

Darfur Peace Agreement and the will of the U.N. Security Council, your government has recently deployed approximately 26,000 troops and attack helicopters to the Darfur region. Your actions have directly resulted in an increase of attacks on civilians and humanitarian aid workers.

Mr. President, we call on you to apologize for and retract your dangerous and fictitious accusations directed towards the Jewish community. We also demand that you work to uphold the Darfur Peace Agreement, and actively and immediately strive to end the genocide within your borders. Finally, we encourage you to work closely with Special Presidential Envoy Andrew Natsios who is ready to aid your nation to achieve a final peace. Rather than fanning the flames of conflict, we hope you will act to save lives.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
REPORTS MILESTONE

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**  
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2006*

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker in an amazing demonstration of the strength of the American economy, the Treasury Department reported the largest single gross receipt of quarterly corporate taxes in our Nation's history last Friday. Without question, this milestone demonstrates the effectiveness of the pro-growth tax and fiscal policies advanced by this Congress. This news also proves that despite our obligations to protect our national security, fight the War on Terror abroad and cover the increasing costs of entitlement programs at home, the American economy will continue to grow and benefit the American people.

These historic tax receipts are not an isolated event. Last Friday's announcement is the result of back-to-back quarters of economic growth throughout America. According to the Treasury Department, last year's tax receipts were also a record high, having grown \$275 billion, or 14.6 percent, from the previous year.

Let's not forget about jobs. Increased corporate tax receipts are the result of greater corporate activity, which leads to job creation. Our economy has now added jobs for 36 straight months. The policies this Congress has set in motion have created the framework for an economy that has created more than 1.7 million jobs over the past 12 months and more than 5.7 million jobs since August 2003.

I and my colleagues are dedicated to continuing this trend by promoting legislation to roll back red tape, lower taxes on America's families and set the stage for a brighter future for all Americans.

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIA'S  
INDEPENDENCE

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2006*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 15th anniversary of Armenia's independence. I would like to congratulate the Armenian Government, its people and the entire extended Armenian community on this momen-

ous occasion. Over the last 15 years, the Armenian people have made tremendous progress toward a modern, open and free democracy that should serve as an inspiration to other nations.

Following the collapse of the U.S.S.R., Armenia was among the first of the former Soviet republics to embrace the path of democratic change in pursuit of freedom and self-determination. However, the road to independence was not easy. Centuries of foreign domination, genocide against its people in the early 20th century and seven decades of totalitarian dictatorship did not discourage the Armenian people.

Since its independence, Armenia has emerged as a viable, vibrant society playing an important role in stabilizing the South Caucasus region. Armenia continues to be a trusted partner of the United States in a strategically important area of the world, a regional leader in political and economic reform, and a nation committed to the principles of democracy and the rule of law.

Armenia has joined the global war on terror by engaging in a strategic relationship with the United States and other coalition members. Armenia's armed forces also participated in NATO's stabilization force in Kosovo, in addition to maintaining and developing a robust program of individual partnership with the North Atlantic Alliance through its Euro-Atlantic Partnership framework.

Armenia also has made tremendous progress in building up a free-market economy. It is one of only a handful of countries to have qualified for the Millennium Challenge Account, is a member of the World Trade Organization and has been granted Permanent Normal Trade Relations status by the United States.

Mr. Speaker, Armenia has overcome a brutal legacy of Ottoman persecution, Soviet oppression, Azerbaijani aggression against Nagorno Karabagh, and the ongoing dual blockades by Turkey and its allies in Baku in its path to independence. I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing congratulations to Armenia as well as extend my sincere support and encouragement to flourish as a strong democracy for years to come.

DEDICATED TO PEACE IN SRI  
LANKA

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2006*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my growing concern about the situation in Sri Lanka. I have followed the state of affairs in Sri Lanka for a long time, and it is clear to me that the current level of violence threatens to return the country to open civil war.

The renewed violence and rising death toll in Sri Lanka is troubling to me and many residents of my congressional district. They shared with me their apprehension about the growing levels of violence and I share their commitment to establishing a lasting peace in Sri Lanka.

That is why today I wrote to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice asking her to appoint a special envoy for Sri Lanka. I attach that let-

ter. The appointment of a high level official with the ear of President Bush will ensure that our government is focused on doing everything in its power to bring a lasting peace to the people of Sri Lanka. Further, naming a special envoy will ensure that there is a U.S. government official solely dedicated to fostering cooperation between the two parties and working to establish a mutually agreed peace. This envoy also must have a clear mandate to monitor human rights violations on the ground and ensure that international humanitarian laws are observed by all parties.

It is my hope and prayer that the violence will end and that the parties in Sri Lanka will return to the peace negotiations. America must remain committed to fostering peace in Sri Lanka and working with the international community to bring an end to the current conflict. The people have endured civil war for too long. Our Nation must do everything it can to foster a lasting peace in Sri Lanka.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

*Washington, DC, September 21, 2006.*

Hon. CONDOLEEZZA RICE,  
*Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SECRETARY RICE: I am writing to urge you to appoint a special envoy for Sri Lanka because I am deeply troubled by the situation on the ground there. This summer brought an end to the negotiated permanent ceasefire, which had been generally observed since 2002. The renewed violence and rising death toll in Sri Lanka are a grave risk to the fragile peace process and threaten a return to open civil war.

News reports indicate that recent heavy fighting has resulted in hundreds of deaths and the displacement of more than 200,000 people in Sri Lanka. Parties to the conflict are not the only ones suffering. As you know, The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) recently investigated the murder of 17 aid workers, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made clear just this week that "there is an urgent need for the international community to monitor the unfolding human rights situation."

Naming a special envoy for Sri Lanka would further emphasize our government's commitment to creating a lasting peace. It is essential that the U.S. envoy be a high-level official with the ear of President Bush and you. The envoy's mandate should be clear and must include efforts to increase monitoring of human rights violations.

The citizens of Sri Lanka have endured civil war for too long. We must do everything we can to foster a lasting peace for the country. Again, I request that you appoint a special envoy for Sri Lanka to help bring peace to the country.

Sincerely,

RUSH HOLT,  
*Member of Congress.*

IN HONOR OF SGT. GERMAINE  
DEBRO

**HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2006*

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, "It's hard to be sad when I'm so proud. You are my hero." These were the words Alvin Debroy, Jr., used to bid his brother, Sgt. Germaine Debroy, a final goodbye.

Sgt. Debroy was killed near Balad, Iraq, on September 4 when his Humvee hit a roadside bomb.

A member of the Nebraska National Guard, he had served in both Bosnia and Kuwait. Because of these recent deployments, he was not required to go to Iraq. But as a single man with no children, he volunteered so other soldiers would not have to leave their families.

At the funeral service at Morning Star Baptist Church in North Omaha, Pastor Leroy Adams said to us "I look across this sanctuary and see America . . . One Nation, under God, in a Church, and Germaine brought us together. . . . It's not how long you live—it's how well you live.

His friends recalled Germaine's love for life, selflessness, and compassion for others. Germaine's mother, Priscilla, said her son "died a proud soldier." Our Nation will be forever grateful to Sgt. Germaine Debro.

IN HONOR OF BISHOP F. JOSEPH GOSSMAN'S RETIREMENT AND WELCOMING BISHOP MICHAEL F. BURBIDGE TO THE RALEIGH DIOCESE OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

**HON. DAVID E. PRICE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2006*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer thanks for the life and work of Bishop F. Joseph Gossman in the Raleigh Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church and to welcome his successor, Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, whose installation I attended at Meymandi Concert Hall in Raleigh last month. It was a grand event, dedicated to the glory of God. The community is indebted to Father Gerald Lewis, General Chair of the Planning Committee, and others who so carefully and lovingly prepared this service.

Bishop Gossman led the Roman Catholic diocese for 31 years in Raleigh, becoming the longest-serving diocesan bishop in the United States. The diocese grew from about 38,000 members in 1975 to 200,000 in 2005, with 62 new churches dedicated during that time. Priests who worked with Bishop Gossman describe him as collaborative and collegial, genial and gentle. But he was a warrior on issues to which his faith spoke. He supported the right of factory and farm workers to organize, spoke out against the death penalty, and stood up for civil rights and social justice. In recent years, he addressed the divisive issue of immigration, advocating for laws that respect the human rights of immigrants and preserve the unity of their families, and paid special attention to the spiritual needs of North Carolina's growing Latino population.

Bishop Gossman broke new ground in promoting and participating in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue. He moved women into more and more responsible leadership positions; eight of the parishes in the diocese are now headed by women. Noting that his leadership drew on expectations flowing from the Vatican Council of the 1960s, William Powell, historian of North Carolina Catholics, recently recalled what Bishop Gossman said when asked how he would like to be remembered: As someone who loved people and . . . who let people breathe, not just the air of the Church but the air of life.

Joseph Gossman leaves a rich legacy, not only of burgeoning parishes and schools, but

also of countless lives touched and enriched by his witness and his ministry. I join a grateful community in wishing him health, happiness, and many rewarding years to come.

Bishop Michael Burbidge comes to Raleigh from Philadelphia, PA with a rich history in the church despite his relative youth. He studied for the priesthood at the Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary and subsequently served as parish priest, school chaplain, seminary dean, and administrative secretary to the Archbishop of Philadelphia. More recently Bishop Burbidge has led in the formation of future priests as Rector of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary and has served as an auxiliary bishop of Philadelphia with oversight duties ranging from the Secretariat for Clergy to the Office for Communications.

Bishop Burbidge thus brings a wealth of experience to the Diocese of Raleigh, where he has invited the faithful "to join him in his prayer for grace always to 'walk humbly with God,' in loyalty and fidelity, trusting the past to His mercy, the present to His love, and the future to His providence." He has made an auspicious beginning, and the citizens of North Carolina welcome him warmly and wish for him grace and strength in the work he has undertaken.

CELEBRATING KPMG LLP'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY IN PHILADELPHIA

**HON. CHAKA FATAH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2006*

Mr. FATAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions made by KPMG, LLP to Philadelphia, our people, our businesses, and the health of American capital markets, and do so on the occasion of the firm's 100th anniversary in our city.

In 1906, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. opened its doors on Chestnut Street. Marwick, Mitchell & Co. was then a small accounting firm with less than a handful of partners. In the last 100 years, Philadelphia has added greatly to its history as the birthplace of the American republic to its renown as one of the nation's leading ports, centers of commerce, and home to many Fortune 500 companies. Marwick, Mitchell & Co. grew with Philadelphia and is known today as KPMG.

Throughout its history, KPMG has been an outstanding citizen of Philadelphia. Today, KPMG is one of the oldest and largest professional services firms in the city, employing more than 850 professionals headquartered, on Market Street and providing a variety of audit, tax, and advisory services to the public and private sectors.

KPMG's partners and employees serve as officers, directors and volunteers for many of Philadelphia's philanthropic and charitable organizations. Earlier this year, KPMG sponsored the "City Hall in Bloom" spring planting. As part of the event, more than 200 KPMG volunteers joined students from the Bach-Martin Elementary School in clearing, cleaning and preparing beds for more than 8,500 flower plants and trees in the largest volunteer clean-up ever mounted at City Hall. There are many other examples of KPMG's volunteerism. Employees helped paint the interior of Bach-Martin school and created a new

mural for the entrance. The firm also has assisted the "Help Philadelphia" women's shelter with a number of events over the years. Last year, KPMG helped welcome refugees from Hurricane Katrina, assisting in their relocation. This year, a group of KPMG professionals traveled to the Gulf region to help rebuild homes with Habitat for Humanity.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to KPMG and its people for 100 years of service to Philadelphia, for its contributions to the growth and health of the city's commerce, and for its many efforts benefiting our community's quality of life.

HONORING THE FILIPINO VETERANS

SPEECH OF

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 19, 2006*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 622, recognizing and honoring the Filipino veterans who fought during World War II.

Filipino soldiers fought and died alongside American troops at some of the war's most horrific battles like Bataan and Corregidor. During the infamous Bataan Death March, over six thousand Filipino soldiers lost their lives.

The courage of these soldiers proved crucial to turning the tide of the pacific war against the Japanese forces occupying the Philippines, and in ultimately securing victory for the United States and the newly independent nation of the Philippines.

In appreciation of the courage and sacrifice of the Filipino veterans, President Harry S. Truman stated: "They fought with gallantry and courage under most difficult conditions. I consider it a moral obligation of the United States to look after the welfare of the Philippine Army veterans."

Yet for all their sacrifices, Congress in 1946 divested Filipino soldiers of their military benefits while soldiers of other allied countries retained their status and privileges as American veterans. In 2003, Congress finally acted to give Veterans Health benefits to the surviving Filipino veterans, and I am proud to have supported that effort, as well as current legislation to grant full veteran status to Filipino veterans.

Mr. Speaker, young Filipino men responded to the call of duty over sixty years ago and fought valiantly under the American flag. I am proud today to support H. Res. 622 and to extend my gratitude towards these veterans for their dedicated service and sacrifice.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. FRED KOTLER

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2006*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who exhibited leadership and dedication in serving the working men and women of the Upper Peninsula and our Nation. On September 23, 2006, Mr. Fred Kotler