authorizing $1.7 billion for the Department of Energy nuclear nonproliferation programs and more than $372 million for the Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. These important programs are preventing weapons of mass destruction from getting into the hands of terrorists.

Finally, the bill includes several provisions to extend and expand the Department of Defense counterdrug authorities, including those relating to support of Colombian efforts against terrorist organizations involved in narcotics activity; DOD support of the counterdrug activities of other U.S. Government agencies; and Department of Defense support of the counterdrug activities of other countries.

Before I conclude, I would like to spend just a couple minutes on a section of the bill with which I strongly disagree. The committee bill recommends a 1-year delay in the production of the Joint Strike Fighter. I share my colleagues' concerns and commitment to acquisition reform, and I am pleased that the committee bill contains many provisions to improve our acquisition process. We have to get acquisition costs under control if we are going to be able to procure the weapons systems our Nation needs to meet the threats of the 21st century. But I am deeply concerned that the committee's recommendation will undermine the Joint Strike Fighter Program in terms of cost increases and schedule slips.

The Joint Strike Fighter Program is the largest acquisition program in the history of the Department of Defense. There are legitimate questions regarding the level of concurrency between research and development and procurement in this program that have been subject to criticism by the General Accounting Office. The committee recommendations closely follow those recent GAO reports on the Joint Strike Fighter. But I would note that the GAO recommendations have not been subject to a business-case analysis. In fact, implementation of the General Accounting Office recommendations could likely cost more and result in further delays of the program.

In short, I am concerned that the committee recommendation of a 1-year production delay may be penny-wise and pound-foolish. For example, do we know how the proposed 1-year delay in production will affect the overall cost of the Joint Strike Fighter program? Do we know how the proposed 1-year delay in production will affect the Initial Operational Capability of the Joint Strike Fighter? And, finally, do we know how the proposed 1-year delay in production will affect our international partners?

These are questions raised at the committee level and I think still are deserving of good, solid answers. I strongly believe we need the answers to these questions before undertaking major changes in this important program. I am hopeful that as we move forward we can get the answers Congress needs in order to help, and not hurt, this important program.

I have highlighted those elements of the fiscal year 2007 national Defense authorization bill that were developed by the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities. There are, of course, many other important provisions in this bill which my colleagues on the committee will have the opportunity to describe.

I urge all Senators to support the legislation and, in doing so, send a resounding signal of support to our men and women in uniform.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii is recognized.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, before I begin talking about the legislation before us today, I would like to thank Chairman WARNER and Ranking Member LEVIN who have continued their tradition of strong bipartisan leadership of the Senate Armed Services Committee. In particular, I want to commend my dear friend and colleague, Senator JOHN WARNER, for his service to this distinguished committee. As chair, he has been a true statesman and shown how Congress should work. He understands the issues that come before this committee are ones that should not be caught in party bickering. It has truly been an honor to work with him to ensure that our men and women in the armed services have the tools necessary to successfully meet the challenges of today and into the future. While this will be the last Defense Authorization bill that he will oversee as the chairman of the committee, it surely will not be the last one where his expertise will be felt. Again, I thank him and look forward to working with him in the future on issues before this committee.

This bill exemplifies what can be achieved through the spirit of bipartisan cooperation to address a number of important defense priorities. For example, this bill makes sure the Department of Defense has the resources it needs to combat terrorism by authorizing an additional $115.2 million over the President's budget request. And it includes a number of provisions designed to protect the quality of life of our service members.

But I have several concerns related to this bill. First and foremost, I am concerned that the administration continues to fund this war through emergency supplemental appropriations. While I support our soldiers currently serving overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan and I am pleased that this committee has authorized an additional $81.9 billion for ongoing operations, I believe that the administration's current policy is fiscally irresponsible. Unlike true national emergencies and natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, the funds required for these ongoing operations can be assessed, identified and included in the regular budget process. It is time for this administration to make the true cost of war transparent to both the Congress and the American public.

Just today, I returned from Iraq where I had an opportunity to meet and speak with our brave men and women in the Armed Forces in Iraq. They are truly doing an excellent job in a difficult and often dangerous environment. Thanks to the efforts of our soldiers, the people of Iraq are better equipped to begin the task of self-governance. During this trip, I spoke to the new Iraqi Minister of Defense and Iraq's National Security Advisor who are both optimistic about Iraq's progress toward democracy. I, myself,

witnessed the advances made by the Iraqi people who are building a strong democratic foundation for the future of their nation. However, more needs to be done. While I do not believe that we should leave before the Iraqi people are equipped with the tools necessary to support a stable democratic society, we must ensure that the progress already started with the recent election of the Iraqi Minister of Defense and the Minister of Interior continues. At the same time, whether we leave Iraq tomorrow, or in 6 months, or longer, it is important for the President to inform Congress and the American people as to when and how our troops will be coming home.

I am also disappointed that this year's authorization bill reduced the amount of funding for corrosion prevention and control programs. Corrosion is a costly problem. In fact, it is one of the largest costs in the life cycle of weapons systems. In addition, corrosion reduces military readiness as the need to repair or replace corrosion damage increases the downtime of critical military assets. Consequently, I firmly believe that cohesive corrosion control programs are integral to maintaining military readiness. This critical maintenance activity increases the life of multimillion dollar weapons systems and ensures their availability during times of crisis. Effective corrosion control should be made a key component of the Department of Defense's resetting strategy and funds should be allocated accordingly.

Despite these concerns, I feel that this year's authorization includes a number of significant provisions that will greatly benefit our military personnel. I am particularly pleased to see provisions that address issues related to the quality of life of military members and their families. I believe that it is our responsibility, as Government leaders, to guarantee that our men and women in uniform are appropriately compensated. Consequently, I support the committee's approval of a 2.2 percent pay raise for all military personnel and targeted pay raises for midcareer and senior enlisted personnel and warrant officers. I am also encouraged that the committee prohibited increases in TRICARE Prime enrollment fees in fiscal year 2007 and authorized $10 million for pilot projects related to the treatment of post traumatic stress disorder. In addition, I am glad to see a number of provisions that directly benefit the children of our Nation's soldiers such as the authorized $45 million in supplemental education aid to local school districts that are affected by a large increase of students due to base realignments or the activation of new military units. I also support a 3-year pilot education program on parent education to promote early childhood education for military children who have been affected by their parent's deployment or relocation.

As the ranking member of the Readiness Subcommittee, my colleagues and I included a number of provisions in the bill that are vital to the near-term readiness of our Armed Forces. Most notably, this bill includes several provisions designed to address problems related to the DOD's acquisitions policies. One key provision would give DOD program managers more authority while at the same time holding them accountable for results—a best practice currently employed in the private sector. A provision requiring DOD officials to certify that the cost estimate for programs are reasonable and funding is available prior to initiating a major defense acquisition program was included as well. This bill also makes provisions that address DOD contracting policies and practices. For example, the DOD would be required to track and report cost overruns and schedule delays on major information technology purchases.

I am also encouraged by our ability to provide support for programs and projects funded through the operation and maintenance account which directly impact the readiness of our troops. These include an additional $52.9 million for force protection, including combat clothing and field medical equipment and $97.3 million for training resources. In addition, the Readiness Subcommittee included an increase of $400 million for critical military construction projects that were identified by military installation commanders as top priorities.

I am pleased that the bill also contains my legislation to establish a National Language Council to develop a long-term and comprehensive language strategy and oversee the implementation of that strategy. In 2004 the Department of Defense hosted a conference on foreign language education and the development of such a council and strategy was the number one recommendation of those in attendance—including administration officials. Without a comprehensive strategy addressing all of our language needs, combined with a real investment in language education, the strength and security of the United States remains at risk. It is imperative that our education system produce individuals in a broad spectrum of occupations who are able to effectively communicate and understand the cultures of the people with whom they interact. This includes scientists, lawyers, doctors, and educators, in addition to diplomats, law enforcement officers, and intelligence analysts. Moreover, I believe that we must focus on more than just the languages deemed ''critical'' today. Rather, we should learn all languages in order to develop long-term relationships with people all across the world. To do this, we need a cross-cutting and comprehensive plan that states where we are today, where we want to be, and how we are going to get there. My legislation that establishes a National Language Council goes a long way toward providing a national language strategy that reflects the views of all stakeholders—academia, industry, language associations, heritage communities, and governments at all levels—because this is an issue that impacts every segment of society and is too big for only one sector to handle.

I believe that the Senate Armed Services Committee has created a bill that will provide the necessary funds required to support our servicemen and women and that allows the military to continue to meet our Nation's future defense needs.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, by previous agreement between the distinguished majority leader and the Democratic leader, the chairman and ranking member of the committee will, for the remainder of this evening, as well as tomorrow morning, follow this protocol.

I will put forth an amendment momentarily on behalf of myself, Mr. FRIST, Mr. REID, and Mr. LEVIN, and it is a joint, hopefully bipartisan, accepted amendment to be debated further in the morning.

The military operation that resulted in the death of Zarqawi was a stunning accomplishment for U.S. forces. It displayed the precision, perseverance and professionalism of our Armed Forces supported by a sophisticated and superb intelligence apparatus that included U.S, Iraqi, and Coalition intelligence organizations. Behind the details that were made public, I can tell you, were months of coordinated, hard work by analysts, human intelligence operatives, and military planners.

The death of Zarqawi will hopefully lessen, but not end the violence in Iraq, but it is certainly a significant blow to the terrorist network in Iraq, to Osama bin Laden, and the al-Qaida organization.

Zarqawi was the most prominent insurgent in Iraq and the most active of bin Laden's affiliates. While bin Laden hides in mountain caves, capable of making occasional audio tapes, Zarqawi was working to trigger a civil war, disrupt the democratic process of the new unity government in Iraq, and then use Iraq as a base to launch attacks throughout the region. There is proof of that intent.

He had eluded capture for 3 years, he was indeed cruel, cunning, and cagey—and now gone.

I proudly salute the brave and professional work of our military forces as well as the formidable efforts of our military, civilian, and allied intelligence operations. This success is one that the entire intelligence community

should find very satisfying. The combined efforts of the Directorate of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency, and all of our defense intelligence capabilities, and our military forces in Iraq, collaborated on this effort. I believe this success displays that reforms are working.

AMENDMENT NO. 4208

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, this amendment is regarding the successful operation by our military forces, the coalition forces, the civilian and military intelligence both abroad in Iraq, as well as those teams here in the United States, in the successful elimination of what is regarded as the No. 1 terrorist in all Iraq, Zarqawi. He is no longer able to operate as he once did.

At this time, I send this amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER], for Mr. FRIST, for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. LEVIN, proposes an amendment numbered 4208.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To express the sense of Congress that the Armed Forces, the intelligence community, and other agencies, as well as the coalition partners of the United States and the Security Forces of Iraq should be commended for their actions that resulted in the death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of the al-Qaeda terrorist organization in Iraq and the most wanted terrorist in Iraq)

At the end of subtitle I of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 1084. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE COMMENDABLE ACTIONS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) on June 7, 2006, the United States Armed Forces conducted an air raid near the City of Baquba, northeast of Baghdad, Iraq, that resulted in the death of Ahmad Fadeel al-Nazal al-Khalayleh, better known as Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of the al-Qaeda in Iraq terrorist organization and the most wanted terrorist in Iraq;

(2) Zarqawi, as the operational commander of al-Qaeda in Iraq, led a brutal campaign of suicide bombings, car bombings, assassinations, and abductions that caused the deaths of many members of the United States Armed Forces, civilian officials of the United States Government, thousands of innocent Iraqi civilians, and innocent civilians of other nations;

(3) Zarqawi publicly swore his allegiance to Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda in 2004, and changed the name of his terrorist organization from the ''Monotheism and Holy War Group'' to ''al-Qaeda in Iraq'';

(4) in an audiotape broadcast in December 2004, Osama bin Laden, the leader of al-Qaeda's worldwide terrorist organization, called Zarqawi ''the prince of al-Qaeda in Iraq'';

(5) 3 perpetrators confessed to being paid by Zarqawi to carry out the October 2002 assassination of the United States diplomat, Lawrence Foley, in Amman, Jordan;

(6) the Monotheism and Holy War Group claimed responsibility for—

(A) the August 2003 suicide attack that destroyed the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad and killed the United Nations envoy to Iraq Sergio Vieira de Mello along with 21 other people; and

(B) the suicide attack on the Imam Ali Mosque in Najaf that occurred less than 2 weeks later, which killed at least 85 people, including the Ayatollah Sayed Mohammed Baqr al-Hakim, and wounded dozens more;

(7) Zarqawi is believed to have personally beheaded American hostage Nicholas Berg in May 2004;

(8) in May 2004, Zarqawi was implicated in a car bombing that killed Izzadine Salim, the rotating president of the Iraqi Governing Council;

(9) in November 2005, al-Qaeda in Iraq attacked 3 hotels in Amman, Jordan, killing at least 67 innocent civilians;

(10) Zarqawi and his terrorist organization were directly responsible for numerous other brutal terrorist attacks against the American and coalition troops, Iraqi security forces and recruits, and innocent Iraqi civilians;

(11) Zarqawi sought to turn Iraq into a safe haven for al-Qaeda;

(12) to achieve that end, Zarqawi stated his opposition to the democratically elected government of Iraq and worked to divide the Iraqi people, foment sectarian violence, and incite a civil war in Iraq; and

(13) the men and women of the United States Armed Forces, the intelligence community, and other agencies, along with coalition partners and the Iraqi Security Forces, should be commended for their courage and extraordinary efforts to track down the most wanted terrorist in Iraq and to secure a free and prosperous future for the people of Iraq.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that Congress—

(1) commends the United States Armed Forces, the intelligence community, and other agencies, along with coalition partners, for the actions taken through June 7, 2006, that resulted in the death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of the al-Qaeda in Iraq terrorist organization and the most wanted terrorist in Iraq;

(2) commends the United States Armed Forces, the intelligence community, and other agencies for this action and their exemplary performance in striving to bring freedom, democracy, and security to the people of Iraq;

(3) commends the coalition partners of the United States, the new government of Iraq, and members of the Iraqi Security Forces for their invaluable assistance in that operation and their extraordinary efforts to secure a free and prosperous Iraq;

(4) commends our civilian and military leadership for their continuing efforts to eliminate the leadership of al-Qaeda in Iraq, and also commends the new government of Iraq, led by Prime Minister Jawad al-Maliki, for its contribution to that achievement;

(5) recognizes that the death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is a victory for American and coalition forces in the global war on terror and a blow to the al-Qaeda terrorist organization;

(6) commends the Iraqi Prime Minister Jawad al-Maliki on the finalization of the new Iraqi cabinet;

(7) urges the democratically elected government in Iraq to use this opportunity to defeat the terrorist enemy, to put an end to ethnic and sectarian violence, and to achieve a free, prosperous, and secure future for Iraq; and

(8) affirms that the Senate will continue to support the United States Armed Forces, the democratically elected unity government of Iraq, and the people of Iraq in their quest to secure a free, prosperous, and democratic Iraq.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this be the pending business, with the understanding that it be laid aside tomorrow, in the morning, for such time as the distinguished ranking member seeks to gain recognition for the purpose of introducing an amendment from his side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2766

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes debate on the Defense authorization bill on Tuesday, the time between then and 12:15 be equally divided between the chairman and ranking member or their designees; provided further, that at 12:15, the Senate proceed to vote on amendment No. 4208, with no amendments in order to the amendment. That is the amendment I just introduced.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, the matters with regard to this bill are concluded for tonight. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. LEVIN are printed in today's RECORD under ''Morning Business.'')

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT RICHARD A. BLAKLEY

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave man from Avon. Richard Blakley, 34-years-old, was killed on June 6 from small arms fire while on patrol near Al Khalidiyah, Iraq. With so much of his life before him, Richard risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Richard was killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a member of Company E, 38th Main Support Battalion, Indianapolis. This brave soldier leaves behind his wife Patricia and two children, Whitney, 11, and Richard Jr., 9. He also leaves behind his mother, Janice Schauwecker, and father, James Blakley.

A medic in the Indiana National Guard, Richard's devotion to duty had been commemorated just months before his death, when he was presented with a Purple Heart following a wound from an enemy sniper in January. Because of his injury, Richard was offered a trip home and was urged to take time off to recuperate. Instead, he chose to return to active duty the same day.

Richard joined the Indiana Guard out of high school in 1989 and volunteered to serve in the Persian Gulf war and at U.S. ports in 2003 and 2004. In civilian life, Richard was a journeyman millwright, putting together machinery and heavy equipment. An avid Colts fan, Richard always wore a team shirt on game days, even if he was on patrol. He was wearing one on the day he was shot in January, and the Colts had planned to sign the bloodstained shirt and return it to him. Richard was also known for being a devoted father who was driven by a desire to help others! A friend and fellow Indiana National Guard member recalled to the Indianapolis Star Richard's dedication to those around him, saying ''It was just who he was. He wanted to be where the action was. He wanted to help people . . . '' His wife called her husband ''the strongest person I've ever known in my life.''

Today, I join Richard's family and friends in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Richard, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Richard was known for his dedication to his family and his love of country. Today and always, Richard will be remembered by family members, friends, and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Richard's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: ''We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.'' This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Richard's actions will live on far longer that any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Richard Blakley in the official RECORD of the Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Richard's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah, who said, ''He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.''

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Richard.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, today I honor the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution. In 1956, the people of Hungary stood in the face of adversity and expressed their passion for democracy and independence. They had a vision of what a free and democratic Hungary would look like—a vision that finally came to fruition after nearly 35 years. Only 10 years prior the revolution, Hungarians participated in free elections. Through those elections, the people felt the hope and promise of democracy. The perseverance of these strong people can be seen in their remarkable journey toward freedom.

On October 23, 1956, tens of thousands of Hungarians stood in the streets, demanding independence from the Soviets. The revolt began as a peaceful gathering of student protesters that spread to the general population, and the first day ended with clashes between the police and the demonstrators. Those on the streets were advocating for basic principles of liberty—free elections, freedom of the press, withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary, and the return of their Prime Minister Imre Nagy, who had been forced out of office because of his democratic policies.

In an attempt to calm the uprising, on October 26, 1956, the Central Committee of the Communist Party reinstated Nagy as Prime Minister. He promised the people of Hungary political freedom and vowed to revive the democratic process. He began by vowing to withdraw Hungary from the Warsaw Pact and declaring neutrality on November 1, 1956. As Nagy was working to satisfy those revolting, the Soviets were working on a plan to counter the revolution. Even though some members of the Hungarian Army defected and worked against the Soviets, ultimately it was not enough to fight off the ever-powerful Soviet regime.

Only 12 days after the revolution began, the Soviet Air Force started a counterrevolution, bombing parts of Budapest on November 4, 1956. The hope of the Hungarian people for freedom quickly slipped away. In the days and weeks following the revolution, many of those involved fled to other countries. Prime Minister Nagy tragically, however, was tried in secret and executed in June 1958, paying the ultimate price for his involvement in the revolution.

Today, we reflect with Hungarians around the world, including many proud Hungarian Americans, 50 years after this significant time period and celebrate the promise it held for the future of Eastern Europe.

DECOMISSIONING OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD CUTTER ''MACKINAW''

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Mackinaw*—WAGB 83—and her crew for their years of service to the United States, the State of Michigan, and the Great Lakes. Today, after 62 years of service, the *Mackinaw*'s commissioning pennant will be lowered, and the Coast Guard will pass the honor of keeping the Great Lake's shipping lanes open to her namesake and legacy, the new U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Mackinaw*—WLBB–30.

On March 20, 1943, construction of the *Mackinaw* began at the Toledo Ship Building Company. When commissioned on December 20, 1944, the *Mackinaw* was the most powerful icebreaker in the world. The ship measures 269 feet from bow to stern, and it is still the largest cutter in the Great Lakes. The ''Big Mac,'' as it is affectionately known, set the standard for other icebreakers to live up to.

The *Mackinaw* began her service at the end of 1944 breaking ice and keeping the shipping lanes open to ensure the flow of steel during World War II. The cutter's design was state of the art and gave her the ability to break channels 70 feet wide through 4 feet of ice. The *Mackinaw* once broke through an astonishing 37 feet of ice. During her first season she made 17 passes through the Straits of Mackinac.

While the Big Mac's primary mission was to keep the shipping lanes open during the winter months, she also conducted search and rescue, aid to navigation, law enforcement, and public relations missions. On a tragic day in 1965, the U.S. *Cedarville* and Norwegian *Topdalsfjord* collided in Lake Huron, and the *Mackinaw* rushed to aid survivors and take on casualties. When performing its primary mission from December to April, the *Mackinaw*'s motto is ''we move ships when no one else will.'' In 1948, the *Mackinaw* freed 12 ice-locked ships in Buffalo, N.Y., and in 1984 opened a channel through the St. Clair River Ice Jam freeing 13 vessels stuck in the ice and opening a passage for 75 other freighters waiting for passage. For these and other feats, the *Mackinaw* also became know as the ''Great White Mother.''

Today, I also pay tribute to the men and women, past and present, who have served on the *Mackinaw*. The Big Mac and its crew spent many months away from home from home in the bitter cold navigating the frigid waters of the Great Lakes. This was often lonely duty for her crew, but the Big Mac's efforts were crucial to keep Great Lakes commerce moving during the winter months.

The ''Big Mac'' is being replaced but not forgotten. I am pleased that the Big Mac will remain in Michigan as an attraction and educational experience so that everyone can enjoy the wonders of this legendary ice breaker. The new *Mackinaw* will perform as an ice-breaker and will also maintain navigational aids. I am sad to see the Big Mac retired but am excited the torch will pass on to such a fine ship.

The U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Mackinaw* and its crew have done a remarkable job over the years. I thank them for their service to their country, Michigan and the Great Lakes. Finally, I say thank you and goodbye to the Big Mac.

COMMEMORATING THE 39TH ANNIVERSARY OF JERUSALEM'S REUNIFICATION

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I am honored to join my colleagues in the submittal of S. Res. 98 congratulating the Israeli people on their celebration of the 39th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem and calling for the United States to relocate its embassy in Israel from the city of Tel-Aviv to the recognized capital city of Jerusalem.

This year, Israel celebrates the 39th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem. Starting in 1948 Jerusalem was a divided city. Under Jordanian rule, many of the holy areas were off limits to Israelis of any religion and to Jews of any nationality. In 1967, during the Six Day War, Israeli troops reunified the city of Jerusalem. Then, people of all religious faiths have been guaranteed full access to holy sites within the city, and the rights of all faiths have been respected and protected.

In 1995, the U.S. Congress declared that Jerusalem should remain the undivided capital of Israel. I was proud to cosponsor the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995, and I am proud today to join my colleagues in urging the administration to move our Embassy to Israeli's rightful capital. The President of Israel, Israel's Parliament and the Israeli Supreme Court are all located in Jerusalem. What is not located in Jerusalem is the Embassy of the United States. Every sovereign country has the right to designate its own capital and the United States maintains its Embassy in the functioning capital of every country. The one exception is Israel, a great friend and ally to the United States.

Israel is a steadfast strategic ally of the United States. The United States conducts official meetings and other business in the city of Jerusalem in de facto recognition of its status as the capital of Israel. It is time for the U.S. Embassy to be relocated to Jerusalem, the recognized capital of Israel. With this resolution, the Senate calls on President Bush to discontinue the waiver contained in the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995, relocate the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, and reaffirm U.S. policy that Jerusalem must remain the undivided capital of Israel.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING JAMES D. DARNELL

• Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize the Honorable James D. Darnell of Orange, VA, who has served as a member of the Orange town council for 14 years. For 2 of those years, Mr. Darnell also held the position of vice mayor.

As a member of the town council, Mr. Darnell has helped the town of Orange live up to his motto, ''Sweet Living, Steady Progress.'' In part because of Mr. Darnell's dedicated leadership, the town of Orange has witnessed positive growth. Mr. Darnell helped implement such developments as the design and completion of a raw water storage basin, the improvement of the town's infrastructure, the completion of a public works facility and meeting room, the launch of the town's first public transit system, and the construction of a road to the new middle school.

Mr. Darnell, who is a respected businessman and farmer, brought a spirit of innovation and commitment to the town of Orange. I am grateful for his contributions to the town and to the Commonwealth of Virginia.•

RECOGNIZING MAYOR RAYMOND C. LONICK

• Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize the Honorable Raymond C. Lonick of Orange, VA, who has served as mayor of Orange for 10 years and as a member of the Orange town council for 16 years.

Since 1990, when he was first elected to the town council, Mayor Lonick has brought innovative and motivated leadership to the town of Orange. He has made countless contributions, and as a result the town has thrived. It was during Mayor Lonick's tenure as mayor that the town adopted the motto, ''Sweet Living, Steady Progress,'' demonstrating Orange's commitment to finding a balance between maintaining the town's charm and history while encouraging its growth. Mayor Lonick and the town of Orange have celebrated many other achievements during the past 16 years, including improvements to the town's infrastructure, the completion of a new public works facility and meeting room, and the launch of the town's first public transit system. One of Mayor Lonick's most notable accomplishments as mayor was helping the town acquire a $300,000 grant in 2002 that will be used for the design and completion of a raw water storage basin.

In addition to playing a significant role in the governance of the town, Mayor Lonick has served Orange in many other capacities. He is a dedicated member of St. Isidore the Farmer Catholic Church, a substitute teacher with the Orange County Public Schools, and a loyal supporter of the Orange Downtown Alliance. I am grateful for his contributions to the town of Orange and to the Commonwealth of Virginia.•

HONORING DENNIS MANSFIELD—AN OUTSTANDING HOOSIER DAD

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I am proud to have the opportunity today to honor Dennis Mansfield, an outstanding Hoosier dad, whose dedication to his 11-year-old daughter, Alison, was demonstrated in a heart-warming essay that she wrote recently.

Last month, in anticipation of Father's Day, I asked young people from across Indiana to write essays about their own outstanding fathers as a way of recognizing Hoosier men who working hard to be good fathers. Alison wrote a touching essay illustrating her father's commitment to helping her achieve her God-given potential, by encouraging her to excel in school and teaching her how to be a good citizen.

As a nation, we have far to go to reverse the trend of absentee fathers, but there are millions of men, including Dennis, who are already going the extra mile for their children, and they deserve our thanks this Father's Day. By holding men like Dennis up as responsible fathers, I also hope to encourage other men to play a bigger role in their children's lives.

Despite holding a demanding job in a hospital emergency room, Dennis always makes time for his daughter and has instilled in her the value of helping others. There is no question that the world would be a far better place if every child was able to have the support of a father like Dennis. By building strong family bonds, he has earned not only his daughter's love but serves as a role model for the community as well.

Today, I thank Dennis for his devotion to his daughter and for setting an example for all of us of what it means to be an outstanding dad. It is my honor to read Alison's essay into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States:

I think my dad is outstanding for three reasons. First, he is always there for me. Even when he is busy, Dad can always find time to do something fun with me.

Second, Dad has taught me many important things. He has been a great teacher from riding a bike, to being a good citizen, to medical terminology and good character.

Third, Dad is also a good role model. He works in the emergency room and sometimes has to work at night and sleep during the day. I think it would be very stressful to handle emergencies and keep a calm demeanor, but he always does. Dad does this because he wants to help people. I admire him for that.

Dad is outstanding because he is there for me, has fun with me, teaches me, helps others and because he is simply a great dad!—Alison R. Mansfield, age 11.●

HONORING AMITAV THAMBA—AN OUTSTANDING HOOSIER DAD

● Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I am proud to have the opportunity today to honor Amitav Thamba, an outstanding Hoosier dad, whose dedication to his 9-year-old daughter, Aish, was demonstrated in a heart-warming essay that she wrote recently.

Last month, in anticipation of Father's Day, I asked young people from across Indiana to write essays about their own outstanding fathers as a way of recognizing Hoosier men who working hard to be good fathers. Aish wrote a touching essay illustrating her father's commitment to helping her achieve her God-given potential, by encouraging her to excel in school and become a good citizen.

As a nation, we have far to go to reverse the trend of absentee fathers, but there are millions of men, including Amitav, who are already going the extra mile for their children, and they deserve our thanks this Father's Day. By holding men like Amitav up as responsible fathers, I also hope to encourage other men to play a bigger role in their children's lives.

I echo Aish's concluding sentence about her father, which reads, ''He is the kind of Dad I wish every kid in the world had.'' There is no question that the world would be a far better place if every child was able to have the support of a father like Amitav. By building strong family bonds, he has earned not only his daughter's love, but he serves as a role model for the community as well.

Today, I thank Amitav for his devotion to his daughter and for setting an example for all of us of what it means to be an outstanding dad. It is my honor to read Aish's essay into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States.

I was 3 years when my Dad first read to me ''The Lion King.'' Today, I still enjoy the story!

In school, there is a program where we read books and take tests on them. My Dad, in spite of his heavy work schedule, has never missed any Reading Night or school function and has motivated me to do my best. Thanks to Dad, I am an avid reader and read more than 2,000 books in 3 years and the Top Star Reader in my school since 2nd Grade.

My father a hard worker has taught me to be truthful, kind, and respectful. My Dad has inspired me to donate supplies and food to the Wheeler Mission and at the Marion County Juvenile Center.

My father is a very important factor in all my success. He is the kind of Dad I wish every kid in the world had.—Aish Thamba, age 9.●

HONORING FREDERICK RICHARDS—AN OUTSTANDING HOOSIER DAD

● Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I am proud to have the opportunity today to honor Frederick Richards, an outstanding Hoosier dad, whose dedication to his 16-year-old son, Corey, was demonstrated in an inspiring essay his son wrote recently.

Last month, in anticipation of Father's Day, I asked young people from across Indiana to write essays about their own outstanding fathers as a way of recognizing Hoosier men who are working hard to be good fathers. Corey wrote a touching essay illustrating his father's commitment to his country and his family.

Despite being overseas while serving our country in Camp Phoenix, Afghanistan, as an inspector general, Frederick worked hard to stay in touch with his son and let him know how much he cares. A hero to our country and his son, Frederick has taught Corey to understand the difference between right and wrong and instilled in him the importance of helping people in need.

As a nation, we have far to go to reverse the trend of absentee fathers, but there are millions of men, including Frederick, who are already going the extra mile for their children, and they deserve our thanks this Father's Day. By holding men like Frederick up as responsible fathers, I also hope to encourage other men to play a bigger role in their children's lives.

There is no question that the world would be a far better place if every child was able to have the support of a father like Frederick. By building strong family bonds, he has earned not only his son's love but serves as a role model for the community as well.

Today, I want to thank Frederick for his devotion to his son and for setting an example for all of us of what it means to be an outstanding dad. It is my honor to read Corey's essay into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States:

''My dad is an 'Outstanding Dad' because he is a great role model. He is caring, loving, and helpful. My dad is always open for a conversation and always willing to listen. He is a hard worker and looks out for people in need.

''My dad is an 'Outstanding Dad' because he has served in the war. He was located in Afghanistan at Camp Phoenix and was Inspector General. Even though my dad wasn't here, he was still extremely supportive of me. Not only is he my dad, but he is my hero too.

''My dad is an 'Outstanding Dad' because he knows right from wrong. He doesn't just give me whatever I want, he makes me work for it. If I do something wrong, he will help correct me. I look up to my dad everyday and he truly is an 'Outstanding Dad.'''—Corey Richards, age 16.●

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BROOKINGS CHAPTER OF DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is with great honor that I rise today to congratulate the Brookings chapter of Disabled American Veterans on their 25th anniversary, which will be celebrated on July 1, 2006.

Disabled American Veterans, an organization with over 1.2 million members, is focused on building better lives for disabled veterans and their families. The organization strives to meet this goal by providing free assistance to veterans in an attempt to obtain benefits and services earned through their military service. Because it is not a governmental agency, Disabled American Veterans is fully funded by membership dues and public contributions.

At the conclusion of World War I, Disabled American Veterans was created to help ease the suffering caused by the effects of World War I. Since the beginning, Disabled American Veterans has continually grown and adapted to the needs of disabled veterans. Today, Disabled American Veterans is committed to making sure the veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan are well cared for upon their return from service.

In 1986, the Disabled American Veterans transportation program was initiated in South Dakota. The following year, this program quickly expanded to become nationwide. This program is designed to provide free rides for all veterans to VA facilities so that they may attend scheduled appointments. In 2005, the South Dakota program alone transported over 20,000 veterans to VA hospitals.

On July 1, 2006, the Brookings chapter of Disabled American Veterans will celebrate their 25th anniversary. This celebration, which will be held at the Brookings Pizza Ranch, is designed to honor the 11 surviving charter members. Mr. President, I am proud to have the opportunity to honor these members and their committed service. I strongly commend their years of hard work and dedication and am very pleased that their extensive efforts are being publicly honored and celebrated.●

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DETROIT SALT MINE

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this year we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Detroit Salt Mine, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them on reaching this important milestone.

In 1906, the Detroit Salt and Manufacturing Company began constructing the Detroit Salt Mine. The first few years were tumultuous, as the construction itself was so challenging and

costly that the company went bankrupt before it began to mine salt. Fortunately, the company quickly rebounded and completed its first mining shaft in 1910. The mine has passed through many hands over the years but is currently operated by the Detroit Salt Company, which has owned it since 1997.

Today, the Detroit Salt Company solely produces highway deicing salt, the salt that is used to melt the ice that covers roadways during the winter. It provides this salt not only for Michigan roadways but for other roads throughout the Midwest. Without this valuable product, our roadways would be repeatedly crippled during the winter months, causing massive and regular shutdowns of schools and businesses.

It is also important to recognize the Detroit Salt Company's efforts to keep its mine safe for its many workers. The Mine Health and Safety Administration has recognized the Detroit Salt Company for its excellent safety standards with the Sentinel of Safety Award for 3 of the last 6 years. Additionally, the company is part of the Detroit Local Emergency Planning Committee, taking an active role in keeping not only its employees, but also the citizens of its community safe and secure.

I know my colleagues join me in recognizing the historical significance of the Detroit Salt Mine and congratulate all of those who have contributed to its success.●

HONORING ALABAMA'S PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I commend four students from my home State of Alabama who have been named members of the 42nd class of Presidential scholars. Since its creation in 1964, the Presidential Scholars Program has honored over 5,000 graduating high school seniors for academic excellence, artistic accomplishments, and civic contributions. These remarkable young people have proven to meet rigorous standards of academic excellence and leadership. This year, I am proud to announce that Alabama has three Presidential scholars and one Presidential scholar in the arts.

Students designated as Presidential scholars are among only 121 selected for this high honor out of over 2,700 applicants invited to apply. Alabama students selected this year include Amanda R. Long of Oxford High School in Anniston, AL; Adam M. Trettel of Briarwood Christian School in Birmingham, AL; and, Kelly M. McConnaughey of Virgil I. Grissom High School in Huntsville, AL.

I am also very pleased to share that Sarah C. Campbell, of the Alabama School of Fine Arts in Birmingham, AL, has been named one of only 20 Presidential scholars in the arts. These recipients are selected from a pool of over 6,500 students for accomplishments in the visual, literary, and performing arts, in addition to their scholarship, leadership, and public service.

The Presidential Scholars Program not only seeks to honor Our Nation's finest students but also recognizes the teachers who have been influential in these students' lives. Each student had the opportunity to nominate one exceptional teacher to receive the program's Teacher Recognition Award. Teachers play an essential role in our society and give of themselves selflessly in aiding the development of their students. I applaud the work of these fine teachers: Mrs. Angela L. Dickert, nominated by Amanda R. Long; Mr. Barry Walker, nominated by Adam M. Trettel; Ms. Suzanne Bailey, nominated by Kelly M. McConnaughey; and, Mr. D. Bradford Hill, nominated by Sarah C. Campbell.

It is fitting and appropriate that we recognize these fine students for their accomplishments and to recognize the teachers that have meant so much to their success.●

HONORING MARY HAND AND PHILIP HOLLEY

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to make some remarks today about two remarkable educators, Mary Hand and Philip Holley, recipients of the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This is the Nation's highest honor for teaching in mathematics and science. Only 100 7th to 12th grade teachers across the Nation are chosen for this remarkable award, which was established by Congress in 1983.

Ms. Mary Hand, mathematics teacher at Liberty Middle School in Madison, AL, aims to make students comfortable in her classroom and encourages them to work in groups. Ms. Hand establishes a classroom environment that is optimal for student learning, and she aims to equip her students with teamwork skills that are essential in the workplace.

Mr. Philip Holley, science teacher at Mountain Brook Junior High School in Birmingham, AL, strives to let students experience science and apply what they learn. He uses real-world examples to bring science to life in his classroom, which undoubtedly motivates his students and enhances their understanding of the importance of science.

As a former educator and the father of three children, I realize the important role teachers play in our society. I am proud to know that teachers such as Ms. Hand and Mr. Holley are striving to develop students' math and science abilities. These skills will surely take students far in the workplace where math and science are increasingly in demand.

I commend Ms. Hand and Mr. Holley for their leadership and professional excellence in education. Their work has impacted the lives of many students, and their influence will surely spread for years to come.●

HONORING MARK LEVIN

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mark Levin, who is celebrating his 25th year with the NCSJ.

In his time with NCSJ, Mark Levin has accomplished a great deal. A consummate professional, Mark has spent 25 years moving through the ranks from a professional staffer all the way to executive director.

As the mandated central coordinating agency of the organized Jewish community on behalf of the estimated 1.5 million Jews of the former Soviet Union, the NCSJ comprises nearly 50 national organizations and over 300 local federations, community councils, and committees.

Mark has represented NCSJ at conventions, summits, and also here in the Halls of Congress.

A distinguished scholar and policy expert, Mark is unmatched in his knowledge of the Soviet Jewry, and he was instrumental in restructuring NCSJ's tactics following the breakup of the Soviet Union.

But while Mark's résumé is overflowing with remarkable accomplishments, it is the relationships that he has forged over the years that are his finest achievements.

For 25 years, Mark has been more than an advocate—he has been a friend.

It is those friendships that have made his time with NCSJ special. They are what have taken him from merely influencing policy to significantly impacting people's lives.

And it is those friendships that have brought us all together to honor Mark for 25 outstanding years of service.

With that, I would like to thank NCSJ for an opportunity to speak on behalf of Mark, and I would like to offer my thanks and my congratulations to an outstanding colleague and an even better friend, Mark Levin.●

RECOGNIZING HOWARD E. LEFEVRE

● Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the life and achievements of Howard E. LeFevre, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and the founder of The Works: Ohio Center for History Art & Technology in Newark, Ohio.

Founded in 1996, The Works is a remarkable center of discovery that helped introduce an appreciation for industry, innovation, and the creative process for students and learners of all ages, including the 45,000 who visited the facilities last year alone. Through a unique blend of traditional museum programs, computer labs, art galleries, craft demonstration areas, and interactive classrooms, The Works strives to stimulate analytical thinking and enhance the quality life in Licking County and beyond.

Through Mr. LeFevre's leadership, The Works has been a catalyst for restoration of downtown Newark, rescuing

in its first decade four historic buildings that formed the heart of Newark's oldest manufacturing area. The Works has been an invaluable resource for students of Licking County and the community as a whole.

Mr. LeFevre has been an exemplary leader in his community. He is a past president of Newark Area and Licking County Chamber of Commerce, past president of the Newark Rotary Club, past chairman of the United Way Annual Campaign, and past president of the board of directors of the Licking County United Way. Mr. LeFevre is trustee emeritus of and past chairman of Governing Committee of Licking County Foundation. He is director of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and a former member of the Ohio State Development Advisory Council.

He was honored by a Distinguished Service Award at the Ohio State university in 1976 for his efforts in connection with establishing the Newark campus of the university. He was also honored by Licking Memorial Hospital with their Lifetime Achievement Award in 1990. In 2002, Mr. LeFevre was awarded the ''Man of the Century'' by the city of Newark during its 2002–2003 bicentennial summer festivities.

Mr. President, thanks to LeFevre's dedication, The Works will celebrate its 10th anniversary on June 17, 2006.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and commending Howard E. LeFevre on his lifetime of commitment to the residents of Licking County as well as people all over the State of Ohio.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5252. An act to promote the deployment of broadband networks and services.

H.R. 5522. An act making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5252. An act to promote the deployment of broadband networks and services; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 5522. An act making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–7051. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Income Attributable to Domestic Production Activities'' ((RIN1545–BE33) (TD 9263)) received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7052. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Computer Software Under Section 199(c)(5)(B)'' ((RIN1545–BF57) (TD 9262)) received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7053. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Guidance Necessary to Facilitate Electronic Filing and Burden Reduction'' ((RIN1545–BF26) (TD 9264)) received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7054. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Bureau of Labor Statistics Price Indexes for Department Stores—March 2006'' (Rev. Rul. 2006–28) received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7055. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Qualified NMWHFIT Exception Extension'' (Notice 2006–30) received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7056. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Announcement of Rules to be Included in Final Regulations Under Sections 897(d) and (e) of the Code'' (Notice 2006–46) received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7057. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revenue Procedure to Eliminate Impediments to e-filing Consolidated Returns and Reduce Reporting Requirements'' (Rev. Proc. 2006–21) received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7058. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Methods of Determining W–2 Wages for Purposes of the Section 199(b)(1) Limitation on the Section 199 Deduction for Income Attributable to Domestic Production Activities'' (Rev. Proc. 2006–22) received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–7059. A communication from the Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to information for 2005 on the country of origin and the sellers of uranium and uranium enrichment services purchased by owners and operators of U.S. civilian nuclear power reactors; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7060. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2005 Annual Report for the Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7061. A communication from the Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Sixteenth Annual Report to Congress relative to the health and safety activities relating to the Department of Energy's defense nuclear facilitates during calendar year 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7062. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Energy's annual report to Congress concerning operations at Naval Petroleum Reserves; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7063. A communication from the Deputy CHCO/Director, OHCM, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, (2) reports relative to vacancy announcements within the Department, received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7064. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standards for Business Practices and Communication Protocols for Public Utilities'' (Order No. 676) received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7065. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Status for 12 Species of Picture Wing Flies From the Hawaiian Islands'' (RIN1018–AG23) received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7066. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Preparation for Sale'' (RIN1004–AD70) received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7067. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Utah Regulatory Program'' (UT–043–FOR) received on June 5, 2006; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7068. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Missouri Regulatory Program'' (MO–038–FOR) received on June 5, 2006; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–7069. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Director, Office of Federal Housing

Enterprise Oversight, received on May 31, 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7070. A communication from the Senior Vice President for Resource Management, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's Buy American Act Report for fiscal year 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7071. A communication from the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the U.S. Department of the Treasury Fleet Alternative Fuel Vehicle Acquisition Report for Fiscal Year 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7072. A communication from the Acting Chairman, Appraisal Subcommittee, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2005 Annual Report of the Appraisal Subcommittee of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7073. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to obligations and allocations for the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF); to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–7074. A communication from the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, the report of proposed legislation entitled ''Community Development Block Grant Reform Act of 2006'' received on May 31, 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 687. A bill to regulate the unauthorized installation of computer software, to require clear disclosure to computer users of certain computer software features that may pose a threat to user privacy, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 109–262).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SANTORUM:

S. 3490. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to initiate and complete an evaluation of land and water located in northeastern Pennsylvania for future acquisition and inclusion in a potential Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. VOINOVICH:

S. 3491. A bill to establish a commission to develop legislation designed to reform tax policy and entitlement benefit programs and to ensure a sound fiscal future for the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. DOLE, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. REED, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DODD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Con. Res. 99. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the policy of the United States at the 58th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. ALLARD:

S. Con. Res. 100. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that an artistic tribute to commemorate the speech given by President Ronald Reagan at the Brandenburg Gate on June 12, 1987, should be placed within the United States Capitol; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 20

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 20, a bill to expand access to preventive health care services that help reduce unintended pregnancy, reduce the number of abortions, and improve access to women's health care.

S. 1046

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1046, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance.

S. 1353

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1353, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

S. 1376

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1376, a bill to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 students in the United States by improving professional development programs for kindergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.

S. 1537

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1537, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of Parkinson's Disease Research Education and Clinical Centers in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs and Multiple Sclerosis Centers of Excellence.

S. 1840

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1840, a bill to amend section 340B of the Public Health Service Act to increase the affordability of inpatient drugs for Medicaid and safety net hospitals.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1862, a bill to establish a joint energy cooperation program within the Department of Energy to fund eligible ventures between United States and Israeli businesses and academic persons in the national interest, and for other purposes.

S. 1896

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1896, a bill to permit access to Federal crime information databases by educational agencies for certain purposes.

S. 1934

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1934, a bill to reauthorize the grant program of the Department of Justice for reentry of offenders into the community, to establish a task force on Federal programs and activities relating to the reentry of offenders into the community, and for other purposes.

S. 2010

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2010, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to enhance the Social Security of the Nation by ensuring adequate public-private infrastructure and to resolve to prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and for other purposes.

S. 2292

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2292, a bill to provide relief for the Federal judiciary from excessive rent charges.

S. 2321

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2321, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Louis Braille.

S. 2423

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2423, a bill to improve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education.

S. 2424

At the request of Mr. ALLEN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2424, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the contribution limits for health savings accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 2465

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2465, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide increased assistance for the prevention, treatment, and control of tuberculosis, and for other purposes.

S. 2467

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2467, a bill to enhance and improve the trade relations of the United States by strengthening United States trade enforcement efforts and encouraging United States trading partners to adhere to the rules and norms of international trade, and for other purposes.

S. 2554

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2554, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the permissible use of health savings accounts to include premiums for non-group high deductible health plan coverage.

S. 2566

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2566, a bill to provide for coordination of proliferation interdiction activities and conventional arms disarmament, and for other purposes.

S. 2592

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2592, a bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to improve the nutrition and health of schoolchildren by updating the definition of ''food of minimal nutritional value'' to conform to current nutrition science and to protect the Federal investment in the national school lunch and breakfast programs.

S. 2599

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2599, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to prohibit the confiscation of firearms during certain national emergencies.

S. 2635

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2635, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the transportation fringe benefit to bicycle commuters.

S. 2659

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2659, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the eligibility of Indian tribal organizations for grants for the establishment of veterans cemeteries on trust lands.

S. 2707

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2707, a bill to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to exempt qualified public housing agencies from the requirement of preparing an annual public housing agency plan.

S. 2810

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2810, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate months in 2006 from the calculation of any late enrollment penalty under the Medicare part D prescription drug program and to provide for additional funding for State health insurance counseling program and area agencies on aging, and for other purposes.

S. 2822

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2822, a bill to authorize the Marion Park Project and Committee of the Palmetto Conservation Foundation to establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor Brigadier General Francis Marion.

S. 3122

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3122, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to improve loans for members of the Guard and Reserve, and for other purposes.

S. 3238

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3238, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

S. 3275

At the request of Mr. ALLEN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3275, a bill to amend title 18, United States code, to provide a national standard in accordance with which nonresidents of a State may carry concealed firearms in the State.

S. 3481

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3481, a bill to require the Government Accountability Office to submit a report to Congress on the compliance of the Postal Service with procedural requirements in the closing of the postal sorting facility in Aberdeen, South Dakota, and for other purposes.

S. 3487

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3487, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize and improve the disaster loan program, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 12

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 12, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

S.J. RES. 38

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 38, a joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 96

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 96, a concurrent resolution to commemorate, celebrate, and reaffirm the national motto of the United States on the 50th anniversary of its formal adoption.

S. RES. 303

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 303, a resolution calling for the Government of Nigeria to conduct a thorough judicial review of the Ken Saro-Wiwa case, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 503

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 503, a resolution mourning the loss of life caused by the earthquake that occurred on May 27, 2006, in Indonesia, expressing the condolences of the American people to the families of the victims, and urging assistance to those affected.

AMENDMENT NO. 4192

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4192 intended to be proposed to S. 2766, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SANTORUM:

S. 3490. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to initiate and complete

an evaluation of land and water located in northeastern Pennsylvania for future acquisition and inclusion in a potential Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation requiring the Secretary of the Department of the Interior to conduct a study evaluating a pristine area in the northeastern part of Pennsylvania, called Cherry Valley, for its potential designation as a national wildlife refuge. Known for its unspoiled wetlands and riparian forests, Cherry Valley provides an important habitat for one of the largest known populations of the threatened bog turtle, as well as for a plethora of endangered and rare species. Also, due to its location along the Kittatinny Ridge Migration Corridor, Cherry Valley is centrally located along an important migration route for eagles and the broad-winged hawk.

Recognized as an environmental treasure by local officials and residents, there is widespread support for Cherry Valley's designation as a wildlife refuge. Some landowners have, however, expressed private property concerns with the proposed designation. It is my hope that by requiring a study, during which the Secretary must consult with landowners and other interested parties, we can fully understand the value of the Cherry Valley area, as well as address any concerns landowners may have.

Representative PAUL KANJORSKI introduced similar legislation in the House. I ask for the support of my colleagues in authorizing this study to determine whether beautiful Cherry Valley should be preserved and designated a national wildlife refuge.

By Mr. VOINOVICH:

S. 3491. A bill to establish a commission to develop legislation designed to reform tax policy and entitlement benefit programs and to ensure a sound fiscal future for the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the Securing America's Future Economy Commission Act, which I am introducing today. I ask unanimous consent that my statement and bill be printed in the RECORD.

This legislation stems from the need to address our Nation's current and future fiscal health. The fact is, we are in dire straits. In the simplest terms, the Federal Government continues to spend more than it takes in. In case anyone has forgotten, the deficit for fiscal year 2005 was $318 billion—the third largest deficit in our Nation's history. If we were to take out the Social Security surplus, the deficit would be nearly $500 billion. And if we were to use accrual accounting, the accounting method used by American businesses, the deficit would be approximately $760 billion.

These deficits only continue to add to our national debt. When I came to the Senate in 1999, the national debt stood at $5.6 trillion. Since then, it has increased 50 percent to $8.4 trillion. As a percentage of Gross Domestic Product, GDP, our national debt has grown from being 58 percent of GDP at the end of 2000 to an estimated 66.1 percent of GDP by the end of 2006.

In fact, the debt continues to grow so quickly that the House of Representative's fiscal year 2007 budget resolution raises the Federal debt ceiling to nearly $10 trillion. This is only a few months after Congress was forced to raise the debt ceiling.

These ongoing deficits, coupled with the expected tidal wave of entitlement spending, will soon put our Nation in a very unenviable position if thoughtful action is not taken. Moreover, the trust funds for Medicare and Social Security will be exhausted even earlier than previously thought. According to the most recent trustees' report, the cost of Social Security and Medicare will grow from nearly 7.4 percent of the economy today to 12.7 percent by 2030, consuming approximately 70 percent of all Federal revenues, crowding out all other discretionary spending and some other mandatory programs.

While entitlements are a major component of our Nation's future fiscal health, it is not the only portion. Just as we must look at how we must reform our entitlement programs to maintain our nation's competitiveness, we must also review our arcane Tax Code.

What we should be doing is spending our time on tax reform. We all know that fundamental tax reform is critical. Just as we know the entitlement tidal wave is coming, we know that more and more middle class American families are being swept up in the AMT. So I simply cannot understand why some of my colleagues want to make so many provisions of the current Tax Code permanent or add new tax cuts when we very well may be eliminating precisely the same provisions as part of fundamental tax reform. No homeowner would remodel their kitchen and bathroom right before tearing down the house to build a newer and better one.

Simplifying the code to make it more fair and honest could, by some estimates, save taxpayers over $265 billion in costs associated with preparing their taxes. That would be a real tax reduction, and it would not cost the Treasury one dime. It would be a tax cut that would guarantee that people are paying their fair share and would bring more money into the Federal Treasury.

Anyone in the know who is watching us has got to wonder about our character, our intellectual honesty, our concern about our national security, our Nation's competitiveness in the global marketplace now and in the future, and last but not least, our ''don't-give-a-dam'' attitude about the standard of living and quality of life of our children and grandchildren. We know the long-term fiscal challenges that are facing our nation. We know that if we continue to move forward blindly, we will walk off a cliff.

The simple fact is that we can't have it all—we need to set priorities and make hard choices—otherwise our children will end up paying for it. Last week I voted against the repeal of the estate tax and called on Congress to heed Americans' demand for fundamental tax and entitlement reform. The SAFE Act shows that I am serious about making this a priority for Congress.

The legislation will establish a commission comprised of 15 voting members, 3 of which will be appointed by the President, 3 by the Senate majority leader, 3 by the Senate minority leader, 3 by the Speaker of the House and 3 by the House minority leader. The Director of the Congressional Budget Office and the Comptroller General of the United States will be appointed as nonvoting ex-officio members of the Commission to lend their expertise.

The Commission will bring together the best minds associated with budget and economic policies to examine the long-term fiscal challenges facing the United States and recommend reforms. A minimum of six public town hall meetings will be held throughout the country within year to determine the scope of the problem and consider solutions.

At the conclusion of the town meetings, the Commission will present a report to Congress detailing the fiscal problems facing future generations as well as a framework of long-term solutions. Within 60 days of the presentation of their report to Congress, the Commission will transmit to Congress a legislative proposal designed to: address the imbalance between long-term Federal spending commitments and projected revenues; increase net national savings to spur domestic investment and economic growth; and improve the budget process to place greater emphasis on long-term fiscal issues.

The administration and Congress will each have 120 days to review the proposal and develop equivalent proposals if they deem necessary. Congress would then be required to vote on the proposals.

America's fiscal situation is dire. Nothing is off the table when it comes to ensuring our longterm prosperity and increasing our competitiveness in the global marketplace. The task is daunting, but now is the time to act. I am thinking not only about the present, but about our children and grandchildren and the legacy—or burden—we will leave them.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3491

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Securing America's Future Economy Commission Act'' or ''SAFE Commission Act''.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.

There is established a commission to be known as the ''Securing America's Future Economy Commission'' (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the ''Commission'').

SEC. 3. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.

(a) MANDATORY LEGISLATION DEVELOPMENT.—

(1) ISSUES TO ADDRESS.—The Commission shall examine the long-term fiscal challenges facing the United States and develop legislation designed to address the following issues:

(A) The unsustainable imbalance between long-term Federal spending commitments and projected revenues.

(B) Increasing net national savings to provide for domestic investment and economic growth.

(C) Improving the budget process to place greater emphasis on long-term fiscal issues.

(2) POLICY SOLUTIONS.—Legislation developed to address the issues described in paragraph (1) may include the following:

(A) Reforms that limit the growth of entitlement spending to ensure that the programs are fiscally sustainable.

(B) Reforms that strengthen the safety net functions of entitlement programs.

(C) Reforms that make United States tax laws more efficient and more conducive to encouraging economic growth.

(D) Incentives to increase private savings.

(E) Automatic stabilizers or triggers to enforce spending and revenue targets.

(F) Any other reforms designed to address the issues described in paragraph (1).

(b) OPTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF COST ESTIMATE ALTERNATIVES.—The Commission shall by an affirmative vote of 5 members develop not more than 2 methods for estimating the cost of legislation as an alternative to the method currently used by the Congressional Budget Office. Any such alternative method must be designed to address any shortcomings in the method currently used with regard to estimating the positive economic effects of legislation.

SEC. 4. INITIAL TOWN-HALL STYLE PUBLIC HEARINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall hold at least 1 town-hall style public hearing within each Federal reserve district, and shall, to the extent feasible, ensure that there is broad public participation in the hearings.

(b) HEARING FORMAT.—During each hearing, the Commission shall present to the public, and generate comments and suggestions regarding, the issues described in section 3, policies designed to address those issues, and tradeoffs between such policies.

SEC. 5. REPORT.

The Commission shall, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, submit a report to Congress and the President containing the following:

(1) A detailed description of the long-term fiscal problems faced by the United States.

(2) A list of policy options for addressing those problems.

(3) A summary of comments and suggestions generated from the town-hall style public hearings.

(4) A detailed statement of any findings of the Commission as to public preferences regarding the issues, policies, and tradeoffs presented in the town-hall style public hearings.

(5) Criteria for the legislative proposal to be developed by the Commission.

(6) A detailed description of the other activities of the Commission.

SEC. 6. LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date the report is submitted under section 5 and by a vote of ⅔ of the members, the Commission shall submit a legislative proposal to Congress and the President designed to address the issues described section 3.

(b) PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS.—The proposal must, to the extent feasible, be designed—

(1) to achieve generational equity and long-term economic stability;

(2) to address the comments and suggestions of the public; and

(3) to meet the criteria set forth in the Commission report.

(c) INCLUSION OF COST ESTIMATE.—The Commission shall submit with the proposal—

(1) a long-term CBO cost estimate prepared under section 14 for the proposal; and

(2) if an alternative cost estimate method is developed by the Commission, a 50-year cost estimate using such method.

SEC. 7. MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be composed of 15 voting members appointed pursuant to paragraph (1) and 2 nonvoting members described in paragraph (2).

(1) VOTING MEMBERS.—The 15 voting members of the Commission shall be appointed as follows:

(A) The President shall appoint 3 members, one of whom the President shall appoint as chairperson of the Commission.

(B) The Majority Leader of the Senate shall appoint 3 members.

(C) The Minority Leader of the Senate shall appoint 3 members.

(D) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint 3 members.

(E) The Minority Leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint 3 members.

(2) NONVOTING MEMBERS.—The Comptroller General of the United States and the Director of the Congressional Budget Office shall each be nonvoting members of the Commission and shall advise and assist at the request of the Commission.

(b) LIMITATION AS TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—Each appointing authority described in subsection (a)(1) who is a Member of Congress may appoint not more than 1 Member of Congress to the Commission.

(c) DATE FOR ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT.—The appointing authorities described in subsection (a)(1) shall appoint the initial members of the Commission not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) TERMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The term of each member is for the life of the Commission.

(2) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall be filled not later than 30 days after the date on which the vacancy occurs and in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(e) PAY AND REIMBURSEMENT.—

(1) NO COMPENSATION FOR MEMBERS OF COMMISSION.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a member of the Commission may not receive pay, allowances, or benefits by reason of their service on the Commission.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

(f) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet upon the call of the chairperson or a majority of its voting members.

(g) QUORUM.—Six voting members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold hearings.

SEC. 8. DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF COMMISSION.

(a) DIRECTOR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (c) and to the extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts, the Commission shall appoint and fix the pay of a director.

(2) DUTIES.—The director of the Commission shall be responsible for the administration and coordination of the duties of the Commission and shall perform other such duties as the Commission may require.

(b) STAFF.—In accordance with rules agreed upon by the Commission, subject to subsection (c), and to the extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts, the director may appoint and fix the pay of additional personnel.

(c) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE LAWS.—The director and staff of the Commission may be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and may be paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, except that pay fixed under subsection (a) may not exceed $150,000 per year and pay fixed under subsection (b) may not exceed a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(d) DETAILEES.—Any Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement from the Commission, and such detailee shall retain the rights, status, and privileges of their regular employment without interruption.

(e) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), in accordance with rules agreed upon by the Commission and to the extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts, the director may procure the services of experts and consultants under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) EXCLUSION OF LOBBYISTS AND AGENTS OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—In no case may any individual who is a registered lobbyist or an agent of a foreign government serve as an expert or a consultant under this subsection.

(f) RESOURCES.—The Commission shall have reasonable access to materials, resources, statistical data, and other information the Commission determines to be necessary to carry out its duties from the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Secretary of the Treasury, and other agencies and representatives of the executive and legislative branches of the Federal Government. The Chairperson shall make requests for such access in writing when necessary.

SEC. 9. POWERS OF COMMISSION.

(a) HEARINGS AND EVIDENCE.—The Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold such hearings in addition to the town-hall style public hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers appropriate. The Commission may administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses appearing before it.

(b) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any member or agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the Commission, take any action which the Commission is authorized to take under this section.

(c) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the United States.

(d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon the request of the Commission, the Administrator of General Services shall provide

to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative support services necessary for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities under this Act.

(e) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—To the extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts, the Commission may enter into contracts to enable the Commission to discharge its duties under this Act.

(f) GIFTS.—The Commission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.

SEC. 10. TERMINATION.

The Commission shall terminate 60 days after submitting its legislative proposal.

SEC. 11. ALTERNATIVE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL OF THE PRESIDENT.

The President may, not later than 120 days after the Commission submits its legislative proposal, submit to Congress an alternative to the legislative proposal submitted by the Commission.

SEC. 12. ALTERNATIVE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.

The Committee on the Budget of either House may, in consultation with the relevant committees of their respective House and not later than 120 days after the Commission submits its legislative proposal, have published in the Congressional Record an alternative to the legislative proposal submitted by the Commission.

SEC. 13. CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION.

(a) INTRODUCTION.—On the first legislative day after the Commission submits its legislative proposal, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Majority Leader of the Senate shall introduce (by request) the legislation submitted by the Commission.

(b) IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

(1) PRIVILEGED CONSIDERATION.—In the House of Representatives, if a committee to which the legislation has been referred has not reported the legislation before the expiration of the 120-day period described in section 12, then—

(A) that committee shall be discharged from consideration of the legislation;

(B) the legislation shall be placed on the appropriate calendar; and

(C) a motion to proceed to the consideration of the legislation is highly privileged and is not debatable.

(2) AMENDMENTS LIMITED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), an amendment to the legislation may not be offered in the House of Representatives.

(B) PERMITTED AMENDMENTS.—(i) Any Member may offer, as an amendment in the nature of a substitute, the alternative legislative proposal submitted by the President.

(ii) Any Member may offer, as an amendment in the nature of a substitute, the legislative proposal submitted by the Commission.

(iii) The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may offer, as an amendment in the nature of a substitute, the alternative legislative proposal published in the Congressional Record by the House Committee on the Budget.

(C) POINT OF ORDER.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—An amendment offered under subparagraph (B) is subject to a point of order if—

(I) the amendment is not accompanied by a long-term CBO cost estimate of the amendment or a long-term revenue estimate of the amendment by the Joint Committee of Taxation (including the information described in paragraph (1) and (2) of section 14(b)); or

(II) the long-term CBO cost estimate of the amendment is greater than the long-term CBO cost estimate of the legislative proposal submitted by the Commission.

(ii) WAIVER OF POINT OF ORDER.—A point of order raised in accordance with clause (i) may only be waived or suspended in the House of Representatives by a resolution devoted solely to the subject of waiving that point of order.

(D) MULTIPLE AMENDMENTS.—If more than one amendment is offered under this paragraph, then each amendment shall be considered separately, and the amendment receiving both a majority and the highest number of votes shall be the amendment adopted.

(3) TRANSMITTAL TO THE SENATE.—If legislation passes the House pursuant to subsection (b), the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall cause the legislation to be engrossed, certified, and transmitted to the Senate within one calendar day of the day on which the legislation is passed. The legislation shall be referred to the Senate Committee on the Budget.

(c) IN THE SENATE.—

(1) AUTOMATIC DISCHARGE OF SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE.—If the Senate Committee on the Budget has not reported the legislation before the expiration of the 120-day period described in section 12, then—

(A) the committee shall be discharged from consideration of the legislation; and

(B) a motion to proceed to the consideration of the legislation is highly privileged and is not debatable.

(2) CONSIDERATION.—Consideration of such legislation shall be pursuant to the procedures set forth in section 305 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(3) AMENDMENTS LIMITED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), an amendment to the legislation may not be offered in the Senate.

(B) PERMITTED AMENDMENTS.—(i) Any Member may offer, as an amendment in the nature of a substitute, the alternative legislative proposal submitted by the President.

(ii) Any Member may offer, as an amendment in the nature of a substitute, the legislative proposal submitted by the Commission.

(iii) The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may offer, as an amendment in the nature of a substitute, the alternative legislative proposal published in the Congressional Record by the Senate Committee on the Budget.

(C) POINT OF ORDER.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—An amendment offered under subparagraph (B) is subject to a point of order if—

(I) the amendment is not accompanied by a long-term CBO cost estimate of the amendment or a long-term revenue estimate of the amendment by the Joint Committee of Taxation (including the information described in paragraph (1) and (2) of section 14(b)); or

(II) the long-term CBO cost estimate of the amendment is greater than the long-term CBO cost estimate of the legislative proposal submitted by the Commission.

(ii) WAIVER OF POINT OF ORDER.—A point of order raised in accordance with clause (i) may only be waived or suspended in the Senate by an affirmative vote of ⅗ of the Members duly chosen and sworn.

(D) MULTIPLE AMENDMENTS.—If more than one amendment is offered under this paragraph, then each amendment shall be considered separately, and the amendment receiving both a majority and the highest number of votes shall be the amendment adopted.

(d) APPLICATION OF CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT.—To the extent that they are relevant and not inconsistent with this Act, the provisions of title III of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 shall apply in the House of Representatives and the Senate to legislation considered under this section.

(e) RULES OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—This section is enacted by Congress—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, and is deemed to be part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of a bill introduced pursuant to this section, and it supersedes other rules only to the extent that it is inconsistent with such rules; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as they relate to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

SEC. 14. LONG-TERM CBO COST ESTIMATE.

(a) PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION.—When the Commission, the President, or the chairman of the Committee on the Budget of either House submits a written request to the Director of the Congressional Budget Office for a long-term cost estimate by the Congressional Budget Office (referred to in this Act as a ''long-term CBO cost estimate'') of legislation proposed under this Act or an amendment referred to in section 13(b)(2)(B), the Director shall prepare the estimate and have it published in the Congressional Record as expeditiously as possible.

(b) CONTENT.—A long-term CBO cost estimate shall include—

(1) an estimate of the cost of each provision of the legislation or amendment for the first fiscal year it would take effect and for each of the 50 fiscal years thereafter; and

(2) a statement of any estimated future costs not reflected by the estimate described in paragraph (1).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 99—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES AT THE 58TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. DOLE, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. REED, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DODD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 99

Whereas whales have very low reproductive rates, making many whale populations extremely vulnerable to pressure from commercial whaling;

Whereas whales migrate throughout the world's oceans and international cooperation is required to successfully conserve and protect whale stocks;

Whereas in 1946 a significant number of the nations of the world adopted the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, which established the International Whaling Commission to provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks;

Whereas in 2003 the Commission established a Conservation Committee, open to all members of the Commission, for the purpose

of facilitating efficient and effective coordination and development of conservation recommendations and activities, which are fully consistent with the conservation objectives stated in the 1946 Convention;

Whereas the Commission adopted a moratorium on commercial whaling in 1982 in order to conserve and promote the recovery of whale stocks, many of which had been hunted to near extinction by the commercial whaling industry;

Whereas the rights of indigenous people to whale for subsistence purposes has been specifically recognized under the 1946 Convention;

Whereas the Commission has designated the Indian Ocean and part of the ocean around Antarctica as whale sanctuaries to further enhance the recovery of whale stocks;

Whereas many nations of the world have designated waters under their jurisdiction as whale sanctuaries where commercial whaling is prohibited, and additional regional whale sanctuaries have been proposed by nations that are members of the Commission;

Whereas two member nations that lodged objections to the Commission's moratorium on commercial whaling when it was adopted continue to hold such objections, a third member nation asserted a reservation to the moratorium on rejoining the Commission, and one member nation is currently conducting commercial whaling operations in spite of the moratorium and the protests of other nations;

Whereas the Commission has adopted several resolutions at recent meetings asking member nations to halt commercial whaling activities conducted under reservation to the moratorium and to refrain from issuing special permits for research involving the killing of whales;

Whereas one member nation of the Commission has taken a reservation to the Commission's Southern Ocean Sanctuary and also continues to conduct unnecessary lethal scientific whaling in the Southern Ocean and in the North Pacific Ocean;

Whereas one member nation is conducting unnecessary lethal scientific whaling in the Atlantic;

Whereas whale meat and blubber is being sold commercially from whales killed pursuant to such unnecessary lethal scientific whaling, further undermining the moratorium on commercial whaling;

Whereas the Commission has repeatedly expressed serious concerns about the scientific need for such lethal research and recognizes the importance of demonstrating and expanding the use of non-lethal scientific research methods;

Whereas more than 9,150 whales have been killed in lethal scientific whaling programs since the adoption of the commercial whaling moratorium and the lethal take of whales under scientific permits has increased both in quantity and species, and a new program would take minke, Bryde's, sei, fin, humpback, and sperm whales;

Whereas, one member nation is harvesting whales on an unprecedented scale in the name of scientific research, and plans to take up to 935 minke whales, 50 humpback whales, and 50 fin whales in the Antarctic, and 220 minke whales, 50 Bryde's whales, 100 sei whales and 10 sperm whales in the North Pacific. Sei, sperm, humpback, and fin whales are all endangered species;

Whereas engaging in commercial whaling under reservation and lethal scientific whaling undermines the conservation program of the Commission;

Whereas discussions are taking place within the Commission on a Revised Management Scheme (RMS) that would regulate any possible future commercial whaling;

Whereas any decision to lift the moratorium against commercial whaling, or to allow commercial whaling in any other form, must be taken independently from negotiations and adoption of an RMS;

Whereas any RMS must include or be conditioned on the concurrent adoption of provisions similar to those in other international agreements related to fisheries and marine mammals, including transparent and neutral observer mechanisms, and effective compliance and dispute settlement mechanisms;

Whereas to be effective, if an RMS is adopted, any future commercial whaling must take place pursuant to the RMS, and without reservation to any of its substantive provisions; and

Whereas any decision to lift the moratorium against commercial whaling must be conditioned on the immediate cessation of lethal scientific whaling: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring) That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) at the 58th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission the United States should—

(A) remain firmly opposed to commercial whaling and any linking of adoption of a Revised Management Scheme (RMS) to the lifting of the commercial whaling moratorium or allowing commercial whaling in any other form;

(B) initiate and support efforts to ensure that all activities conducted under reservations to the Commission's moratorium or sanctuaries are ceased;

(C) seek to ensure that any RMS includes, or is conditioned on the concurrent adoption of provisions similar to those in other international agreements related to fisheries and marine mammals, including transparent and neutral observer mechanisms, and effective compliance and dispute settlement mechanisms;

(D) insist that any future commercial whaling must take place pursuant to the RMS without reservations to any of its substantive provisions, and that lethal scientific whaling must immediately cease upon the commencement of any commercial whaling;

(E) uphold the rights of indigenous people to whale for subsistence purposes, and firmly reject any attempts to compromise such rights or to equate commercial whaling with such rights;

(F) initiate or support efforts to end the lethal taking of whales for scientific purposes, seek support for expanding the use of non-lethal research methods, and seek to end the sale of whale meat and blubber from whales killed for unnecessary lethal scientific research;

(G) support proposals for the permanent protection of whale populations through the establishment of whale sanctuaries and other zones of protection in which commercial whaling is prohibited;

(H) support efforts to expand data collection on whale populations, monitor and reduce whale bycatch and other incidental impacts, and otherwise expand whale conservation efforts;

(I) support the adoption of an active program of work by the Conservation Committee to address the full range of threats to whales, and otherwise expand whale conservation efforts;

(J) call upon the Contracting Parties to the Convention to submit to the Commission for discussion within the Conservation Committee national approaches, including laws, regulations and other initiatives, that further the conservation of cetaceans; and

(2) the United States should make full use of all appropriate diplomatic mechanisms, Federal law, relevant international laws and agreements, and other appropriate mechanisms to implement the goals set forth in paragraph (1).

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution that is vital to the protection of our oceans' large whale populations. Representatives from 69 nations will gather this month in St. Kitt's for the 58th meeting of the International Whaling Commission. The debates in which they will engage will address the future of the moratorium on commercial whaling and other limitations on worldwide whale hunting. For many years, the United States and our allies in the fight to conserve whales have held a majority position in this body, but indications suggest that this year our majority may be lost. In light of this, it is more imperative than ever that the United States clearly expresses its adamant opposition to any resumption of commercial whaling and continues to set an example as a leader in the fight to uphold whale conservation policies.

Before the current commercial ban was instituted in 1982, member states attempted to manage whaling with a quota system. Due to ineffective reporting of catches by whaling nations, this program was an abject failure, and it directly necessitated implementation of the commercial ban. Yet over the past year, countries that favor lifting the ban on commercial whaling have continued their efforts to convince nations with no inherent interest in whaling to join the IWC and support measures to reduce whaling restrictions. The ultimate goal of these member states is to lift the moratorium on commercial whaling. While it appears that the prowhaling states may have a majority at this year's meeting, they likely lack the three-quarters majority required to lift the ban. However, a majority would enable these states to make procedural changes that could facilitate their efforts in years to come. Any efforts to remove or weaken the prohibition would set whale conservation efforts back decades and fly in the face of the United States and other like-minded countries' well-established position in support of sound, effective whale conservation.

My colleagues and I introduce this resolution to express our ardent support for the U.S. negotiators as they work to prevent prowhaling states from lifting the ban, and as our delegates attempt to enhance existing conservation methods. Even now, with commercial whaling prohibited, certain IWC member states plan to continue to expand their killing of large numbers of whales—including some endangered species—for so-called scientific purposes. However, the IWC and leading marine mammal scientists have found that lethal whaling is no longer necessary to advance scientific research. In addition, some member states continue to whale commercially, harvesting an increasing number of whales with every passing year, by taking reservations to the moratorium.

Such activities directly undermine the effectiveness of the IWC as a whole and weaken our hard-fought conservation efforts.

Although opponents of the commercial whaling ban are unlikely to overturn the moratorium this year, we understand that such a ban is unlikely to last forever. To this end, the IWC may again consider a movement towards a revised management scheme, or RMS, to govern future whaling conservation and management decisions, including a framework for a sustainable harvest. But certain provisions must be part of any RMS if the United States is to support such an action. We must ensure that any RMS contains an increased reliance on sustainability of populations and legitimate scientific knowledge and research. It must also close any existing loopholes—such as the scientific exception—that allow take of whales outside the scheme, had include appropriate compliance, enforcement, and transparency measures.

I thank my colleagues who have signed on as cosponsors of this resolution for their ongoing support of marine conservation: Senators CANTWELL, KERRY, DOLE, BOXER, FEINGOLD, REED, LAUTENBERG, MCCAIN, LIEBERMAN, COLLINS, WYDEN, DODD, FEINSTEIN, MENENDEZ, LEVIN, BIDEN, DAYTON, JEFFORDS, and LANDRIEU. Their actions will help ensure that whale populations, so critical to our marine ecosystems, continue to grace our oceans for generations to come.

We must continue to support and strengthen the international agreements that govern activities detrimental to the well-being of some of the world's most threatened large mammals. Changes in the political climate have made our commitment to the protection of these species more vital than ever before, and I urge my colleagues to support swift passage of this resolution.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Fisheries and Coast Guard Subcommittee of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, I am pleased to join the chairwoman of the subcommittee, Senator SNOWE, in submitting a resolution regarding the policy of the United States at the upcoming 58th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission, IWC. I wish to also thank my Senate colleagues Mr. KERRY, Mrs. DOLE, Ms. BOXER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. REED, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DODD, Ms. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. KENNEDY for cosponsoring as well.

The resolution we introduce today comes at a time when the United States and other like-minded nations are facing new and intensifying challenges within the IWC to adopt policies detrimental to our stated opposition to commercial and lethal scientific whaling.

In 1982, due to the severe impacts of whaling on the populations of large whale species, the IWC adopted an indefinite moratorium on all commercial whaling. Although Japan, Iceland, Norway, and other countries in favor of commercial whaling do not yet have the necessary three-quarters majority on the IWC to lift the moratorium, for the first time they may have the simple majority needed to control procedure and to adopt resolutions contrary to the longstanding positions of the IWC. Policies that the United States has opposed in the past, such as secret ballots and statements supporting lethal scientific whaling, could be adopted under a simple majority.

As Japan and Iceland have gained support for their prowhaling position within the IWC, they have become even more aggressive in their utilization of a provision in the convention that allows countries to issue themselves permits for ''scientific whaling''. These permits are currently being used to justify killing whales in the name of science and then later selling the meat commercially. More than 9,150 whales have been killed in lethal scientific whaling programs since the adoption of the commercial whaling moratorium, and Japan has plans for a major new program that would more than double its takes of minke whales and expand such whaling to Byrde's, sei, fin, sperm and humpback whales. Furthermore, Japan plans to hunt in the commission's designated Southern Ocean Sanctuary, an area set aside off Antarctica to facilitate whale conservation and recovery.

The IWC has repeatedly stated that such lethal takes are not necessary for scientific research. Sei, sperm, humpback, and fin whales are all endangered species, and hunting these species undermines the IWC's whale conservation program.

As was the case last year, discussions are ongoing in the IWC to establish a framework, or ''revised management scheme,'' RMS, for any future commercial whaling, should it ever occur. In this resolution, we urge the U.S. delegation to the IWC to insist that any RMS negotiations are distinct from decisions on whether to lift the moratorium on commercial whaling and that an RMS contain provisions on accountability, transparency, and compliance. As part of any RMS language, lethal scientific whaling must immediately cease upon the commencement of any commercial whaling. The resolution also recognizes the rights of indigenous people to whale for subsistence purposes and directs the U.S. delegation to reject any attempts to compromise or equate such rights to commercial whaling.

I thank Chairwoman SNOWE for her collaboration on this resolution. I will continue to work with my colleagues on this issue to ensure that whales are protected under the International Whaling Commission.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 100—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT AN ARTISTIC TRIBUTE TO COMMEMORATE THE SPEECH GIVEN BY PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN AT THE BRANDENBURG GATE ON JUNE 12, 1987, SHOULD BE PLACED WITHIN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

Mr. ALLARD submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. CON. RES. 100

Whereas the people of the United States successfully defended freedom and democracy for over 40 years in a global Cold War against an aggressive Communist tyranny;

Whereas President Ronald Wilson Reagan's demonstration of unwavering personal conviction during this conflict served to inspire millions of people throughout the United States and around the world to seek democracy, freedom, and greater individual liberty; and

Whereas Ronald Wilson Reagan's determined stand against the Soviet empire during his eight years as President served as the catalyst for the end of that regime: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that an artistic tribute to commemorate the speech given by President Ronald Reagan at the Brandenburg Gate on June 12, 1987, during which he uttered the immortal lines ''Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!'', should be placed within the United States Capitol.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, last Monday was a somber anniversary for our Nation—it marked the second anniversary of President Ronald Reagan's passing. I did not come to the floor last Monday, because I knew that today, just a week later, would be another important anniversary in Reagan's life, and one I would rather note.

Nineteen years ago, on this day in 1987, President Ronald Reagan stood at the Berlin Wall, at the Brandenburg Gate and issued his—issued liberty's—famous challenge to Soviet tyranny:

> General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!

I believe the power and significance of this quote has been acknowledged. I believe history recognizes what President Reagan's steadfast determination to resist communist expansion and even the communist status quo meant to that great struggle. Many spoke on this floor 2 years ago on his contributions, and most have acknowledged the significance of those contributions.

I am submitting legislation today because President Reagan's contributions to winning the cold war, defending liberty, strengthening America and brightening our future can, in my mind, be adequately summarized by the moment he went to Berlin, stood in the shadow of a communist tyranny, summoned up the force of the American spirit, and called for the removal of the infamous wall.

My resolution calls for an artistic rendering of that moment in time to be painted into the Capitol, along with the other significant scenes of our Nation's past. As we walk through the building today, we can see scenes from the Nation's founding, from the Civil War, our westward expansion, even the Moon landing and *Challenger* astronauts. I would like to also see Reagan at the Brandenburg Gate. I think it would be entirely appropriate to have this image added. It would be an important reminder of the struggle this Nation undertook. It would stand for the millions of Americans who did their part for nearly half a century in that struggle, military and civilian. And it would testify to the greatness of our Nation, and the greatness of our 40th President.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4196. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4197. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4198. Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. LEVIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4199. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4200. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4201. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4202. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4203. Mr. KERRY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4204. Mr. KERRY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4205. Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4206. Mr. LUGAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4207. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4208. Mr. WARNER (for Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. LEVIN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2766, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4196. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 648. EXPANSION OF COMBAT-RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION ELIGIBILITY FOR CHAPTER 61 MILITARY RETIREES.

(a) ELIGIBILITY.—Subsection (c) of section 1413a of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''entitled to retired pay who—'' and all that follows and inserting ''who—

''(1) is entitled to retired pay (other than by reason of section 12731b of this title); and

''(2) has a combat-related disability.''.

(b) COMPUTATION.—Paragraph (3) of subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) by designating the text of that paragraph as subparagraph (A), realigning that text so as to be indented 4 ems from the left margin, and inserting before ''In the case of'' the following heading: ''IN GENERAL.—''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(B) SPECIAL RULE FOR RETIREES WITH FEWER THAN 20 YEARS OF SERVICE.—In the case of an eligible combat-related disabled uniformed services retiree who is retired under chapter 61 of this title with fewer than 20 years of creditable service, the amount of the payment under paragraph (1) for any month shall be reduced by the amount (if any) by which the amount of the member's retired pay under chapter 61 of this title exceeds the amount equal to 2½ percent of the member's years of creditable service multiplied by the member's retired pay base under section 1406(b)(1) or 1407 of this title, whichever is applicable to the member.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on January 1, 2006, and shall apply to payments for months beginning on or after that date.

SA 4197. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 648. EFFECTIVE DATE OF TERMINATION OF PHASE-IN OF CONCURRENT RECEIPT FOR VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES RATED AS TOTAL BY VIRTUE OF UNEMPLOYABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1414(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''100 percent'' the first place it appears and all that follows and inserting ''100 percent and in the case of a qualified retiree receiving veterans' disability compensation at the rate payable for a 100 percent disability by reason of a determination of individual unemployability, payment of retired pay to such veteran is subject to subsection (c) only during the period beginning on January 1, 2004, and ending on December 31, 2004.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on December 31, 2004.

SA 4198. Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. LEVIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On 51, between lines 16 and 17, insert the following:

(a) REPORTS ON CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS TO PROCEED BEYOND LOW-RATE INITIAL PRODUCTION.—Section 2399(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph (5):

''(5) If, before a final decision is made within the Department of Defense to proceed with a major defense acquisition program beyond low-rate initial production, a decision is made within the Department to proceed to operational use of the program or allocate funds available for procurement for the program, the Director shall submit to the Secretary of Defense and the congressional defense committees the report with respect to the program under paragraph (2) as soon as practicable after the decision under this paragraph is made.''.

On page 51, line 17, strike ''(a)'' and insert ''(b)''.

On page 51, line 20, insert ''and the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation'' after ''Logistics''.

On page 51, beginning on line 22, strike ''in light'' and all that follows through line 23 and insert ''in order to—

(A) reaffirm the test and evaluation principles that guide traditional acquisition programs; and

(B) determine how best to apply such principles to emerging acquisition approaches.

On page 52, line 4, strike ''shall issue'' and insert ''and the Director shall jointly issue''.

On page 52, strike lines 7 through 11.

On page 52, line 12, strike ''(b)'' and insert ''(c)''.

On page 52, line 13, strike ''subsection (a)'' and insert ''subsection (b)''.

On page 53, line 18, strike ''(c)'' and insert ''(d)''.

On page 53, line 25, strike ''subsection (a)'' and insert ''subsection (b)''.

On page 54, line 4, strike ''(d)'' and insert ''(e)''.

On page 54, line 8, strike ''subsection (a)'' and insert ''subsection (b)''.

On page 54, line 11, strike ''(e)'' and insert ''(f)''.

On page 54, line 15, insert before the period the following '', which length of time may be not more than 6 years from milestone B to initial operational capability''.

SA 4199. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction,

and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 874. PILOT PROGRAM ON EXPANDED USE OF MENTOR-PROTEGE AUTHORITY.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Defense may carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of treating small business concerns described in subsection (b) as disadvantaged small business concerns under the Mentor-Protege Program under section 831 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991 (10 U.S.C. 2302 note).

(b) COVERED SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—The small business concerns described in this subsection are small business concerns that—

(1) are participants in the Small Business Innovative Research Program of the Department of Defense established pursuant to section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638); and

(2) as determined by the Secretary, are developing technologies that will assist in detecting or defeating Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) or other critical force protection measures.

(c) TREATMENT AS DISADVANTAGED SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the pilot program, the Secretary may treat a small business concern described in subsection (b) as a disadvantaged small business concern under the Mentor-Protege Program.

(2) MENTOR-PROTEGE AGREEMENT.—Any eligible business concerned approved for participation in the Mentor-Protege Program as a mentor firm may enter into a mentor-protege agreement and provide assistance described in section 831 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991 with respect to a small business concern treated under paragraph (1) as a disadvantaged small business concern under the Mentor-Protege Program.

(d) FUNDING.—Funds for any reimbursement provided to a mentor firm under section 831(g) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991 with respect to a small business concern described in subsection (b) under the pilot program shall be derived from funds available for the Small Business Innovative Research Program of the Department of Defense.

(e) SUNSET.—

(1) AGREEMENTS.—No mentor-protege agreement may be entered into under the pilot program after September 30, 2010.

(2) OTHER MATTERS.—No reimbursement may be paid, and no credit toward the attainment of a subcontracting goal may be granted, under the pilot program after September 30, 2013.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than March 1, 2009, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the pilot program. The report shall—

(1) describe the extent to which mentor-protege agreements have been entered under the pilot program; and

(2) describe and assess the technological benefits arising under such agreements.

(g) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''small business concern'' has the meaning given that term in section 831(m)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991.

SA 4200. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 358, strike lines 18 and 19 and insert the following:

SEC. 864. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PLAN FOR CONTINGENCY PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.

On page 358, beginning on line 21, strike ''Secretary of Defense'' and all that follows through ''interagency plan'' and insert ''Secretary of Defense shall develop a plan for the Department of Defense''.

On page 359, beginning on line 1, strike ''interagency plan'' and insert ''plan of the Department of Defense''.

On page 359, line 17, strike ''United States Government'' and insert ''Department''.

On page 360, line 20, strike ''government procedures'' and insert ''procedures for the Department''.

On page 361, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following:

(c) UTILIZATION IN PLAN FOR INTERAGENCY PROCEDURES FOR STABILIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS.—To the extent practicable, the elements of the plan of the Department of Defense for contingency program management required by subsection (a) shall be taken into account in the development of the plan for the establishment of interagency operating procedures for stabilization and reconstruction operations required by section 1222.

SA 4201. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 362, line 1, strike ''by striking'' and insert ''by inserting''.

SA 4202. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title III, add the following:

SEC. 352. REPORTS ON WITHDRAWAL OR DIVERSION OF EQUIPMENT FROM RESERVE UNITS FOR SUPPORT OF RESERVE UNITS BEING MOBILIZED AND OTHER UNITS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The National Guard continues to provide invaluable resources to meet national security, homeland defense, and civil emergency mission requirements.

(2) Current military operations, transnational threats, and domestic emergencies will increase the use of the National Guard for both military support to civilian authorities and to execute the military strategy of the United States.

(3) To meet the demand for certain types of equipment for continuing United States military operations, the Army has required Army National Guard Units to leave behind many items for use by follow-on forces.

(4) The Governors of every State and 2 Territories expressed concern in February 2006 that units returning from deployment overseas without adequate equipment would have trouble carrying out their homeland security and domestic disaster duties.

(5) The Department of Defense estimates that it has directed the Army National Guard to leave overseas more than 75,000 items valued at approximately $1,760,000,000 to support Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

(6) Department of Defense Directive 1225.6 requires a replacement and tracking plan be developed within 90 days for equipment of the reserve components of the Armed Forces that is transferred to the active components of the Armed Forces.

(7) In October 2005, the Government Accountability Office found that the Department of Defense can only account for about 45 percent of such equipment and has not developed a plan to replace such equipment.

(8) The Government Accountability Office also found that without a completed and implemented plan to replace all National Guard equipment left overseas, Army National Guard units will likely face growing equipment shortages and challenges in regaining readiness for future missions.

(b) REPORTS ON WITHDRAWAL OR DIVERSION OF EQUIPMENT FROM RESERVE UNITS FOR SUPPORT OF RESERVE UNITS BEING MOBILIZED AND OTHER UNITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1007 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 10208 the following new section:

''§ 10208a. Mobilization: reports on withdrawal or diversion of equipment from Reserve units for support of Reserve units being mobilized and other units

''(a) REPORT REQUIRED ON WITHDRAWAL OR DIVERSION OF EQUIPMENT.—Not later than 90 days after withdrawing or diverting equipment from a unit of the Reserve to a unit of the Reserve being ordered to active duty under section 12301, 12302, or 12304 of this title, or to a unit or units of a regular component of the armed forces, for purposes of the discharge of the mission of such unit or units, the Secretary concerned shall submit to the Secretary of Defense a report on the withdrawal or diversion of equipment.

''(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report under subsection (a) on equipment withdrawn or diverted shall include the following:

''(1) A plan to replace such equipment within the unit from which withdrawn or diverted.

''(2) If such equipment is to remain in a theater of operations while the unit from which withdrawn or diverted returns to the United States, a plan to provide such unit with replacement equipment appropriate to ensure the continuation of the readiness training of such unit.

''(3) A signed memorandum of understanding between the active or reserve component to which withdrawn or diverted and the reserve component from which withdrawn or diverted that specifies—

''(A) how such equipment will be tracked by the unit or units to which withdrawn or diverted; and

''(B) when such equipment will be returned to the unit from which withdrawn or diverted.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 1007 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 10208 the following new item:

''10208a. Mobilization: reports on withdrawal or diversion of equipment from Reserve units for support of Reserve units being mobilized and other units.''.

SA 4203. Mr. KERRY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 437, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

SEC. 1084. UNITED STATES POLICY ON IRAQ.

(a) WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS FROM IRAQ.—

(1) SCHEDULE FOR WITHDRAWAL.—The President shall reach an agreement as soon as possible with the Government of Iraq on a schedule for the withdrawal of United States combat troops from Iraq by December 31, 2006, leaving only forces that are critical to completing the mission of standing up Iraqi security forces.

(2) CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS REQUIRED.—The President shall consult with Congress regarding such schedule and shall present such withdrawal agreement to Congress immediately upon the completion of the agreement.

(3) MAINTENANCE OF OVER-THE-HORIZON TROOP PRESENCE.—The President should maintain an over-the-horizon troop presence to prosecute the war on terror and protect regional security interests.

(b) IRAQ SUMMIT.—The President should convene a summit as soon as possible that includes the leaders of the Government of Iraq, leaders of the governments of each country bordering Iraq, representatives of the Arab League, the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, representatives of the European Union, and leaders of the governments of each permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, for the purpose of reaching a comprehensive political agreement for Iraq that addresses fundamental issues including federalism, oil revenues, the militias, security guarantees, reconstruction, economic assistance, and border security.

SA 4204. Mr. KERRY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 437, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

SEC. 1084. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON IRAQ SUMMIT.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Iraq is destabilized by an ongoing insurgency and increasing sectarian violence.

(2) General John P. Abizaid, the head of the United States Central Command, said in March 2006 that ''sectarian violence is a greater concern for us security-wise right now than the insurgency''.

(3) General George Casey, the senior United States military commander in Iraq, and Zalmay Khalilzad, the United States Ambassador to Iraq, have stated that ''the principal threat to stability is shifting from an insurgency grounded in rejection of the new political order to sectarian violence grounded in mutual fears and recriminations''.

(4) A national unity government and a comprehensive political agreement among Shias, Sunnis, and Kurds are essential to end sectarian violence, undermine the insurgency, and bring stability to Iraq.

(5) On May 20, 2006, the Iraqi National Assembly swore in a national unity government under the leadership of Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki.

(6) A comprehensive political agreement must resolve fundamental issues dividing Iraqis and undermining stability, including federalism, oil revenues, the militias, security guarantees, reconstruction, and border security.

(7) Reaching a comprehensive agreement that will help bring stability to Iraq is in the best interests of Iraq's neighbors, the region, and the international community.

(8) Iraq's neighbors, representatives of the Arab League, and the international community as represented by NATO, the European Union, and the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council can assist in the process of bringing about such a comprehensive agreement.

(9) The President should expedite this process by bringing together these parties and the leaders of the new Government of Iraq.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the President should convene a summit as soon as possible that includes the leaders of the Government of Iraq, leaders of the governments of each country bordering Iraq, representatives of the Arab League, the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, representatives of the European Union, and leaders of the governments of each permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, for the purpose of reaching a comprehensive political agreement for Iraq that addresses fundamental issues including federalism, oil revenues, the militias, security guarantees, reconstruction, economic assistance, and border security.

SA 4205. Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 707. TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON INCREASE IN COPAYMENTS UNDER RETAIL PHARMACY SYSTEM OF PHARMACY BENEFITS PROGRAM.

Subsection (a)(6) of section 1074g of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 702(b) of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(D) During the period beginning on April 1, 2006, and ending on December 31, 2007, the cost sharing requirements established under this paragraph for pharmaceutical agents available through retail pharmacies covered by paragraph (2)(E)(ii) may not exceed amounts as follows:

''(i) In the case of generic agents, $3.

''(ii) In the case of formulary agents, $9.

''(iii) In the case of nonformulary agents, $22.''.

SA 4206. Mr. LUGAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 480, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

SEC. 1304. REMOVAL OF CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON PROVISION OF COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION ASSISTANCE.

(a) REPEAL OF RESTRICTIONS.—

(1) SOVIET NUCLEAR THREAT REDUCTION ACT OF 1991.—Section 211(b) of the Soviet Nuclear Threat Reduction Act of 1991 (title II of Public Law 102–228; 22 U.S.C. 2551 note) is repealed.

(2) COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION ACT OF 1993.—Section 1203(d) of the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 1993 (title XII of Public Law 103–160; 22 U.S.C. 5952(d)) is repealed.

(3) RUSSIAN CHEMICAL WEAPONS DESTRUCTION FACILITIES.—Section 1305 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (Public Law 106–65; 22 U.S.C. 5952 note) is repealed.

(b) INAPPLICABILITY OF OTHER RESTRICTIONS.—

Section 502 of the Freedom for Russia and Emerging Eurasian Democracies and Open Markets Support Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–511; 106 Stat. 3338; 22 U.S.C. 5852) shall not apply to any Cooperative Threat Reduction program.

SA 4207. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle I of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 1084. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON REDEPLOYMENT OF ARMED FORCES FROM IRAQ.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States Policy in Iraq Act (section 1227 of Public Law 109–163) states that ''calendar year 2006 should be a period of significant transition to full Iraqi sovereignty, with Iraqi security forces taking the lead for the security of a free and sovereign Iraq, thereby creating the conditions for the phased redeployment of United States forces from Iraq''.

(2) Congress, through such Act, declared its policy that ''United States military forces should not stay in Iraq any longer than required'' and the people of Iraq should be so advised.

(3) In such Act, Congress also stated that ''the Administration should tell the leaders

of all groups and political parties in Iraq that they need to make the compromises necessary to achieve the broad-based and sustainable political settlement that is essential for defeating the insurgency in Iraq, within the schedule they set for themselves''.

(4) Congress also said, the Executive Branch needs to explain to Congress and to the people of the United States the strategy of the United States for the successful completion of its mission in Iraq.

(5) Since March 2003, Congress has appropriated approximately $300,000,000,000 for combat operations in Iraq.

(6) The nature of violence in Iraq has changed in the last 6 months from insurgent and terrorist conducted attacks to sectarian and ethnic killings, increasing the prospect of a broader civil war and the involuntary involvement of the Armed Forces of the United States in this internal conflict.

(7) Trained and equipped security forces of Iraq have increased in number to roughly 250,000 troops, and there are now more than 70 battalions capable of taking the lead in some form.

(8) Moqtada al-Sadr and other radical religious leaders control and direct death squads and militia forces, fomenting internecine warfare and the expansion of religious and ethnic tensions that are a major destabilizing factor in Iraq.

(9) Iraq has now completed historic elections resulting in the creation of a permanent 275 member assembly and a Constitution, and the recent selection of Prime Minister-designate Nuri al-Maliki will further solidify a governing structure for the country.

(10) The establishment of a Parliament and a working government signals an opportunity for the people of Iraq to take control of their own destiny.

(11) An open-ended major military presence of the United States in Iraq will continue to inspire efforts by Al Qaeda, Iran, and other state sponsors of terrorism to target directly soldiers of the United States throughout Iraq.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) following 3 years of military operations in Iraq, the United States should transition its missions to a mission that focuses on logistical suppo; and training of the military and police forces of Iraq;

(2) the United States should begin to downsize the Armed Forces of the United States in Iraq with the goal of ending the presence of the Armed Forces of the United States in Iraq within 18 months from the date of the enactment of this Act, except for logistical and training personnel;

(3) a plan to redeploy the Armed Forces of the United States either to the United States or to other critical areas of potential terrorist conflict such as Afghanistan should be prepared immediately; and

(4) a schedule and timeline for the downsizing and deployment of the Armed Forces of the United States in Iraq should be prepared and sent to Congress for review within 60 days from the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and once every 3 months thereafter, until all members of the Armed Forces of the United States have redeployed from Iraq, the President shall submit to Congress an unclassified report on the policy of the United States regarding Iraq and the strategic downsizing of the structure of the Armed Forces of the United States in Iraq.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report shall include, to the extent practicable, the following unclassified information:

(A) The diplomatic, military, and economic steps being taken to commence the immediate, phased redeployment of Armed Forces from Iraq.

(B) Actions being taken by the United States to strengthen the capacity of the Interior, Defense, and other related ministries of Iraq to provide for nationwide security and a stable living environment for all of the people of Iraq.

(C) Efforts of the United States to train and logistically support the military, police and other security units of Iraq for purposes of completing the transfer of the duties and responsibility for maintaining peace in Iraq, and providing for a civil and just society in Iraq.

(D) Activities of the United States designed to sustain and strengthen a broad-based political settlement among all ethnic and religious groups in Iraq that is essential for defeating the insurgency, successfully combating death squads and militia groups, and restoring law and order across the country.

(E) A detailed, substantive overview of implementation plans for a balanced, strategic downsizing and repositioning of Armed Forces in Iraq at the earliest possible date.

SA 4208. Mr. WARNER (for Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. LEVIN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of subtitle I of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 1084. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE COMMENDABLE ACTIONS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) on June 7, 2006, the United States Armed Forces conducted an air raid near the City of Baquba, northeast of Baghdad, Iraq, that resulted in the death of Ahmad Fadeel al-Nazal al-Khalayleh, better known as Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of the al-Qaeda in Iraq terrorist organization and the most wanted terrorist in Iraq;

(2) Zarqawi, as the operational commander of al-Qaeda in Iraq, led a brutal campaign of suicide bombings, car bombings, assassinations, and abductions that caused the deaths of many members of the United States Armed Forces, civilian officials of the United States Government, thousands of innocent Iraqi civilians, and innocent civilians of other nations;

(3) Zarqawi publicly swore his allegiance to Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda in 2004, and changed the name of his terrorist organization from the ''Monotheism and Holy War Group'' to ''al-Qaeda in Iraq'';

(4) in an audiotape broadcast in December 2004, Osama bin Laden, the leader of al-Qaeda's worldwide terrorist organization, called Zarqawi ''the prince of al-Qaeda in Iraq'';

(5) 3 perpetrators confessed to being paid by Zarqawi to carry out the October 2002 assassination of the United States diplomat, Lawrence Foley, in Amman, Jordan;

(6) the Monotheism and Holy War Group claimed responsibility for—

(A) the August 2003 suicide attack that destroyed the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad and killed the United Nations envoy to Iraq Sergio Vieira de Mello along with 21 other people; and

(B) the suicide attack on the Imam Ali Mosque in Najaf that occurred less than 2 weeks later, which killed at least 85 people, including the Ayatollah Sayed Mohammed Baqr al-Hakim, and wounded dozens more;

(7) Zarqawi is believed to have personally beheaded American hostage Nicholas Berg in May 2004;

(8) in May 2004, Zarqawi was implicated in a car bombing that killed Izzadine Salim, the rotating president of the Iraqi Governing Council;

(9) in November 2005, al-Qaeda in Iraq attacked 3 hotels in Amman, Jordan, killing at least 67 innocent civilians;

(10) Zarqawi and his terrorist organization were directly responsible for numerous other brutal terrorist attacks against the American and coalition troops, Iraqi security forces and recruits, and innocent Iraqi civilians;

(11) Zarqawi sought to turn Iraq into a safe haven for al-Qaeda;

(12) to achieve that end, Zarqawi stated his opposition to the democratically elected government of Iraq and worked to divide the Iraqi people, foment sectarian violence, and incite a civil war in Iraq; and

(13) the men and women of the United States Armed Forces, the intelligence community, and other agencies, along with coalition partners and the Iraqi Security Forces, should be commended for their courage and extraordinary efforts to track down the most wanted terrorist in Iraq and to secure a free and prosperous future for the people of Iraq.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that Congress—

(1) commends the United States Armed Forces, the intelligence community, and other agencies, along with coalition partners, for the actions taken through June 7, 2006, that resulted in the death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of the al-Qaeda in Iraq terrorist organization and the most wanted terrorist in Iraq;

(2) commends the United States Armed Forces, the intelligence community, and other agencies for this action and their exemplary performance in striving to bring freedom, democracy, and security to the people of Iraq;

(3) commends the coalition partners of the United States, the new government of Iraq, and members of the Iraqi Security Forces for their invaluable assistance in that operation and their extraordinary efforts to secure a free and prosperous Iraq;

(4) commends our civilian and military leadership for their continuing efforts to eliminate the leadership of al-Qaeda in Iraq, and also commends the new government of Iraq, led by Prime Minister Jawad al-Maliki, for its contribution to that achievement;

(5) recognizes that the death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is a victory for American and coalition forces in the global war on terror and a blow to the al-Qaeda terrorist organization;

(6) commends the Iraqi Prime Minister Jawad al-Maliki on the finalization of the new Iraqi cabinet;

(7) urges the democratically elected government in Iraq to use this opportunity to defeat the terrorist enemy, to put an end to ethnic and sectarian violence, and to achieve a free, prosperous, and secure future for Iraq; and

(8) affirms that the Senate will continue to support the United States Armed Forces, the democratically elected unity government of Iraq, and the people of Iraq in their quest to secure a free, prosperous, and democratic Iraq.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Monday, June 19, 2006, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony regarding implementation of the Renewable Fuel Standard in the 2005 Energy Bill and the future potential of biofuels such as biodiesel, cellulosic ethanol, and E85.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510–6150.

For further information, please contact John Peschke at (202) 224–4797, or Shannon Ewan at (202) 224–7555.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the hearing previously scheduled before the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Thursday, June 15, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. has been rescheduled for Tuesday, June 20, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the National Park Service's Revised Draft Management Policies, including potential impact of the policies on park operations, park resources, wilderness areas, recreation, and interaction with gateway communities.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, SD–364 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510–6150.

For further information, please contact Tom Lillie at (202) 224–5161, David Szymanski at (202) 224–6293, or Sara Zecher at (202) 224–8276.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2006, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 574, a bill to amend the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act of 1994 to increase the authorization of appropriations and modify the date on which the authority of the Secretary of the Interior terminates under the Act; S. 1387, a bill to provide for an update of the Cultural Heritage and Land Management Plan for the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, to extend the authority of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission, to authorize the undertaking of a special resource study of sites and landscape features within the Corridor, and to authorize additional appropriations for the Corridor; S. 1721, a bill to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for certain national heritage areas, and for other purposes; S. 2037, a bill to establish the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes; and S. 2645, a bill to establish the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, SD–364 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510–6150.

For further information, please contact Tom Lillie at (202) 224–5161, David Szymanski at (202) 224–6293, or Sara Zecher at (202) 224–8276.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, June 12, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony regarding the implementation of sections 641 through 645 of The Energy Policy Act of 2005, the next generation nuclear plant project within the Department of Energy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, June 12, 2006, at 3 p.m. to hold a hearing on the U.S.-Uruguay Bilateral Investment Treaty.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the staff members of the Committee on Armed Services—both Republican and Democrat—appearing on the list that I send to the desk be extended the privileges of the floor during the consideration of S. 2766, the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2007.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The list is as follows:

Charles S. Abell
Richard D. DeBobes
June M. Borawski
Leah C. Brewer
William M. Caniano
Jonathan D. Clark
Fletcher L. Cork
Christine E. Cowart
Daniel J. Cox, Jr.
Madelyn R. Creedon
Marie Fabrizio Dickinson
Regina A. Dubey
Gabriella Eisen
Evelyn N. Farkas
Richard W. Fieldhouse
Creighton Greene
Micah H. Harris
Bridget W. Higgins
Ambrose R. Hock
Gary J. Howard
Gregory T. Kiley
Jessica L. Kingston
Michael J. Kuiken
Gerald J. Leeling
Peter K. Levine
Sandra E. Luff
Derek J. Maurer
Michael J. McCord
Elaine A. McCusker
William G.P. Monahan
David M. Morriss
Lucian L. Niemeyer
Stanley R. O'Connor, Jr.
Cindy Pearson
John H. Quirk V
Benjamin L. Rubin
Lynn F. Rusten
Catherine E. Sendak
Arun A. Seraphin
Jill L. Simodejka
Robert M. Soofer
Sean G. Stackley
Scott W. Stucky
Kristine L. Svinicki
Diana G. Tabler
Mary Louise Wagner
Richard F. Walsh
Pendred K. Wilson

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator REID, I ask unanimous consent that Robin Tibaduiza, a Defense Fellow in his office, be granted the privilege of the floor during consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator MCCAIN's legislative fellow, Navy LCDR Damien Christopher, be granted floor privileges during the debate on this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privilege of the floor be granted to Mark Brunner, a military fellow in my office, for the duration of the Senate's debate on S. 2766, National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2007.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. That having been done, I ask unanimous consent for privileges of the floor for Mark Brunner, a military fellow in my office, for the duration of this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2006

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:45 a.m., Tuesday, June 13. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business for up to an hour, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the final 30 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee; further, that following morning business, the Senate then resume consideration of S. 2766, the Defense authorization bill, as under the order. I further ask that the Senate stand in recess following the vote on the previously ordered amendment until 2:30 p.m. to accommodate the weekly policy luncheons and the official photograph for the 109th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the official Senate photograph of the 109th Congress will be tomorrow. We need to encourage everyone to be prompt and to be in their seats at the appropriate time right after the policy luncheons.

Today, the Senate turned to the Department of Defense authorization bill. Senators who have amendments should be consulting the bill managers so they can get in the queue to offer their amendments. We can expect the first vote of the day tomorrow afternoon at 12:15. This vote will be on the Zarqawi amendment to the Defense authorization bill.

Senators are reminded that tomorrow at 3:30 p.m., we will have a cloture vote on the Stickler nomination; that is, to head the Mine Safety and Health Administration. This week we also will address an emergency supplemental appropriations conference report. And, finally, for the third time I reiterate, the photograph for the 109th Congress, for the Senate, will be tomorrow at 2:15 p.m., and we ask that all Senators be seated in the Chamber no later than 2:15, right after the policy lunches.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:45 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:54 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, June 13, 2006, at 9:45 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate June 12, 2006:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MARGO M. MCKAY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, VICE VERNON BERNARD PARKER.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

MARC SPITZER, OF ARIZONA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2011, VICE NORA MEAD BROWNELL, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RANDALL M. FORT, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH), VICE THOMAS FINGAR, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

LISA GODBEY WOOD, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA, VICE DUDLEY H. BOWEN, JR., RETIRING.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

STEPHEN S. MCMILLIN, OF TEXAS, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, VICE JOEL DAVID KAPLAN.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

DRUE PEARCE, OF ALASKA, TO BE FEDERAL COORDINATOR FOR ALASKA NATURAL GAS TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS FOR THE TERM PRESCRIBED BY LAW. (NEW POSITION)

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FORT WORTH POLICE DEPARTMENT EAST DIVISION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fort Worth Police Department East Division, in the 26th Congressional District of Texas for their outstanding work serving and protecting the communities of Fort Worth.

This past May, I had the privilege of visiting the Fort Worth Police Department East Division. Captain Bryan Sudan provided me with a brief tour of the facility and explained how the divisions of the department interacted together.

I also had the opportunity to ride along with veteran Officer Anthony Cutler and with Officer Thomas O'Brien and witnessed firsthand the high level of respect the officers have for the community and citizens. It was clear that the officers cared about the neighborhood and the people in it.

On a day-to-day basis, these individuals place their lives on the line just to protect us all. They do this with bravery, strength, humility and dignity. They are selfless in their actions and compassionate people at heart. They only want safety for us all, and I am thankful for their service.

Friendly, courteous, and professional only begins to describe the high caliber of officers employed with the Fort Worth Police Department East Division. I am honored to now represent the Fort Worth Police Department and send my sincere thanks for their service to the community.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5441) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 5441, the Homeland Security Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2007. As a member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee, it has been an honor to work with Chairman HAL ROGERS and with our ranking member, MARTIN SABO, who sadly is retiring at the end of the 109th Congress. Congressman SABO has served our country with honor and distinction. It has been a privilege to serve with him in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. Chairman, Chairman ROGERS has once again been presented with an inadequate budget allocation. He has done his best to strengthen our ability to effectively respond in times of national emergency and fund the critical programs in the bill that protect our Nation against terrorist attacks and national disasters.

Nevertheless, I am disappointed that due to the lack of funds resulting from hundreds of billions of dollars in Republican tax cuts for the very rich, the bill reduces badly needed funds for programs critical to our first responders' ability to efficiently and safely respond to a terrorist attack or national disaster. I am particularly concerned about cuts to grants that fund communication capability such as interoperability. Radio interoperability is essential for our police, fire, and emergency medical service departments to communicate with each other in times of emergency. This was demonstrated by the horrors in New York on 9/11 when many of the New York police and firefighters died because of the inability to warn each other of the dangers ahead. Four and a half years after 9/11 it is unconscionable that interoperable communications remain an unmet urgent need. It is also unfortunate that the Democratic amendment by Mr. OBEY that would have added funding for port security, border security, and first-responder equipment and training failed on a party line vote.

I am also disappointed and greatly concerned that this bill's report expresses support for the expansion of the 287(g) program which allows State and local law enforcement officers to perform immigration enforcement functions. Many local law enforcement officers have stated that if they are required to enforce Federal immigration policies it would hamper their ability to successfully fight crime in their respective communities.

Furthermore, I am disappointed that the report does not include a solution to the miscalculation of the Letters of Intent contract between the TSA and the Los Angeles World airports, LAWA. According to LAWA, TSA's contractor made errors in calculating the cost of installing inline baggage screening equipment at Los Angeles and Ontario airports. These calculating errors have resulted in a contract dollar amount lower than what is needed to complete the required equipment purchase and installation. I hope to work with the chairman in conference to resolve this problem.

Despite these concerns, I thank Chairman ROGERS and Congressman SABO for including many of the items I requested in the Homeland Security report. The following report language addresses serious issues raised during subcommittee hearings with representatives of the Department of Homeland Security.

(1) The report language addresses the need to continue the use of Legal Orientation Programs in Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, detention centers around the country. Legal Orientation Programs are legal presentations given to persons in immigration detention, prior to a first hearing before an immigration judge by nongovernmental agencies. The presentations facilitate access to justice for detained immigrants in removal proceedings. The program also saves money on immigration detention and makes the Immigration Court more efficient.

(2) The report recognizes the success of the Intensive Supervised Appearance Program, ISAP, which prevents families from being detained in jail. The bill includes an additional $5 million for the expansion of this program.

(3) The report expresses concern regarding reports that children apprehended by DHS continue to be separated from their parents. The committee's report language encourages ICE to work with reputable nonprofit organizations to consider allowing family units to be placed in the Intensive Supervised Appearance Program. If detention is necessary, the report language encourages ICE to house family members together in nonpenal, homelike environments until the conclusion of their immigration proceedings.

(4) The report includes language that expresses concerns regarding recent media reports of health care deficiencies at ICE detention facilities. The committee's report language correctly directs ICE to report on the activities it undertakes to ensure compliance with detention standards.

(5) The report highlights concerns with the backlog at the National Records Center. This backlog results in few, if any, of the asylum applicants who requested their files through the Freedom of Information Act, FOIA, receiving their files in time to prepare for their appearance in immigration court. The report language directs Citizenship and Immigration Services to develop a plan to ensure that such requests are filled in a timely and expeditious manner.

(6) The report expresses concern that the Department of Citizenship and Immigration Services has not issued regulations on the U-visa for immigrant victims of a crime. This visa was established 6 years ago in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. Due to the lack of regulations, few victims have applied because only interim relief exists. The report directs CIS to report on its plan for issuing U-visa regulations.

(7) I was pleased that the report recognizes the important efforts of the Directorate of Science and Technology, S&T, to encourage universities to become centers of multi-disciplinary research on homeland security issues. An outstanding example of such a center is the University of Southern California's Center for Risk and Economic Analysis in Los Angeles. Given the high threat of acts of terrorism to large cities like Los Angeles, these centers can help prioritize countermeasures to terrorism, by computing relative risks among potential terrorist events and by identifying where homeland security investments can be most effective.

(8) I am also pleased that Customs and Border Protection is directed to report on their plans to address the increased workload at Ontario International Airport and to provide

quarterly reports to the House Committee on Appropriations and the House Committee on Homeland Security on international flight arrivals at Ontario that take customs longer than the standard 60 minutes to process.

(9) The report includes language that expresses concern about reports that unaccompanied alien children are being detained in unacceptable conditions, such as jail-like facilities, and not routinely transferred within the required 3–5 day timeframe from DHS custody to the Office of Refugee Resettlement, ORR. The report directs ICE to immediately contact ORR upon apprehension of children and to ensure ORR gains custody within 72 hours.

(10) When the age of an unaccompanied alien child is unknown, the report directs ICE to consider using holistic age-determination methodologies recommended by medical and child welfare experts. These methodologies recommend taking into account the child's physical appearance and psychological maturity, rather than relying exclusively on forensic evidence.

(11) The report expresses concern about the dearth of repatriation services for unaccompanied alien children. These children are removed from the United States to face uncertain fates in their homelands. The report urges the Department, in close consultation with the Department of State and ORR, to develop policies and procedures to ensure the safe repatriation of these children to their country of origin including placement with family or a sponsoring agency.

(12) I am very grateful that Chairman ROGERS once again included language I drafted to prevent the Department of Homeland Security from moving forward with its potentially dangerous plan to privatize key immigration officer positions at the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services. Officers currently filling these positions are responsible for handling classified information used to prevent fraud and exploitation of our immigration laws. I am thankful that this inherently governmental work will continue to remain the responsibility of trained and experienced Federal employees directly accountable to the Department and not to the bottom line of a private company.

(13) I am pleased that the report recognizes the important work of Operation Archangel, located in my home city of Los Angeles. Operation Archangel is a national model for protecting critical infrastructure. The Department should continue this important program and replicate it throughout the country.

Lastly, I commend Chairman ROGERS for withholding funds from DHS until it meets its obligations to this Congress and to the American people. It is a tragedy that the Department of Homeland Security is so dysfunctional that the chairman had to take this step. I congratulate him for standing up for the safety of our Nation and the American people. As he has said on numerous occasions, those who seek to do us harm only have to do their job right occasionally. We have to do our jobs to protect America 100 percent of the time. To date, the Department is far from reaching that 100 percent mark.

Mr. Chairman, I support this bill because in spite of its deficiencies, Chairman ROGERS has done his best to effectively allocate the limited funds he was given to help ensure our country's safety. Fully addressing critical national security concerns requires resources that the administration simply did not propose and which the Republican majority did not provide in this bill. While this bill is an improvement over the administration's request, it nevertheless is lacking in fully meeting our critical homeland security needs.

TRIBUTE TO GARY MELIUS

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Gary Melius. Over the past 10 years, Gary has dedicated himself to the continuation of Oheka Castle, which is treasured by the town of Huntington, Long Island, and all of New York State.

As the second largest mansion in the United States, Oheka Castle stands as an architectural marvel and an historic structure that must be protected. Gary Melius knows this fact better than anyone.

Prior to his leadership, the castle's previous occupant went bankrupt leaving this structure abandoned. It was at this grave juncture in 1996 that Gary came to the helm.

With his diligent guidance, Oheka Castle has been restored to its original structural magnificence. Gary's service has insured that Oheka Castle will remain a treasure for our children and future generations on Long Island.

For 10 years, Gary has devoted himself to the protection, preservation and public awareness of Oheka Castle. I applaud Gary Melius for his achievements and contributions to Oheka Castle and the town of Huntington.

INTRODUCTION OF ''NOTIFICATION OF RISK TO PERSONAL DATA ACT'' H.R. 5582

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform my colleagues that I am introducing legislation to protect the privacy rights of Americans. This bill will require Federal agencies that possess electronic data containing personal information to disclose any unauthorized acquisition of such information. Under this legislation, the same requirement will be made of ''people''—corporations, institutions and individuals—who engage in interstate commerce.

The point is simple: People should be notified when information about them that is personal and potentially sensitive is stolen from a corporation or a government agency. We cannot rely on these entities to report such a theft on their own, since they might try to cover up the data loss to avoid adverse publicity.

The most salient example of the need for such protection is the recent shameful episode in which it took the Veterans Administration three weeks to announce that personal information including names, birth dates, and social security numbers of millions of veterans had been stolen from the home of a VA employee. Keeping the problem under wraps for three weeks is not the way to protect our veterans from the potential theft of their identities. Many veterans have called my office expressing concern about their financial safety, and I am appalled the VA has not done more to protect them.

The stolen information included the name, social security number, and date of birth for approximately 19.6 million veterans. Disability ratings for some veterans were also included in these files. On June 6, 2006, the VA announced that the stolen files might also have included data on 1.1 million active duty members of the military, 430,000 members of the National Guard, and 645,000 members of the Reserves.

On June 8, 2006, the House Committee on Government Reform, on which I serve, conducted a hearing entitled, ''Once More into the Data Breach: The Security of Personal Information at Federal Agencies.''

During the hearing, U.S. Comptroller General David Walker testified that legislation is needed requiring agencies to notify those whose privacy is violated. The Comptroller General said, ''Public disclosure of major data breaches is a key step to make sure personal data is safeguarded.''

Congress should act on this issue, and it is time for us to give Americans the notice they need to protect themselves from identity thieves. My colleague, Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN, first introduced the Senate version of the bill I am introducing today. I commend her excellent work in this area, and I am hopeful that moving this bill in the House will expedite needed action.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5522) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment offered by my friend and colleague from Massachusetts, Mr. MCGOVERN. While he means well, and I too strongly support greater funding for the Emergency Refugee and Migration Account, their offset is problematic.

There has been a dramatic change in Colombia since President Clinton introduced Plan Colombia with his former colleague, and now Colombian Ambassador to the United States, Andreas Pastrana. And this change can be summed up into one phrase: Safety, Security, and Confidence are back.

Colombia is the oldest democracy in South America, and its strongest. In 1990, during some of the darkest hours of this democracy, when their leading Presidential candidate was assassinated on television, and the country was afflicted by almost daily bombing campaigns by the FARC and the drug lords, like Pablo Escobar, their democracy continued to function and they conducted fair and free elections and the country continued to move on.

But the 1990s were not good to the people of Colombia. It was during this time, President Bill Clinton working with his Colombian counterpart, President Andreas Pastrana, created Plan Colombia—an investment of U.S. resources, both military and economic, to help restore peace and stability to this democracy.

President Bush continued and built upon this successful program with his counterpart, current President Alvaro Uribe, who was just re-elected less then 2 weeks ago to another term overwhelmingly by his citizens in an election all consider to have been fair and free. The election was independently confirmed by the well respected Human Rights Watch.

We need to continue to build upon this relationship.

President Uribe will be visiting the United States next week, and we should welcome him as a friend of our country—because he is.

If one reviewed the committee report from this subcommittee, one would see that it actually starts with a statement highlighting that USAID needs greater emphasis in Latin America, as U.S. influence and interests in the region are waning—cutting funds from our strongest ally and a country in need does not send the right message. In fact, this bill rejiggers our aid appropriations to Colombia, reflecting a nonnalization of relations and the massive progress Colombia has made in the past 5 years. Colombia continues to build strong democratic institutions, while curbing violence and drug trafficking.

Plan Colombia has been working, including limiting the drug trade in the U.S. We will hear occasional statistics on the drug war—the detractors will ignore the demand side of the cocaine issue, and solely focus on the supply side

On the supply side there have been numerous victories—not as big as hoped but victories none the less. We will not achieve full victory until we curb the demand and that involves an active role in the bane of drugs here in the U.S. We can all rattle off data, but the facts show the path is moving towards progress.

Is fumigation the best approach? That can be debated, but not in a way that we strip funding from an ally who is working with the United States of America to end the flow of drugs to the United States of America.

Additionally, Colombia has complied with 433 extradition requests from the U.S. since August 1998; no country has cooperated more than Colombia with extradition requests. Some of the biggest drug dealers, and some of the biggest terrorists, including 2 FARC leaders are in jail today in the DC area—too bad we cant say the same thing about Osama bin laden.

And Plan Colombia has worked domestically in Colombia as well. In the Department of Public Safety, Colombia provides protection to labor leaders, human rights workers, and journalists. There has been an 80 percent decrease in kidnappings since the initiative of Plan Colombia in 2000; there has also been a 63 percent decrease in terrorist attacks.

Last year, one journalist was killed in Colombia and 21 since 2002 according to the State Department. While sad, this death toll has steadily decreased every year since that time. While still too high, the facts prove that the democratically elected government of President Alvaro Uribe is fighting a winning battle against terrorism in Colombia, making his country safer for all of its citizens. In 2000, the Colombian government created the Journalists Protection Program to protect journalists from attack. During 2005, the Direction of Human Rights of the Ministry of Interior and Justice provided direct protection to 113 journalists. The situation in Colombia for journalists has vastly improved over the past 4 years. This success is owed both to the security initiatives implemented by their democratically elected President, as well as the support provided by the United States under Plan Colombia.

Plan Colombia has been a foreign policy success for the United States of America and a domestic security success for Colombia. Started by President Clinton and continued by President Bush, Plan Colombia has made measurable progress in Colombia's security, as seen through decreases in violence, murders and kidnappings as well as the eradication of drug crops.

The streets of Colombia are safer—some will argue that the victories achieved by Plan Colombia have only effected the cities so far—but that's where 75 percent of the people live—and they are living safer, better lives today.

It isn't a complete victory, I agree, but we cannot cut Colombia, our ally, off at the knees as they approach victory.

I urge a "no" vote on the McGovern amendment.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SPECIALIST DANIEL GIONET

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the sacrifice of an American hero, Army Specialist Gionet, who gave his life in service to our country.

Specialist Gionet was born in my hometown of Lowell, Massachusetts and grew up in the area. He was fulfilling his second tour of duty when he was killed in service to our country. Daniel died Sunday, June 5, while on patrol in Taji, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device exploded near his tank. He was 23.

Daniel married his wife, Katrina, on November 26 of 2005 before being deployed for the second time. He had been looking forward to buying a home, going to college, and starting a family. Daniel enjoyed fishing, fixing cars, and was a fine cook. On his first tour, he put his culinary talents to work in Afghanistan as a chef based at the Kandahar Air Field. In between his first and second deployment, Daniel decided that he wanted to more directly help his comrades in the field and volunteered to re-train as a medic. His selflessness should be an inspiration to us all.

Daniel served the United States Military courageously. He enlisted in the Army in 2001 and served in Afghanistan. In 2004, he went above the call of duty and reenlisted, this time deploying to Iraq. Specialist Gionet comes from a long line of distinguished service to country. His grandfather served in the Air Force during the Korean War and his father was a Marine.

Daniel graduated from Pelham High School in 2001. He was an athlete and distinguished himself on Pelham's baseball, football, and wrestling teams. He envisioned a career in criminal justice or the culinary arts. Daniel joined the Army, in part, to help finance a college education.

Daniel Gionet's family is proud of him for the supreme sacrifice he made on behalf of his country. He is lovingly remembered by his family and friends as a selfless, brave, and a genuine "angel," as his mother, Denise Gionet, described him. He will be dearly missed.

I have requested that an American flag be flown over our United States Capitol in memory of Specialist Daniel Gionet to honor his noble service to our country. This flag will be delivered to his family. Daniel died fighting for the country he loved, alongside comrades he respected, and with the family he adored looking on. Our Nation is humbled and grateful for his sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I request that we take a moment to recognize Specialist Daniel Gionet, United States Army, who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country.

CONGRATULATING LOUIS BUCKALEW ON RECEIVING THE 2006 PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a young man from Coden, Alabama, on his exemplary work towards improving his community.

Last month, Louis Buckalew was honored at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History and awarded $1,000 for his outstanding volunteer efforts. The 2006 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, conducted in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals and created by Prudential Financial, Inc., has honored more than 70,000 young volunteers at the local, State, and national levels for 11 years. Louis was chosen from nearly 20,000 candidates from across the country.

Louis just completed the eighth grade at Clark School of Math and Technology in Chickasaw, Alabama. He has volunteered with several organizations over the past 3 years to clean up the gulf coast shoreline and roadways near his home. Louis was first inspired to help his community's environment through his involvement with the Boy Scouts. Louis has also worked with the Coast Guard, Mobile Bay Estuary Program, and local government to improve his community, even recruiting friends to join in his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Louis Buckalew and to commend him for his hard work and this well-deserved award. I know Louis's family and friends join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his efforts on behalf of the citizens of Coden and Alabama's First Congressional District.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT EMMANUEL LEGASPI

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Staff Sergeant Emmanuel Legaspi, who died of injuries sustained in Tal Afar, Iraq on May 7, 2006.

Sergeant Legaspi had lived in the United States for only a year when he signed up with the Army. At 32, he was much older than the typical recruit. But for the native of the Philippines, military service was a opportunity to show how much he appreciated a chance at life in America. Sergeant Legaspi, who was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Friedberg, Germany, was injured, and later died, when his unit came under enemy small arms fire during combat operations. For his valor, Sergeant Legaspi was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Staff Sergeant Emmanuel Legaspi. Sergeant Legaspi made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while fighting the War on Terror and defending democracy and freedom.

THE ISSUE OF CRIMINAL ALIENS, HOW THEIR DEPORTATION AFFECTS THEIR HOMELAND

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an editorial from the New York CaribNews newspaper dated May 16, 2006 that draws attention to the ''long-standing and thorny problems'' associated with the deportation of criminal aliens and the resulting initiatives needed to re-integrate them into the society of their Caribbean homeland.

The article addresses Caribbean born individuals who have broken the law in the United States and subsequently banished back to their homeland. There are varying opinions surrounding the re-integration of criminal aliens. Some feel that their return is creating serious problems while others blame the situation on the United States and other country that deport them.

Mary Kramer, the U. S. Ambassador to several Caribbean nations believes that the deported criminal aliens are no real threat to the Caribbean states and are in fact productive law-abiding citizens. She also asserts that the criminal aliens are not playing a significant role in the upsurge in crime in the Caribbean. Grenada's Prime Minister, Dr. Keith Mitchell shares his opinion that in the criminal enterprise Americans have imparted all of their bad ways on the aliens and then deport them back to their regions as hardened criminals. P.J. Patterson, former Prime Minister of Jamaica cautions Ms. Kramer against relying on the U.S. statistics and conclusions reached by U.S. researchers. In this article he shares a concern about the relationship maintained by criminal aliens and gang members abroad.

In the article, the editor offers several solutions to solve the problem of coping with deported criminal aliens. Similar pilot programs have been developed and implemented in other countries. Based on the statistics, there will continue to be an influx of criminal deportees to the Caribbean. If other well-to-do nations are truly interested in the economic and social development of the island-nations they should be prepared to assist financially in the re-integration process for Caribbean criminal aliens.

Mr. Speaker: I submit this interesting and informative editorial from the CaribNews newspaper for submission to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the New York CaribNews, May 16, 2006]

CRIMINAL ALIENS: AN EDITORIAL

Just when everyone thought that the question of why undocumented immigrants should stay in the United States was the only item on the table for discussion, we have been jolted back to reality to deal with a long-standing and thorny problem: criminal aliens.

From London, Ottawa, Toronto, Kingston and Bridgetown to New York, Washington and other cities, we are being forced to focus our attention once again on the deportation of persons who have broken the law in the countries to which they have emigrated from the Caribbean.

The trouble is that in deporting immigrants who have committed crimes in the U.S., Canada and the United Kingdom, are creating serious problems for their friends and allies in the Caribbean.

That issue is at the root of a dispute involving the U.S. Ambassador to several nations in the region—Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

It seems as if Mary Kramer, America's top diplomat to those island-nations, has convinced herself that not only are the criminal aliens no real threat to the Caribbean states but they are productive law-abiding citizens in their homeland.

Nothing can be further from the truth.

Granted, some of them have become productive citizens. Also true, the U.S. has a responsibility to protect its borders and its people from persons, whether native born or immigrants from disrupting the society. And it can do that by enforcing its law.

But to ignore the hard reality of what's happening in the Caribbean, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana, included, is akin to burying one's head in the proverbial sand by pretending that choirboys and girls are being shipped to the region.

That's unreal.

According to a news agency report, Kramer believes that the deportees are not playing a significant role in the upsurge in crime in the Caribbean. In addition, she wants to get the word out that the U.S. was ''not deporting people who go to the U.S. as very small children and learn bad behavior.''

The evidence indicates otherwise. Many of the persons deported to Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, St. Lucia, Guyana, Haiti, Barbados and their neighbors left the U.S. as underage children and were sent back as hardened criminals. Just as bad they had lived in the U.S. for so long that on their return they knew no one and nobody knew them, a point made by Grenada's Prime Minister, Dr. Keith Mitchell, when he addressed Grenadians at a recent town meeting in Brooklyn. ''They are sending people from America and they got all of their bad ways in America and Canada and they send them back to the region,'' was the Dr. Mitchell put it. ''Each time you notice a problem home involving young people there is someone from North America (involved in Grenada).''

It's clear that criminal aliens are causing problems, serious problems in the English, French, Spanish and Dutch-speaking nations and territories in the Caribbean.

It's also a fact, an awful reality that far too many of the deportees are involved in criminal behavior in the region. To deny that, as Kramer seems to have done is to engage in ostrich like conduct. The mistake she made was relying entirely on the statistics which U.S. funded surveys have unearthed.

P.J. Patterson, until recently Jamaica's longest-serving Prime Minister, cautioned the Ambassador against relying on the data and the conclusions reached by the researchers.

''I don't think that one can look at it only in narrow statistical terms,'' Patterson told this paper. ''I say that because very often, especially in areas connected to drugs those who return get involved in leadership of gangs that maintain relationship with gangs that operate abroad and really influence the criminal activities that are taking place in particular communities in which they return.''

Cabinet ministers from St. Lucia, St. Kitts-Nevis, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Dominica have all made essentially the same complaint. Kramer should stick to the line taken by senior U.S. State Department officials and members of the U.S. Congress who have told Caribbean nations that American authorities are simply following the law and that's not going to change. To try to defend the bad bit of legislation and its damaging consequences on the Caribbean by denying the obvious isn't going to solve the problem.

The solution isn't difficult to figure out. The countries deporting the criminals and those being forced to accept them should sit down and work out a reasonable policy that (1) ensures only Guyanese are deported to Guyana, Haitians to Port au Prince, Jamaicans to Kingston or Dominicans to Santo Domingo and so on; (2) Caribbean nations are given a reasonable amount of time to find out if the deportees are their nationals before they are put on a plane back home; (3) Caribbean states must accept the awful truth: U.S. lawmakers and the Bush Administration aren't going to change the law to stem the flow of deportees; and (4) a resettlement scheme funded by the U.S. and Caribbean nations should be undertaken to ease the re-integration of the deportees back into their birthplaces. Such programs have been developed and implemented on a pilot basis in a few countries and if the organizations involved are to be believed they seem to work. A re-integration effort is needed not only for detainees from the U.S. but from Canada and the United Kingdom and those countries must help too.

Just last week, Tony Blair, the British prime Minister, fired his Home Secretary, Charles Clarke because his ministry had failed to deport criminal aliens after they had completed their jail sentences. The criticisms showered on the head of the Blair government and the public's demand that something about people who enter Britain and then commit crimes were so strong that they are bound to trigger a flood of deportees to the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific.

Of the 77,000 inmates in British prisons, 10,113 of them are from foreign countries, including nearly 2,000 from the Caribbean.

The outcry should serve as a warning to the Caribbean, expect more criminal deportees on your shores and it also cries out for some help from the rich nations. If, as they

say, they are interested in the economic and social development of the island-nations then they should be prepared to help, not to undertake the total resettlement and re-integration effort but offer a helping hand.

COMMENDING DORIS WOOD-LITTLETON FOR HER SERVICE TO THE WOMEN OF THE FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mrs. Doris Wood-Littleton of Saraland, Alabama, for her service to women of the First Congressional District of Alabama. Mrs. Wood-Littleton is the founder and executive director of the Home of Grace for Women, Inc. For over 30 years this organization has helped women overcome their drug and alcohol addictions and reinstate them into community life.

Doris Wood-Littleton, a native of Mobile, recognized in the early 1970s that there was no place in the area for women to go to overcome their drug and alcohol addictions. Doris graciously opened her own home in Saraland to assist those in need of this form of service. Six years later, there were too many women seeking her assistance than she could accommodate.

Soon, a twenty-six acre piece of land, the former location of a private school, was purchased and the buildings were renovated to house the Home of Grace for Women. In 1993, a new complex containing an office and chapel was constructed. The facility also boasts two new halfway houses for graduates of the Home of Graces programs, and in the year 2000, the Hannah House for Pregnant Women was finally completed.

The Home of Grace for Women states the purposes of its ministry are to help women overcome addiction and to offer weekly aftercare programs for graduates. During its 32 years, over 11,000 women have been enrolled in Doris's program. This comprehensive, 12-week program includes chapel services, Bible studies, counseling, and physical exercise. All of these services, combined with the love and support of Doris and her staff, have helped the Home of Grace for Women achieve astounding results.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Mrs. Doris Wood-Littleton and to commend her for her service. Due to her tireless efforts and compassion, Mrs. Doris Wood-Littleton has made the Home of Grace for Women a wonderful place to help those in need. With her continued work and dedication to the women of the First District of Alabama, the Home of Grace for Women will certainly thrive in the years to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT JOHN GRIFFITH

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sergeant John Griffith, who was killed in action May 5, 2006, while trying to rescue other soldiers in the mountains east of Abad in the Kunar province of Afghanistan.

Sergeant Griffith's Chinook helicopter, to which he was assigned as a door gunner, crashed and none of the 11 men aboard survived. Sergeant Griffith was in the Nevada Third Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry).

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Sergeant John Griffith. Sergeant Griffith made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while defending democracy and freedom.

CONGRATULATING LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AT EUNICE BASEBALL TEAM

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Louisiana State University at Eunice Bengal baseball team on their recent victory in the National Junior College Athletic Association, NJCAA, championship.

The championship tournament culminated June 2, 2006, in Millington, Tennessee. The Bengals' 3–0 win over defending champion Grand Rapids Community College garnered the NJCAA Division II trophy. This is the first national championship for LSU at Eunice.

The Bengal baseball program should be lauded for the success it has seen in the five years since its establishment. The team's appearance in the 2006 tournament marks the second time in the program's brief history that the Bengal baseball team has placed in the national championship. In 2004, the Bengals placed third in the NJCAA Championship in their division.

In addition to the championship title, the Bengals were proud to bring home an individual honor bestowed upon one of the team's high-achieving members. During the series, sophomore Brett Durand pitched 26 straight innings without allowing a single earned run. His performance earned him the Most Valuable Player award.

The baseball team's achievements on the field parallel the accomplishments of the school's educators and administrators, who are realizing their goal of positioning Louisiana State University at Eunice as the premier two-year college in the state,

I would like to thank the head coach Jeff Willis and his players for their hard work and dedication. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Louisiana State University at Eunice baseball team and wishing the Bengals the best of luck in their future endeavors on and off the field.

COMMENDING THE DUPONT CORPORATION FOR ITS CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO BOTH ITS EMPLOYEES AND THE MOBILE COMMUNITY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the DuPont Corporation for its dedication not only to its employees but to the community that its Axis, Alabama, plant serves.

This DuPont plant, in my congressional district, has not experienced a lost day of work due to injury since 1989, and it was named one of the three safest manufacturing plants in Alabama by Governor Bob Riley in 2005.

Recently, one of the two production lines at the plant was discontinued. As a result, fewer workers are necessary; however, rather than laying off these employees as many corporations in this situation would, DuPont is maintaining 100 percent employment.

This decision exemplifies DuPont's dedication to its employees. By training each employee to perform a variety of tasks, workers can be transferred to do other work within the plant. This multi-faceted training is uncommon in the United States, but it greatly increases the value and usefulness of each worker. Both DuPont and its employees have benefited from this practice, which should serve as an example to other corporations.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Alabama's First Congressional District, it is my great honor to express my district's gratitude to the DuPont Corporation for this decision and its continued commitment to our community. I wish the company many more years of success at its Axis plant, as it is expected to return to full production in December. I know DuPont's employees and their families join me in expressing our appreciation for the company's magnanimity in this situation and its dedication to the workers of Alabama's First Congressional District.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BILLIE BATES

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Billie Bates, who was recently honored in Boulder City, Nevada with a mayoral proclamation naming the 13th of May Billie Bates Day.

Mrs. Bates, who is now in her 94th year, was born and raised in Aldrich, Missouri. At the age of 24, while working as a school teacher, Billie met and married Russell Bates in July of 1936. In 1942, Billie, her husband, and her two children, Cornelia and Laurel Jean, moved to Boulder City, Nevada.

While working on the Hoover Dam Project, Billie's husband was injured and Billie had to return to the workforce. Billie began work for the Bureau of Reclamation and became the longest serving executive secretary in the local bureau's history. She served underneath six

different Hoover Dam project managers in her 30 years of employment, and retired in 1975.

Upon retirement, she became a champion for women's rights. Billie, along with the late Nevada women's rights activist Jean Ford, formed a non-profit organization in 1994. In 2005, the group was responsible for getting the statue of Northern Paiute Sarah Winnemucca placed in the hall of the United States Capitol building.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mrs. Billie Bates on the floor of the House. I commend her for her contributions to Boulder City and continued service to the women's rights movement of southern Nevada.

TRIBUTE TO TUSCOLA ON ITS 150TH BIRTHDAY

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 150th birthday of Tuscola, Illinois. This sesquicentennial celebration marks a significant moment in the rich history of this prairie town in rural Douglas County, Illinois.

The city of Tuscola was established to help develop and support the Illinois Central Railroad. Congress granted alternate one mile square sections of land to the Illinois Central Railroad and the city of Tuscola occupies that original square mile given to the company.

The town was laid out on July 9, 1857 as a part of Coles County and shortly there after the State of Illinois re-designated the northern section of Coles County where Tuscola is located into a newly formed county that was named after Illinois Senator, Stephen A. Douglas. The city of Tuscola has since thrived as the Douglas County seat and is a hidden gem in America's heartland.

One of Tuscola's native sons was former Speaker of the House, 1903–1911, Joseph G. Cannon. Mr. Cannon is acclaimed by most historians as one of the most powerful Speakers of the House of Representatives and until current Speaker J. Dennis Hastert passed him on June 1, 2006, he was the longest-serving Republican Speaker in history.

This political icon of his era got his start as one of the original members of a group of fourteen men voting to ratify the city's charter on March 11, 1859. He went on to become the first State's Attorney of Douglas County and then a member of the United States House of Representatives from 1873 through 1922. On his last day in office he appeared on the first cover of Time Magazine.

Joe Cannon said of Tuscola, ''my heart is buried in your cemetery; my little son for whom I had such high hopes; my Quaker mother; my brothers and their families; and memories of my struggle to a foothold in my professional life; the faithful friends. Yes, Tuscola is home to me and always will be.'' (June 12, 1913)

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the 150th birthday of Tuscola, Illinois.

COMMENDING COAST GUARD FLIGHT SURGEON LIEUTENANT COMMANDER JOHN HARIADI ON HIS HEROIC EFFORTS FOLLOWING HURRICANE KATRINA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Coast Guard Flight Surgeon Lieutenant Commander John Hariadi for his heroism in helping the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Following landfall of Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Hariadi devoted his time to treating the injured and needy people in Mississippi and Louisiana. Over a 7-day period, he treated over 100 patients and conducted 50 medical evaluations in truly horrible conditions.

In total, the Coast Guard rescued more than 33,000 people from flooded streets and rooftops—six times the number of rescues by the Coast Guard in all of 2004. As Admiral Thomas H. Collins stated recently, ''Coast Guard people are unsung heroes that make up our American community. They are your neighbors who make the extraordinary things look ordinary every day.''

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize an unsung hero, Dr. John Hariadi and to commend him for his courage. He is an outstanding example of the quality of individuals who have devoted their lives to our Armed Forces. I know John's colleagues, family, and friends join me in extending thanks for his efforts on behalf of the victims of Hurricane Katrina and the entire Nation.

TRIBUTE TO MERRY TRUDEAU

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the achievements and distinguished career of Merry Trudeau of Eagle, Idaho. Mrs. Trudeau has honorably and diligently served the people of the United States with over 30 years of faithful service to the Internal Revenue Service. Now, you might think it strange that I would stand before you today, Mr. Speaker, to praise the work of a tax collector. But the truth is, Merry has spent her entire career in what friends refer to as ''her true calling''—as an advocate for American taxpayers. She works very closely with the people in her community resolving specific problems related to the Internal Revenue Service. Merry serves as Director of the Tax Payers Advocate Service in Boise, where she leads the effort to provide this priceless resource to my constituents. I might add that she accomplishes her duties in a manner consistent with her excellent character—which my constituents and I describe as sincerely helpful. In Idaho and across the United States, Merry Trudeau has established a reputation as an honest, hardworking leader capable of accomplishing even the most difficult and complex of tasks. She always wears a smile, and eagerly attacks any opportunity to help a constituent. When she retires on July 3, 2006, Idahoans and all Americans will be losing a truly great public servant. The level of responsiveness and accountability that Merry exemplifies as a liaison officer embodies my belief that government must be the people's servant, not their master. It is for these reasons, Mr. Speaker, that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the accomplishments and career of Mrs. Trudeau, and thanking her for diligent service to Idaho and the United States.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES MCCANN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a leader in the field of education, James McCann, who is retiring after 20 years as the Superintendent of Lamphere Schools in Madison Heights, Michigan and a total of 40 years in education. I have been pleased to work with Jim McCann and know him as an active and passionate advocate for the public education system and the students it serves.

Mr. McCann graduated from Eastern Michigan University in 1966 and worked as a teacher and administrator for the Archdiocese of Detroit from 1966–1971. Joining the Lamphere School District, Mr. McCann was a high school teacher from 1971–1972, and then went on to serve as an Administrative Assistant, Assistant Principal, Middle School Principal and High School Principal before becoming Lamphere Schools' Superintendent in 1986.

Although Mr. McCann has many accomplishments in his 20 years as Superintendent, his success in the use of technology as a teaching tool is perhaps the most significant. He was inspired to focus on technology in the classroom in 1980 when he attended a summer institute sponsored by Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Under Mr. McCann's leadership, Lamphere became the first district in the State of Michigan to have Internet access in the classroom, and in 1996 became the JASON Project Primary Internet site for the State of Michigan, helping students from across the state experience real time scientific adventures. For the past 8 years, he served as the Chairman of the Oakland County Superintendents' Committee for Instructional Technology. He was recognized for these and other accomplishments when he became the winner of the first-ever ''Tech-Savvy Superintendent Award,'' given for leadership and vision in the area of educational technology.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. McCann, a genuine leader in the field of education. He has worked tirelessly to improve the Lamphere School District and public education throughout Michigan. I have been privileged to work with him in many endeavors and to witness his devotion first-hand. To Jim and Karen, many, many thanks from the community at large and my best personal regards, as you enter the next chapter in your lives.

HONORING SERGEANT BRIAN D. STINGER

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor West Deptford, New Jersey resident and United States Marine Corps Sergeant Brian D. Stinger for his outstanding service and heroic action while stationed in Japan.

Sergeant Stinger recently received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for saving the life of a Japanese man who caught fire while filling a generator with gas. At great risk to his personal safety, Sergeant Stinger retrieved a fire extinguisher and put out the fire. His heroic efforts saved this man's life.

Mr. Speaker, the actions of Brian Stinger prove that our military service members perform acts of heroism, on and off the battlefield, every day. I applaud his brave and selfless act, and I thank him for his service to our Nation. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS ORGANIZATIONS

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I want to call attention to an important event occurring in my district and recognize the two programs giving rise to this event, which have had a tremendous impact on the health care of underserved populations in our country. Beginning June 10 and continuing through June 14, the Nebraska Area Health Education program and the University of Nebraska Medical Center are sponsoring the National Area Health Education Center Organization's (NAO) annual meeting in my district in Omaha, Nebraska. I want to use the opportunity of the national meeting to illustrate the importance of Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) and Health Education Training Centers (HETCs) through the many services and programs they offer.

Area Health Education Centers, established by Congress in 1971, are academic-community partnerships that train health care providers at sites and in programs that are responsive to state and local needs. AHECs improve the supply, distribution, diversity and quality of the health workforce and increase access to health care in medically underserved areas. Furthermore, AHECs facilitate coordination of the resources of health science centers with local educational and clinical resources, which in turn establishes a network that provides multi-disciplinary educational services to students, faculty, and practitioners.

Health Education Training Centers, established in 1989, provide community health education and health professions training programs in areas of the United States with severely underserved populations, such as border states. Together, AHEC and HETC programs recruit, train, and retain health professionals committed to serving underserved populations and provide community programs for specific populations with severe unmet health needs. Across the country, there are 61 AHEC/HETC programs and 215 affiliated AHEC centers that collaborate with over 120 medical schools and 600 nursing and allied health schools to improve the health of the underserved.

As reported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in a typical year, AHECs alone will train 37,000 health professions students in community-based sites, provide health career enhancement and recruitment activities of 20 hours or more to 42,000 high school students, and provide continuing education to 315,000 health care providers. In FY 2005, nearly 10,000 physicians participated in mentoring and training activities to students in community sites. Also, AHEC/HETCs were credited with providing training in medically underserved communities to over 47,000 health professions students.

Recent studies and reports express serious concern regarding the current and predicted shortage of health care professionals across the country, which further illustrates the important work of AHEC/HETCs. In 2005, AHECs/HETCs were successful in introducing health careers to 300,000 students ranging from kindergarten through college.

Mr. Speaker, AHEC/HETC programs serve many important purposes with respect to the recruitment, retention, education and training of health professionals in underserved areas. Today, I would like to fully recognize, appreciate and honor the efforts and activities of AHEC/HETC programs and centers throughout the United States in addressing the nation's most critical health care and health care access issues. I hope my colleagues will join me in commending all the participants in Omaha on the occasion of their national meeting, and thanking them for their service to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 9, 2006, I was unable to cast my floor votes on rollcall numbers 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249 and 250. The votes I missed included eight amendments to H.R. 5522 and the final passage of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted ''aye'' on rollcall 242, ''aye'' on rollcall 243, ''aye'' on rollcall 244, ''no'' on rollcall 245, ''aye'' on rollcall 246, ''aye'' on rollcall 247, ''no'' on rollcall 248, ''aye'' on rollcall 249 and ''aye'' on rollcall 250.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 9, 2006, I missed rollcall vote numbers 242 through 250 regarding the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no'' on rollcall 242, ''no'' on rollcall 243, ''yes'' on rollcall 244, ''no'' on rollcall 245, ''no'' on rollcall 246, ''no'' on rollcall 247, ''no'' on rollcall 248, ''no'' on rollcall 249, and ''yes'' on rollcall 250.

THE MINE IMPROVEMENT AND NEW EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased the U.S. House of Representatives is debating much needed legislation to improve mining safety across this nation. S. 2803, the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response (MINER) Act of 2006, is a compromise bill that received unanimous support in the U.S. Senate and is endorsed by industry and mining workers alike. While no legislation is perfect, this bill goes a long way to protect the brave workers who help secure America's energy needs.

The MINER Act includes a provision that is of particular importance to my home state of Utah. Section 11 of S. 2803 authorizes the establishment of an independent scientific and engineering review of belt air utilization and the composition and fire retardant properties of belt materials in underground coal mining.

Utah's situation with respect to belt air is unique. Utah's coal mines are under deep cover with greater than 1,500 feet of overburden; for enhanced safety, this requires the use of two-entry gate roads for longwall panels. This means only two tunnels lead to the longwall equipment compared to three or four tunnels leading to the longwall equipment found in most longwall mines in the East. Under such deep overburden, additional tunnels or entries would lead to unstable and unsafe conditions.

In any longwall mining system design, one of the entries must be used for the conveyor belt system to transport coal out of the mine. In Utah, where only two-entry mines are practical, both entries must be used to deliver enough fresh air to the longwall machine to properly control dust and methane to meet ventilation health standards.

Due to the importance of belt air use to Utah's mining industry, it is my hope the panel called for in the MINER Act is expeditiously convened and uses sound science to properly evaluate the use of belt air in underground coal mining.

In addition, Section 14 of S. 2803 establishes the ''Brookwood-Sago Mine Safety Grants'' program to help provide funding for education and training programs concerning safety and health topics in mines.

In my District, a consortium of local business and education interests recently announced the establishment of the Western Energy Training Center in Price, Utah with the help of a two-year Department of Labor grant. The mission of the Center is to educate and train workers to fill jobs for the mining and energy related industries, workers who are badly needed throughout the West. The Center will educate and train future workers with a focus

on improving both the technical experience of the labor force and worker commitment to safety.

The ''Brookwood-Sago Mine Safety Grants'' program is poised to become an invaluable resource for institutions like the Western Energy Training Center in improving the safety record of America's energy industry.

The MINER Act is the first substantial overhaul of our nation's mining laws in almost three decades and is an essential step to remedying the many health and safety shortfalls facing coal miners today. I urge all of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to support the passage of this legislation.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House of the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5441) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, one of the most important features of America's homeland security will be our ability to preserve America's leadership in high technology and scientific research. It has been my singular privilege to know and learn from one of the greatest scientists in our Nation, Dr. Richard Smalley of Rice University, and to represent him in the United States Congress. Today I want to honor him and his family and his colleagues at Rice University by celebrating his birthday, and giving thanks to God for bringing Rick into our lives. America lost him last year to cancer, yet the extraordinary research he was pursuing into carbon nanotubes and ''buckyballs'' will undoubtedly one day help lead us to a cure for cancer. Rick Smalley helped me understand that nanotechnology will change our lives as profoundly in the 21st century as oil and electricity changed our lives in the 20th century, and he lit a fire in me to do everything in my power to harness the immense human, medical, technological and financial capital of the Texas Medical Center into identifying and curing human diseases and making America truly energy independent by creating the Alliance for NanoHealth. The Alliance is my single highest priority for funding with our limited tax dollars in my work on the Appropriations Committee, and I am immensely proud that I could launch the Alliance with Rick and his colleagues at Rice and at all of the great institutions of the Texas Medical Center. The Alliance is thriving, especially now that it has the final key ingredient it was lacking, a dynamic and brilliant scientist as president, Dr. Mauro Ferrari. All of the pieces are in place for the Alliance to lead the world in identifying and curing cancers at the very earliest stages before they even become visible tumors. All of the pieces are in place for the Alliance to help make America energy independent of the Middle East and the rest of the world by using the single wall carbon nanotubes Dr. Smalley discovered, and so many other aspects of nanotechnology research and manufacturing that he pioneered. Rick Smalley will always inspire me and fill me with energy and enthusiasm to help America achieve the great dreams he saw for our future by harnessing nanotechnology. My hero Thomas Jefferson liked to say that he liked the dreams of the future better than the memories of the past, which was the way Rick Smalley lived his life. I will always honor Dr. Smalley by doing my very best to make his dreams of the future come true—an America that is energy independent, no longer reliant on fossil fuels, and where no one need suffer or die from cancer.

It is appropriate and fitting, Mr. Chairman, that I add to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a few of the tributes offered by his family and friends at his memorial service.

RICHARD E. SMALLEY: A LEGACY OF HOPE

(By Deborah S. Smalley)

I have meditated often upon the gifts that Rick has left us. And though time will tell the full story, I believe our greatest inheritance from this amazing man is hope for the future. Rick may well be remembered as the father of nanotechnology; he was certainly its rock star. He had every outstanding honor and award a chemist could earn, and his knowledge of science and the world extended far beyond his field. Who knows what applications for the betterment of humanity will come from his revolutionary research and inventions? His status as a Nobel Laureate was fascinating enough to keep me involved in a forty-five minute attempt to shake his hand during a conference at Rice University. I had no idea that as we met, my life would be changed forever.

I had taught high school science for 17 years, and sadly enough, my world view offered the students little good news for the long term future of man on earth. The problems we were facing as a growing population would almost certainly become insurmountable by the time we reached 10 billion people. I had come outside the classroom looking for answers. Dr. Richard Smalley shook my hand, and began to fill my mind with a vision of a clean world with abundant energy. He had a plan, and it gave hope. He opened the door to a new world of plenty and set the rod by which we must measure our efforts. He showed that there was a way; thereby placing the burden for action squarely on our shoulders. We can ignore it, but cannot plead ignorance. The prophet had spoken.

He told me that the means for gaining that future were just out of reach, but doable. Who knows, perhaps this is the very blessing we needed most. If he had done it for us, or if we could shift the responsibility to someone else, then we would miss the opportunity to demonstrate the magnificent qualities deeply imbedded within us all; those beautiful giftings that shine forth in times of great challenge.

In order to bring forth the spirit that can pull us from complacency and self-focus into the higher realm of courage, honor, and altruism we need clear vision coupled with the opportunity for action. Rick gave us all of that. By making his solution inclusive, everyone became a player. None of us can in good consciousness sit back assuming that someone more talented, capable, or concerned will take care of it. There is an enormous need to empower Americans so that we will take charge of our circumstances and make a difference in this world. Rick recognized energy as the one issue touching every single one of us every day, and put out an alert for children to ''be a scientist and save the world.'' I saw him give the message to over seven hundred children, from sixth to twelfth grades, at-risk to honors. They were so attentive, you could hear a pin drop.

A hopeless future instills in our youth a sense of urgency to serve themselves; an attitude devastating to their character and spirit. But when a great scientist, a trusted son with a Nobel Prize says we can supply energy for 10 billion people, thereby making possible at least a reasonable standard of living for all God's children, our faith is stirred, and the impossible is slowly supplanted by the possibilities. We need our children, all of them, to be involved in the making of a whole new era. Science and engineering does produce the technology that sets the stage for building our world, and this vision of a world where we can address shortages that lead to poverty, war, disease, and ignorance through an abundance of clean energy, gives hope.

When I finally got my turn to meet Dr. Richard Smalley, he was clearly excited by my profession as a science teacher. I still remember the intensity of his blue eyes as he told me that our biggest problems were solvable, but that he needed my students filled with a sense of mission and purpose to create a new future, and then asked me if I thought they were up for the challenge. In that moment, I fell irrevocably in love—in love with the vision, in love with the passion, and in love with the man who brought hope to our world, our children and to me.

[From Science Magazine, Dec. 23, 2005]

RICHARD E. SMALLEY (1943–2005)

(By W. Wade Adams and Ray H. Baughman)

Richard Errett Smalley, who died on 28 October 2005 after a 7-year fight with cancer, unselfishly used his stature and wisdom to inspire a worldwide nanotechnology revolution. His breakthroughs, his inexhaustible enthusiasm for exciting young people about science, and his awakening the world to possible nanotech solution to the energy crisis have left an enduring legacy. In only 40 years of applying his powerful intellect to science and technology, his work led to entirely new types of materials and fields of study, revolutionary apparatus for scientific investigations and commercialization, and a deep understanding of behavior on nano and molecular scales. Along the way he shared the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize in Chemistry for codiscovering the soccer-ball shaped C_{60} fullerene molecule.

Born in Akron, Ohio, on 6 June 1943, Smalley's interest in science began in his early teens as he and his mother collected single-cell organisms from a local pond and studied them with a microscope. He learned from his father how to build and fix mechanical and electrical equipment and from his mother mechanical drawing, so that he could be more systematic in design work. Many decades later, Rick's passion for creative design was still evident on his office walls—diagrams showing his most recent improvements on equipment for producing carbon nanotubes. Although his contributions to physics and engineering were landmarks, chemistry was his first love. The detailed periodic table of the elements that he drew on rafters in the attic where he studied as a youngster marked his early fascination with chemistry.

He pursued this love, from undergraduate studies at Hope College and the University of Michigan to the Shell Chemical Company, where he worked as a quality control chemist in a polypropylene plant. Rick said, ''These were fascinating days, involving huge volumes of material, serious real-world problems, with large financial consequences.'' He learned about industrial-scale processes and the importance of efficient catalysts, which were useful much later when he initiated

scale-up of carbon nanotube synthesis. After 4 years, he resumed academic studies and earned his Ph.D. in 1973 from Princeton University, focusing on the chemical physics of condensed phase and molecular systems with thesis advisor Elliott Bernstein.

During postdoctoral study with Donald Levy and Lennard Wharton of the University of Chicago, and later with Daniel Auerbach, Rick helped develop a powerful technique: supersonic beam laser spectroscopy. As a result, chemical physicists can now drastically simplify spectroscopy of complex molecules. Using the coldest part of expanding gas, researchers could achieve temperatures below 1 K, thereby freezing the rotations of moderate-sized molecules and complexes. After joining the faculty of Rice University in 1976, Smalley worked together with Robert Curl to produce a sequence of pioneering advances applicable for making and characterizing very cold supersonic beams of large molecules, radicals, and atomic clusters having precisely known numbers of atoms.

In August 1985, Smalley and Curl were joined by Harold Kroto from the University of Sussex for a short summer project to study interesting carbon cluster distributions found by Andrew Kaldor at Exxon using an apparatus constructed by Smalley's group. After a legendary late night of taping together cardboard cutouts of hexagons and pentagons on his kitchen table, using Kroto's insights into the importance of five-carbon rings, Smalley presented the carbon ''soccer ball'' as the only sensible way that 60 carbon atoms could be assembled to produce the observed spectra. A new field of scientific investigation was thus born, and then fueled by a seemingly continuous barrage of exciting new results from both Rick's laboratory and others across the world, which showed the diversity of carbon cage types, how their production could be scaled up, the diverse ways they can be modified, and their novel physical and chemical properties.

In 1993, Rick redirected much of his group's work to carbon nanotubes, which can be viewed as theh cylindrical version of carbon cage molecules, and Rick and his co-workers became leaders in the field. His experimental skills were again critical as his team developed the laser ablation and the high-pressure carbon monoxide processes for making single-walled carbon nanotubes. Rapid worldwide scientific progress was assisted by Rick's providing access to these high-quality nanotubes, first through a non-profit effort at Rice University, and then through the successful company he founded in 1999, Carbon Nanotechnologies, Inc.

Many call Rick the grandfather of nanotechnology. He was the most cited author in nanotechnology in the last decade, and his pivotal scientific and technological breakthroughs have inspired worldwide commercialization efforts. Because of Rick's key role in creating the National Nanotechnology Initiative, he was the only academic invited to the November 2003 Oval Office signing ceremony. His vision of using nanotechnology to help solve the energy crisis and to improve health through nanomedicine is motivating governments to fund effective programs. Many will dedicate themselves to a goal that Rick focused upon during his last 4 years of life: a carbon nanotube quantum wire cable much stronger than steel that would carry a current 10 times as high as that carried by copper wire and weigh one-sixth as much.

With his passing, the world lost a great intellect in chemistry, physics, and engineering, but we also lost a great advocate for science and technology and a great educator and mentor. Robert Curl said that ''Rick was a visionary, and his charisma and logic made those he worked with buy into the vision. Rick convinced us that we could be better, stronger, and take more chances if we just tried. I hope that we don't forget—then his legacy . . . will make a lasting transformative difference.'' In his humble way, Rick simply said that science and life go on.

RICHARD SMALLEY MEMORIAL REMARKS BY MALCOLM GILLIS

My first encounter with Rick Smalley came in 1993, when he served on the President's Search Committee. Rick peppered me with some really tough questions about the Free Electron Laser, which I helped bring to Duke. From his comments, I realized then and there that he was far more than an outstanding chemist; rather his interests ranged deep and wide into physics, mathematics and engineering. In the years to come, I came to regard Rick as one of the world's paragons of interdisciplinary understanding and insight. Rick's scientific interests and questioning nature could never be confined to any kind of disciplinary boundary.

The full implications of the legacy left by Rick's work will not be known for several decades. What we do know is that in 2006, one does not open a copy of Science or Nature or Journal of Applied Physics or Surface Science or engineering journals or medical journals without finding at least one article or review on nanoscience or nanotechnology. No one can lay a better claim for responsibility for this phenomenon than Rick Smalley and his collaborators here at Rice and across the earth.

And while Rick was pleased and even proud of the snowballing applications of nanotechnology, he was always careful to turn the spotlight on the work of other pioneers in nanoscience and nanotechnology. It comes as no news to anyone that Rick had a droll sense of humor lurking just beneath his deep intellect. An example: The word ''nano'' has its root in the ancient Greek word for dwarf. But Rick once cracked that for many PIs all over the globe, the root for nano came from a newer verb: ''to seek research grants.''

Honors of all stripes came to Rick during his all-too-short lifetime. However, he cared little for honors and very greatly about nanotechnology's potential for resolving pressing human problems in food supplies, energy accessibilities, medical diagnosis and medical treatment. I observed in the final year of his life, his primary inspiration for his dogged, determined battle against disease had first to do with his family and second his desire to witness the fruition of a few more of the social benefits he expected from innovative use of buckyballs, nanotubes and other particles.

We will all remember Rick for many, many things. We will remember that in Fall 1996, when he and Bob Curl shared the Nobel Prize with Kroto, both were teaching undergraduate chemistry. I will remember him for his boundless energy, dry wit and tolerance of the quirks of others.

We admired him not only for his intellect but also for his humanity. Speaking for myself, I have yet to adjust to the absence of his presence. On several occasions since October, I have reached for the phone to call Rick to ask him to help me understand such things as the quantum hall effect or quantum dots, only to realize that neither landlines nor cell phones could reach that far.

Ehamos de menos muchisimo, el Doctor Smalley. We miss you greatly Dr. Smalley.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Law Enforcement Exchange Program, sponsored by the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs. I am proud to recognize this organization for its progress in better training law enforcement officials in the prevention of and response to terrorist attacks.

Since the events of September 11, 2001, the prevention of and response to terrorism have become important aspects of law enforcement training. While American law enforcement officials have been a vital asset in the war on terrorism, they require more training in order to become more effective in their fight to prevent terrorist attacks at home.

Because they have had many years of experience and have developed specialized skills in dealing with all aspects of terrorism, the Israel National Police are considered the number one police force worldwide in prevention of and response to terrorist attacks. In 2002, the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA) created the Law Enforcement Exchange Program (LEEP) in coordination with the Israel National Police and other Israeli agencies to help improve the training for American law enforcement officers in the counter-terrorism realm. The program consists of three core aspects: a trip to Israel for selected high-ranking law enforcement officials to learn first-hand Israeli police tactics; conferences held in the United States to reach a broader law enforcement audience; and finally, a process of dissemination, in which the practices learned are extended throughout the law enforcement community to those unable to attend conferences. This three-part program will provide immediately useful information to law enforcement officials nationwide.

I am pleased to say that one such conference will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada. A reception recognizing the program will be held on June 11, 2006 at the Bellagio Hotel, and I am honored to recognize a few of the distinguished guests of this event. The current Vice President of JINSA, David Justman, will offer the welcoming remarks. Steve Pomerantz, former Assistant Director of the FBI, now serves as the Director of counter-terrorism for JINSA. In 2004, Yoram Hessel retired as Director of the Global Operations, Intelligence, and Foreign Relations Division of the Mossad, after holding the position for 4 years. ''Rolli'' is currently a Senior Officer of the Israel Security Agency, a department for which he has dutifully served 15 years. Assistant Sheriff Rod Jett of the Las Vegas Police Department, a Las Vegas native and distinguished law enforcement official, will share with us his experiences in the 2005 LEEP program and how he believes the conference will benefit the Las Vegas community. These fine men have all contributed immensely to this important issue and I am glad to have the privilege of speaking along side of them.

I rise to acknowledge the hard work of these individuals and all who have participated in making LEEP a vital component of law enforcement training across America in the difficult fight against terrorism.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF ADVANCED IMAGING TECHNOLOGIES IN THE DETECTION AND TREATMENT OF PROSTATE CANCER

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, in keeping with the overall theme of Men's Health Week, which we commemorate each year during the week leading up to Father's Day, I rise to introduce House Resolution 863, which is intended to bring to our collective attention to the need to develop better tools for ourselves, our fathers, husbands, brothers and friends in the fight against prostate cancer.

Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in the United States. It is also the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in men, claiming around 27,000 lives in 2005 alone, according to the National Prostate Cancer Coalition. According to the National Cancer Institute, in 2005 our Nation likely saw more than 230,000 new cases of prostate cancer, meaning that some 2 million American men are living with prostate cancer at this time. Statistics tell us that prostate cancer will strike one in six men. We also know that African American men suffer disproportionately from prostate cancer, with an incidence rate 60 percent higher than white males and with mortality rates double that of white males. African American men also are 2.5 times more likely to die from the disease than white men. To put this into perspective, consider this: as the time ticks by during Men's Health Week, every 2–3 minutes sees a new case of prostate cancer and every 18 minutes we lose another American to the disease.

Faced with these statistics, we need to start getting serious about our diagnostic and treatment options. We must acknowledge that the state of prostate cancer care is decades behind what it should be. We need more accurate technology, more reliable weapons in the fight against prostate cancer—tools like digital imaging. It is alarming that a disease that strikes so many receives such antiquated care. And our men are suffering for it.

The current screening methods of digital rectal exams and PSA blood tests are our best tools available—but they are not enough. There are many important groups that are working tirelessly in the critical effort to get more men to undergo screening as part of their annual physical exams, and I commend them for their work. Other groups have succeeded in focusing the attention of policymakers on the need to devote resources to developing better drugs for men who have been diagnosed with prostate cancer. I am pleased to know that progress is occurring on that front as well.

However, I recently learned from a study funded by the National Cancer Institute, that PSA blood screening tests, the most common form of testing for prostate cancer, result in both false positives and false negatives. I am advised that this study found that as many as 15 percent of men with normal PSA levels still have prostate cancer. Even with an abnormal level, many men whose doctors recommend biopsies find out that they do not actually have cancer, meaning that the procedure was only necessary because there is no accessible and affordable imaging alternative at this time. According to the National Cancer Institute, which has published interim results of a large scale clinical trial involving prostate cancer, results of the baseline round of prostate cancer screening in the trial show about 14 percent of men had either a positive PSA test or a positive DRE test. Of those men, about 12 percent were diagnosed with prostate cancer within 12 months, the majority with early stage disease. From these results, one can infer that if 12 percent of the men with positive tests using current detection methods did end up with prostate cancer the 88 percent who did not receive such a diagnosis might have been able to avoid having to deal with invasive biopsies and surgery to the extent that such procedures followed their initial positive test.

The PSA test is apparently the best tool we have in the diagnostic field. Men need to continue to get tested, even with the chance that the results may be misleading at times.

Although not every American has a prostate and not every American man will get prostate cancer, this disease affects all of us. It might be your family member, a favorite coworker, a beloved entertainer and or retired athlete, even an elected official you admire, but somehow, we all seem to be touched by this disease—much like breast cancer affects all Americans in one way or another. Americans should care about the fight against prostate cancer not only for health reasons, but because the false indicators from today's detection methods can create enormous emotional and psychological strain on American men and their families and generate substantial costs for our already overburdened medical system. With the ever-increasing costs of health care, both private and public providers need to get behind the call for more cost-effective and results-oriented technologies in the battle against prostate cancer.

Our Resolution calls for an increased focus on developing advanced imaging technologies that could not only detect prostate cancer, but could help a physician determine what type of prostate cancer it is, and what treatment options were required, without once invading the patient's body. With imaging technologies, pinpointing treatment then becomes possible, allowing for minimal invasion of the patient and minimal discomfort, complications or costs.

Right now in my Congressional District, Johns Hopkins University researchers are working on improving the early detection of prostate cancer, when it is most curable. I am advised that their research involves novel prostate imaging approaches that might be able to demonstrate the location of abnormal lesions so that a biopsy can be directed, not performed blindly. In addition, I understand that Johns Hopkins researchers are studying the spread of this cancer, to determine which prostate cancers are more aggressive and progressive than others, and how to tailor the treatment to the particular progression of that cancer. This helps physicians determine when treatments are effective and should be continued, and when they should be stopped when they lose efficacy. Johns Hopkins researchers are engaged in this battle against prostate cancer, and are doing their part through innovative research, hard work and dedication.

We in Congress can do our part by encouraging the same level of cooperation that breast cancer initiatives spurred in the last decade of the 20th century. We need to increase our investment in the search for new diagnostic and treatment tools for prostate cancer, like creating the equivalent to digital breast imaging for the prostate. Both prostate cancer and breast cancer are ruthless diseases and cause not just physical damage but also psychological injury to their victims. The difference in imaging technologies, I believe, reflects the fact that women have over the years courageously demanded that medical science develop better treatment for themselves and their sisters-in-arms in the fight against breast cancer, while men have hunkered down, gritted their teeth, and failed for the most part to fight for more advanced prostate cancer detection and treatment.

Prostate cancer has no such voice. Most men don't organize walks. Most men don't rally around pink ribbons and educate the public like women have over the past several years. We have much to learn from the women in our lives. While there are some very commendable patient advocacy organizations that are focused on prostate cancer which are doing an excellent job of getting the word out about this disease and its effects, there are thousands of men, suffering in silence or in a state of ignorance, afraid that diagnosis will lead to possible side effects, including impotence and incontinence. This is a disease that often strikes at the very heart of masculinity and men do not like to talk about it. We cannot afford to put our masculinity over our health, our pride over our future.

American men need our help, especially African American men. They need a chorus of voices demanding better prostate cancer care, and they need it now. Men's Health Week is an opportunity for us to start this groundswell. This is an issue we can all get behind. We all have fathers, brothers, uncles, and friends. Many of us have been personally touched by prostate cancer. It is our voices that need to rise in support of those suffering in silence.

Let us start now, and carry this message on through National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in September and beyond. As Members of the House of Representatives, we can take advantage of our position to raise public awareness of the need for discourse and detection regarding prostate cancer. With this Resolution, we want to show that we will not lie down, we will not be silenced, and we will not stop until prostate cancer is a concern of the past. We must demand the advances in technology and treatment now, to protect the lives and future of America's sons.

Lastly, I want thank my colleagues Congressman BURTON and Congresswoman CHRISTENSEN for joining me as the sponsors of this important resolution, as well as Representatives CLYBURN, PAYNE, CARDIN, WYNN, WATERS, MEEKS, KILPATRICK, MILLENDER-MCDONALD, E. B. JOHNSON, LEWIS (GA), JEFFERSON, TOWNS, NORTON, CONYERS, MEEK, JOHN CARTER and CAPPS who joined us.

SALUTE TO SEN. ROBERT C. BYRD ON BECOMING LONGEST-SERVING MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, this is a landmark day in the history of the United States Congress.

On this day, the man who leads our West Virginia delegation with such energy, integrity, and effectiveness becomes the longest-serving member in the history of the United States Senate. It is a great honor for me to join my colleagues in saluting this latest record achievement of our senior Senator, the Honorable ROBERT C. BYRD.

The distinguished career of Senator BYRD is well-known to those of us who are so fortunate to serve with him and to learn from him. He is a master of the legislative process, a strong defender of our Democratic institutions, a great intellect on policy issues, a constant voice of clarity and of reason.

And, most important of all, he is an unwavering champion of the people he was elected to serve: the citizens of West Virginia. He never fails to give his very best to them. It is this lifetime of faithful service that has created such an amazing bond between Senator BYRD and the people of the mountain State—a bond built on trust, respect and a deep gratitude for all that he accomplishes on our behalf.

So on this day—his 17,327th as the Senator from West Virginia—I call upon my colleagues to salute Senator ROBERT C. BYRD on this extraordinary milestone. We are honored, indeed, to serve alongside such a gifted and accomplished leader.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DEBBIE WEST DAUENHAUER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Debbie Dauenhauer for her outstanding service to the community of Laughlin, Nevada as a member of the Laughlin Town Advisory Board.

Debbie served on the Advisory Board from 1999–2006, and served as the chairperson for 2 years. She has also served as a member of Rotary International, Kiwanis International, the Colorado Food Bank and the Close Closet Board of Directors.

In 2002, Debbie was selected as the Laughlin Citizen of the Year.

As a strong proponent for animal protection, Debbie has worked with numerous charities, civic organizations, and local private animal shelters. Debbie also began a campaign to place warning signs around Laughlin, to prevent people from leaving their animals in the car during the summer months. She also has helped rescue countless animals as well as homeless men and women in need of assistance in her community.

Debbie was also member of the Southern Nevada Transit Coalition's Board of Directors. While representing Laughlin, she worked hard to see the coalition deliver superb bus service to the community. Debbie also initiated a move to build a truck ramp on SR 163 and Casino Drive, to prevent large trucks from having to cross the intersection in order to minimize accidents. She later became an officer of the board of directors and was appointed to the executive director position.

Debbie has been a model citizen to the city of Laughlin and I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to bring attention to her remarkable benefit to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Debbie Dauenhauer on the floor of the House. I commend her for her continued service to the residents of Laughlin, Nevada.

JOEL CARP: A CAREER OF ADVOCACY AND CARING

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give well-deserved recognition to Joel M. Carp, who is retiring this month as the Senior Vice President for Community Services and Government Relations of the Jewish Federation/Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago.

Joel Carp has been serving the people of my district and Illinois for over 30 years. As a social worker taught to help individuals deal with problems and gain opportunity, he has also used his professional training to promote policies and initiatives that will serve many, many people whom he will never meet face-to-face.

Joel Carp is a tireless and passionate advocate. It doesn't matter whether someone is native-born or an immigrant, Jewish or not, young or old—he is there to provide assistance. For over three decades, he has fought to create services to meet the health, housing, nutrition and other needs of Illinois residents.

At the Jewish Federation, he is responsible for projects like Chicago's Jewish Refugee Resettlement Program and Project EZRA (Services for the Homeless, Chronically Mentally Ill and Economically Disadvantaged). He serves on the Illinois Department of Human Services' Family Self Sufficiency Council, the Governor's Families and Children Leadership Sub-Cabinet, and the Lt. Governor's Ethnic Affairs Council.

Joel Carp is also a force for change at the national level, where he has worked with OMB Watch, Independent Sector, and the National Immigration Forum and for policies to improve health and employment opportunities. And somehow he finds the time to publish, teach and mentor.

Joel Carp is a dynamo whose actions are directed to improving people's lives and the strength of our community. We have been fortunate to be able to benefit from his skills, his passion, his commitment and his compassion. While I know that he will continue those efforts even after his retirement this month, I want to take this time to recognize his extraordinary accomplishments and to thank him for his excellent work on behalf of everyone in the 9th Congressional District and for this personal friendship.

CELEBRATING ROBERT C. BYRD'S 17,327TH DAY OF SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, what do you get when you multiply the power of the beacon by the strength of a workhorse by the steadiness of an anchor: ROBERT C. BYRD? We can celebrate his length of service today but we will always prosper more from his daily leadership for West Virginia over these past years.

We celebrate that definition of Senator BYRD, today as he becomes the longest serving Senator in the history of the Republic.

Today, June 12, 2006, marks a record 17,327th day ROBERT C. BYRD has served in the United States Senate. While we desire to mark this milestone and unrivaled achievement with celebration, I suspect the senior Senator from West Virginia will spend this day as he has every day for the past 48 years—by going to work to improve and enrich the lives of the people of West Virginia and ardently defending the Constitution of the United States.

In total, Senator BYRD has served this Nation nearly 54 years in the U.S. Capitol. Senator BYRD served three terms in this body before being elected to the Senate. Here on the House side, in Statuary Hall the old House Chamber, overlooking all, stands sentinel, Clio, the Muse of History, in a winged chariot, a symbol of the passing of time. There to witness and record the history of the Republic for future generations.

Time does tell all, Mr. Speaker. That is why today is so significant. Time trumpets talent, but talent ultimately triumphs over time. Senator BYRD's time here is a direct measurement of his talent, witnessed by the wisdom of the people of West Virginia who have returned him to serve again time after time. Democracies breed talent. The time of tenure validates talent.

I send words of congratulations and comfort to my Senator on this day, as I know it marks above all the birthday of his lovely and beloved Erma, who recently left us to rest eternally with our Lord in Heaven.

It remains one of my life's great privileges to serve with a man I consider a mentor and friend. I have never seen a greater example of a public servant and I have attempted to emulate my service after his.

Senator BYRD has been an architect of advancement for our state; the influence of his steady leadership over the past five decades can be seen from the hills to the valleys, from our towns and villages to our cities.

And it is with great excitement that I look forward to the continued service of West Virginia's senior Senator. For that is the brilliance of ROBERT C. BYRD—always with his stern gaze firmly fixed on the future, a better, more prosperous, more secure future for West Virginia and all America.

As a beacon you will continue to shine your light of advancement and progress across our entire State and Nation; as a workhorse you will continue to spend each day of your service dedicated to providing your people opportunities for prosperity; as an anchor you will continue to steady our land while giving generations of West Virginians and Americans hope, faith, and prosperity.

To my friend, I congratulate you on all you have achieved for your beloved West Virginia and all that you will achieve in the future for our Nation.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 2006 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 14

9:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine whether potential liability deters abandoned hard rock mine clean up.

SD–628

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 374, to provide compensation to the Lower Brule and Crow Creek Sioux Tribes of South Dakota for damage to tribal land caused by Pick-Sloan projects along the Missouri River, and S. 1535, to amend the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act to provide compensation to members of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe for damage resulting from the Oahe Dam and Reservoir Project.

SR–485

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine ensuring competition and innovation relating to reconsidering communication laws.

SD–226

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to mark up S. 418, to protect members of the Armed Forces from unscrupulous practices regarding sales of insurance, financial, and investment products, S. 811, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, S. 2321, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Louis Braille, and the nominations of Sheila C. Bair, of Kansas, to be a Member and Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Kathleen L. Casey, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Robert M. Couch, of Alabama, to be President, Government National Mortgage Association, Donald L. Kohn, of Virginia, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and James B. Lockhart III, of Connecticut, to be Director of the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, Department of Housing and Urban Development; to be followed by a hearing to examine Financial Accountability Standards Board's proposed standard on ''Employers' Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plans''.

SD–538

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 2145, to enhance security and protect against terrorist attacks at chemical facilities, S. 1554, to establish an intergovernmental grant program to identify and develop homeland security information, equipment, capabilities, technologies, and services to further the homeland security of the United States and to address the homeland security needs of Federal, State, and local governments, S. 1741, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize the President to carry out a program for the protection of the health and safety of residents, workers, volunteers, and others in a disaster area, S. 1838, to provide for the sale, acquisition, conveyance, and exchange of certain real property in the District of Columbia to facilitate the utilization, development, and redevelopment of such property, S. 2068, to preserve existing judgeships on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, S. 2146, to extend relocation expenses test programs for Federal employees, S. 2296, to establish a fact-finding Commission to extend the study of a prior Commission to investigate and determine facts and circumstances surrounding the relocation, internment, and deportation to Axis countries of Latin Americans of Japanese descent from December 1941 through February 1948, and the impact of those actions by the United States, and to recommend appropriate remedies, H.R. 3508, to authorize improvements in the operation of the government of the District of Columbia, S. 2228, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2404 Race Street, Jonesboro, Arkansas, as the ''Hattie W. Caraway Post Office'', S. 2376, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 Killian Road in Massapequa, New York, as the ''Gerard A. Fiorenza Post Office Building'', S. 2722, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 170 East Main Street in Patchogue, New York, as the ''Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy Post Office Building'', H.R. 4108, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3000 Homewood Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the ''State Senator Verda Welcome and Dr. Henry Welcome Post Office Building'', H.R. 3440, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Avenida RL Rodriguez in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, as the ''Dr. Jose Celso Barbosa Post Office Building'', H.R. 4786, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 535 Wood Street in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, as the ''H. Gordon Payrow Post Office Building'', H.R. 4561, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8624 Ferguson Road in Dallas, Texas, as the ''Francisco 'Pancho' Medrano Post Office Building'', H.R. 4688, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Boyden Street in Badin, North Carolina, as the ''Mayor John Thompson 'Tom' Garrison Memorial Post Office'', H.R. 4995, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7 Columbus Avenue in Tuckahoe, New York, as the ''Ronald Bucca Post Office'', H.R. 3549, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 210 West 3rd Avenue in Warren, Pennsylvania, as the ''William F. Clinger, Jr. Post Office Building'', H.R. 2977, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 2nd Avenue in Brockway, Montana, as the ''Paul Kasten Post Office Building'', S. 2690, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8801 Sudley Road in Manassas, Virginia, as the ''Harry J. Parrish Post Office'', and S. 3187, to designate the Post Office located at 5755 Post Road, East Greenwich, Rhode Island, as the ''Richard L. Cevoli Post Office'', and H.R. 5245, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Marble Street in Fair Haven, Vermont, as the ''Matthew Lyon Post Office Building''.

SD–342

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine alternative energy technologies.

SD–562

2:30 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Housing and Transportation Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine extension of HUD's mark-to-market program.

SD–538

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

National Ocean Policy Study Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine state of the oceans in 2006.

SD–562

Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SH–219

JUNE 15

9:30 a.m.

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD–226

Environment and Public Works

Superfund and Waste Management Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the superfund program.

SD–628

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight Report of the Special Examination of Fannie Mae.

SD–538

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Robert O. Blake, Jr., of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Maldives.

SD–419

10:30 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Fisheries and Coast Guard Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the Coast Guard budget.
SD–562

2 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine pending judicial nominations.
SD–226

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine human rights challenges that countries in South Central Europe face as they seek integration into the European Union and/or NATO Alliance, focusing on legal restrictions on religions activities and other attacks on religious freedom, lagging efforts to combat trafficking in persons, discrimination and violence against Roma, and the prevalence of official corruption and organized crime.
SD–226

2:30 p.m.
Intelligence
To receive a closed briefing regarding intelligence matters.
SH–219

JUNE 19

2 p.m.
Judiciary
Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine learning from the mistakes of 1986 relating to immigration enforcement at the workplace.
SD–226

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine implementation of the Renewable Fuel Standard in the 2005 Energy Bill and the future potential of biofuels such as biodiesel, cellulosic ethanol, and E85.
SD–366

JUNE 20

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to markup S. 2686, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and for other purposes.
Room to be announced

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Paul A. Denett, of Virginia, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy.
SD–342

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the National Park Service's Revised Draft Management Policies, including potential impact of the policies on park operations, park resources, wilderness areas, recreation, and interaction with gateway communities.
SD–366

JUNE 21

9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 480, to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe—Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe, and S. 437, to expedite review of the grand River Band of Ottawa Indians of Michigan to secure a timely and just determination of whether that group is entitled to recognition as a Federal Indian tribe.
SR–485

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine economics, service, and capacity in the freight railroad industry.
SD–562

10:30 a.m.
Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Steven C. Preston, of Illinois, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.
SR–428A

2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine accelerating the adoption of health information technology.
SD–562

JUNE 22

9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
Business meeting to consider the report on the Indian Lobbying Misconduct Investigation, and other pending matters.
SR–485

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Trade, Tourism, and Economic Development Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the state of the U.S. tourism industry.
SD–562

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine S. 574, to amend the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act of 1994 to increase the authorization of appropriations and modify the date on which the authority of the Secretary of the Interior terminates under the Act, S. 1387, to provide for an update of the Cultural Heritage and Land Management Plan for the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, to extend the authority of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission, to authorize the undertaking of a special resource study of sites and landscape features within the Corridor, and to authorize additional appropriations for the Corridor, S. 1721, to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for certain national heritage areas, S. 2037, to establish the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area in the State of Colorado, and S. 2645, to establish the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area.
SD–366

JUNE 28

9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine Native American Housing Programs.
SR–485

JUNE 29

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SD–562

JULY 13

2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine unmanned aerial systems in Alaska.
SD–562

JULY 19

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine high performance computing.
SD–562

CORRECTION

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5687–S5729

Measures Introduced: Two bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3490–3491 and S. Con. Res. 99–100. **Page S5717**

Measures Reported:

S. 687, to regulate the unauthorized installation of computer software, to require clear disclosure to computer users of certain computer software features that may pose a threat to user privacy, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 109–262) **Page S5717**

National Defense Authorization: Senate began consideration of S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S5701–11**

Pending:

Warner (for Frist/Reid) Amendment No. 4208, to express the sense of Congress that the United States Armed Forces, the intelligence community, and other agencies, as well as the coalition partners of the United States and the Iraqi Security Forces should be commended for their actions that resulted in the death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of the al-Qaeda in Iraq terrorist organization and the most wanted terrorist in Iraq. **Page S5711**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday, June 13, 2006; that the time until 12:15 p.m. be equally divided between the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Armed Services, or their designees; and that at 12:15 p.m., Senate will vote on Warner (for Frist) Amendment No. 4208 (listed above), with no amendments in order to the amendment. **Page S5711**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Margo M. McKay, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

Marc Spitzer, of Arizona, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2011.

Randall M. Fort, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Intelligence and Research).

Lisa Godbey Wood, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Georgia.

Stephen S. McMillin, of Texas, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Drue Pearce, of Alaska, to be Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects for the term prescribed by law. **Page S5729**

Messages From the House: **Page S5716**

Measures Referred: **Page S5716**

Executive Communications: **Pages S5716–17**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S5717–18**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S5718–24**

Additional Statements: **Pages S5713–16**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S5724–27**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S5728**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S5728**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S5728**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m., and adjourned at 6:54 p.m., until 9:45 a.m., on Tuesday, June 13, 2006. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5729.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NEXT GENERATION NUCLEAR PLANT PROJECT

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the implementation of Sections 641 through 645 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Next Generation Nuclear Plant

Project within the Department of Energy, after receiving testimony from Dennis Spurgeon, Assistant Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Energy; Douglas M. Chapin, MPR Associates, Inc., Alexandria, Virginia, on behalf of the Nuclear Energy Research Advisory Committee Generation IV Sub-committee; Thomas A. Christopher, AREVA, Inc., Lynchburg, Virginia; Lawrence D. Burns, General Motors Corporation, Warren, Michigan; Regis A. Matzie, Westinghouse Electric Company, Windsor, Connecticut; Jeffrey Serfass, National Hydrogen Association, Washington, D.C.; and Dan R. Keuter, Entergy Nuclear, Jackson, Mississippi.

BILATERAL INVESTMENT TREATY

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment (Treaty Doc. 109–9), after receiving testimony from Daniel S. Sullivan, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 8 public bills, H.R. 5582–5589; and 4 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 426; and H. Res. 861, 863–864 were introduced. **Pages H3787–88**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H3788**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 4894, to provide for certain access to national crime information databases by schools and educational agencies for employment purposes, with respect to individuals who work with children, with an amendment (H. Rept. 109–497).

H. Res. 862, a resolution waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (Rept. 109–498). **Page H3787**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Aderholt to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3725**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:37 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H3726**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Dr. Alan N. Keiran, Chief of Staff, Office of the Senate Chaplain. **Page H3726**

Whole Number of the House: The Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Texas, Mr. DeLay, the whole number of the House is adjusted to 432. **Page H3726**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Amending the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to provide for conjunctive use of surface and groundwater in Juab County, Utah: H.R. 4013, to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to provide for conjunctive use of surface and groundwater in Juab County, Utah; **Pages H3726–27**

Los Padres National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2005: H.R. 4162, amended, to provide for an exchange of lands between the Secretary of Agriculture and the United Water Conservation District of California to eliminate certain private inholdings in the Los Padres National Forest; **Pages H3727–28**

Pactola Reservoir Reallocation Authorization Act of 2005: H.R. 3967, amended, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to reallocate costs of the Pactola Dam and Reservoir, South Dakota, to reflect increased demands for municipal, industrial, and fish and wildlife purposes; **Pages H3728–29**

Recognizing the 17th anniversary of the massacre in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, in the People's Republic of China: H. Res. 794, amended, to recognize the 17th anniversary of the massacre in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, in the People's Republic of China, by a (⅔) yea-and-nay vote of 362 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 251; **Pages H3729–32, H3749–50**

Condemning the unauthorized, inappropriate, and coerced ordination of Catholic bishops by the People's Republic of China: H. Res. 804, amended, to condemn the unauthorized, inappropriate, and coerced ordination of Catholic bishops by the People's Republic of China, by a (⅔) yea-and-nay vote of 362 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 252; **Pages H3732–34, H3750–51**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "Condemning the People's Republic of China for its continued interference in the internal affairs of the Catholic Church and its persecution of Catholics loyal to the Pope.". **Page H3751**

Condemning the escalating levels of religious persecution in the People's Republic of China: H. Res. 608, amended, to condemn the escalating levels of religious persecution in the People's Republic of China, by a (⅔) yea-and-nay vote of 363 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 253; **Pages H3734–36, H3751**

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the activities of Islamist terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere: H. Con. Res. 338, to express the sense of Congress regarding the activities of Islamist terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere, by a (⅔) yea-and-nay vote of 364 yeas with none voting "nay" and 1 voting "present," Roll No. 254; **Pages H3736–38, H3751–52**

Recognizing the 40th anniversary of the independence of Guyana and extending best wishes to Guyana for peace and further progress, development, and prosperity: H. Res. 792, to recognize the 40th anniversary of the independence of Guyana and extending best wishes to Guyana for peace and further progress, development, and prosperity;

Pages H3740–41

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1310 Highway 64 NW., in Ramsey, Indiana, as the "Wilfred Edward 'Cousin Willie' Sieg, Sr. Post Office": H.R. 5169, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1310 Highway 64 NW., in Ramsey, Indiana, as the "Wilfred Edward 'Cousin Willie' Sieg, Sr. Post Office"; **Page H3741**

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 520 Colorado Avenue in Arriba, Colorado, as the "William H. Emery Post Office": S. 1445, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 520 Colorado Avenue in Arriba, Colorado, as the "William H. Emery Post Office"—clearing the measure for the President; and **Pages H3741–42**

Expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to honoring the goals and ideals of Alex's Lemonade Stand Days, June 9 through 11, 2006: H. Con. Res. 368, to express the sense of the Congress with respect to honoring the goals and ideals of Alex's Lemonade Stand Days, June 9 through 11, 2006. **Pages H3742–43**

Recess: The House recessed at 4:06 p.m. and reconvened at 5:15 p.m. **Page H3743**

Recess: The House recessed at 6:05 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H3749**

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House completed debate on the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further consideration of the measure is expected to resume tomorrow, Tuesday, June 13:

Commending the Government of Canada for its renewed commitment to the Global War on Terror: Commending the Government of Canada for its renewed commitment to the Global War on Terror.

Pages H3738–40

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006: The House began consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 4939, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006. Further consideration of the measure is expected to resume tomorrow, Tuesday, June 13.

Pages H3743–49, H3752–71

H. Res. 857, the rule providing for consideration of the conference report, was agreed to by voice vote, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 204 yeas to 165 nays, Roll No. 255. **Page H3753**

Amendments: Amendments ordered printed pursuant to the rule appear on page H3789.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings today and appear on pages H3749–50, H3750–51, H3751, H3751–52 and H3753. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12:30 p.m. and adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Committee Meetings

SAME-DAY CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, a rule waiving clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against certain resolutions reported from the Rules Committee. The rule applies the waiver to any special rule reported on the legislative day of June 13, 2006, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5576) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2006

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold an oversight hearing to examine Department of Agriculture farm loan programs, 10 a.m., SR–328A.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to resume hearings to examine S. 2686, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and for other purposes, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine corporate tax issues, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the changing face of terror relating to counterterrorism, 9:30 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security, to hold hearings to examine autopilot budgeting, including the PART (Program Assessment Rating Tool) and consider how systematic performance reporting of government agencies helps taxpayers get better services as well as whether Congress can better utilize the report cards to inform their annual budgeting, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the continuing need for section 203 provisions of the Voting Rights Act regarding bilingual election materials, 9:30 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Appropriations, to consider the following appropriations for Fiscal Year 2007: Defense; and the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, hearing on issues related to H.R. 5200, National Defense Enhancement and National Guard Empowerment Act of 2006, 1 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, hearing entitled ''No Child Left Behind: Disaggregating Student Achievement by Subgroups to Ensure All Students Are Learning,'' 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, June 13 Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Human Tissue Samples: NIH Research Policies and Practices,'' 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing entitled ''Home Mortgage Disclosure Act: Newly Collected Data and What It Means,'' 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce and Agency Organization, hearing entitled ''Healthier Feds and Families: Introducing Information Technology into the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, a Legislative Hearing on H.R. 4859, (Federal Family Health Information Technology Act of 2006), Part II,'' 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations, hearing entitled ''Private Security Firms: Standards, Cooperation and Coordination on the Battlefield,'' 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, hearing on Oversight of State Taxation of Interstate Telecommunications Services; followed by markup of H.R. 1369, To prevent certain discriminatory taxation of natural gas pipeline property, 3 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, hearing on the Criminal Restitution Improvement Act of 2006, 9:30 a.m, 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, to consider a resolution Declaring that the United States will complete the mission in Iraq and prevail in the Global War on Terror, the struggle to protect freedom from the terrorist adversary, 2 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing on The NASA Workforce: Does NASA Have the Right Strategy and Policies to Retain and Build the Workforce It Will Need?'' 10:30 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Railroads, hearing on Current Issues in Rail Transportation of Hazardous Materials, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

9:45 a.m., Tuesday, June 13

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 1 hour), Senate will continue consideration of S. 2766, National Defense Authorization Bill, with a vote on Warner (for Frist) Amendment No. 4208 to occur at 12:15 p.m. At 2:15 p.m., the official photograph of the Senate will be taken; following which, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Richard Stickler, of West Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture to occur thereon at 3:30 p.m.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

9:30 a.m., Tuesday, June 13

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of suspensions as follows: (1) H. Con. Res. 372—Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Interstate Highway System; (2) H.R. 5117—To exempt persons with disabilities from the prohibition against providing section 8 rental assistance to college students; and (3) H. Res. 318—Supporting responsible fatherhood, promoting marriage, and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day. Consideration of H.R. 5576—Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Subject to a Rule, Begin Consideration).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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