

Orange in Vietnam ensured he would be one of the first to recognize and push for treatment of Gulf War Syndrome and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Physical and mental health were not the only fights that he entered into on behalf of Veterans. He also led the battle to get equitable treatment for female veterans and worked tirelessly to combat the plight of homeless veterans across America. His work to ensure a high quality of life for those who have served us with honor will be one of his most noted legacies in this body.

LANE, I thank you for your friendship, your leadership and all of your service to our Nation. I know you have forever left your mark on your Nation, the House of Representatives, and all the veterans who have received better treatment because of your work.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to enclose with my statement the remarks of my predecessor and friend who also served this body with his full heart and soul, the Honorable Andy Jacobs, former Congressman for the 10th Congressional District of Indiana.

DECEMBER 8, 2006.

Hon. LANE EVANS, MC,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LANE: The time has come for me to put on paper what I have fervently entertained in my mind through the years of our acquaintance.

To begin, you are one of my authentic heroes. British Lord Chesterton said, "Sometimes it takes less courage to die for one's country than to tell her the truth." On many more than one occasion you have displayed that greater courage in the profoundly patriotic performance of your chores as a member of Congress, service quite literally "above and beyond the call of duty."

In your effective opposition to the mindless, gratuitous and vicarious militarism of some national leaders, you have helped save the lives of hapless public spirited young Americans. Thus, you have done God's work most nobly.

For the young Americans who have been forced into unnecessary permanent combat disability, you have been a major national factor in achieving justice in terms of veterans' benefits.

You have also given our Nation bright lessons of prudence with the public purse. Thank you for being my friend and friend to all peace-loving freedom-loving Americans.

Sincerely,

ANDY JACOBS, JR.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PAGE PROGRAM

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following commentary by Jason Ackerman, of Fort Mill, South Carolina, which is in my congressional district. Jason was a House page in 2003–2004 and is now a student at New York University.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PAGE PROGRAM
(By Jason Ackerman)

New York Times columnist John Tierney argues that the congressional page program should be eliminated because it serves no purpose for pages or for the country ("A page, M'Lord, at your service," Oct. 4).

Well John Tierney was obviously never a page.

I served as a page from August 2003 to January 2004. These months were some of the most special moments of my life—months in which I not only learned how Congress operates, but also months in which I made some of the greatest friends of my life.

A day in the life of a page is not easy. It starts at 6:45 in the morning when we all walk from our dorm a couple of blocks from the Capitol to the Library of Congress's Jefferson Building where school is held. Full-time teachers teach the same subjects that we would otherwise have been taking back at our home schools.

The school is not a piece of cake either. The courses are very challenging, so challenging in fact that when I came back to my high school I was way ahead in most subjects.

After school, which lasted until the House of Representatives commenced, we would head over to the Floor of the House of Representatives where we would start our daily tasks. There are many different page jobs, most of which are rotated around so everyone gets an opportunity to experience different areas of the House.

Some pages are runners, which involved taking documents from one place in the Capitol to another. Others are cloakroom pages, where we worked in the cloakroom answering phones about floor proceedings. Still others are in charge of the bell system and of raising and lowering the flag every day on the top of the House of Representatives to declare that the House is in session.

The day ends when the House goes out of session. This can be anywhere from 5:00 in the afternoon to 7:00 in the morning. Then we head home, do homework, socialize, clean our rooms (which are checked three times a week), and then go to bed at mandatory curfew hour, which was 10:00 on weekdays and 12:00 on weekends.

Some of my most memorable and enjoyable moments as a page were getting to interact with members of the House. Some would come by and tell us jokes, and others would take the time to help us identify someone we were trying to find or to explain to us what was going on at that moment in the complicated proceedings of the House.

Yes there were some unfriendly ones, but by and large most members are very kind and generous. There was not a single time in which I felt insecure or unsafe while on the Floor or at any other time while I was a page.

The lifelong friendships that I made because of the page program are some of the most amazing friendships of my life. Former pages are some of my closest friends, and I keep in touch with a lot of them on a daily or weekly basis. I now have friends in California and Wyoming that I would never have had the chance to make without this experience.

The page experience is something that I would not trade for anything, and it was one of the greatest times of my life. I witnessed history first hand, and made a ton of friends in the process. The experience also sparked my interest in public service, government, and the political process. I would not hesitate one moment to send my child to be a page.

These views are also shared with every one of my classmates that I have spoken to since the Foley scandal has erupted. My roommate, who was actually sponsored by Congressman Foley, stressed the importance of continuing the program because of how the program changed his life as well.

The only people who do not want the program to continue are people who know nothing about the program and have never talked to a page.

Congressman Foley made a mistake, and should be punished to the full extent of the law, but to punish the page program for his mistake is not only unfortunate but also unjust.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE HENRY J. HYDE OF ILLINOIS

SPEECH OF

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 32 years of service from the distinguished gentleman from Illinois, my friend and colleague, Chairman HENRY J. HYDE. I am humbled to say that I have served the American people alongside a truly great American.

Though I have only served for a little over a year with him, I have grown to admire him for his unwavering commitment to protecting innocent life. Mr. HYDE has fought vigorously to protect those who cannot protect themselves most notably with the Hyde Amendment in 1976. Before taking office, I was President of Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati and admired his leadership and guided wisdom.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for his commitment to principle rather than expediency. He stood up for American values and during the Cold War, worked to ensure that America remain that shining city on a hill. I am honored and proud to say that I am his colleague.

The gentleman and his leadership and wisdom will be missed. This institution has certainly been blessed by his service. Mr. Chairman, congratulations on your retirement and congratulations to you and your new bride.

CONGRATULATING THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF KAZAKHSTAN ON THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR INDEPENDENCE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating the Government and the people of Kazakhstan on the 15th anniversary of their independence. I am encouraged by how far this Central Asian country has come since its independence in 1991, both in terms of economic and democratic progress. Kazakhstan has overcome numerous obstacles and challenges and today is a well recognized leader in promotion of economic and political freedoms in a region of great and growing importance to the security of the United States.

This year we also mark the 15th anniversary of the U.S.-Kazakhstan relationship. Kazakhstan has become not only a strategic partner, but a true friend of the United States. Kazakhstan has been a valuable ally to the

United States both before and after the tragic events of September 11. We are grateful to Kazakhstan for its unwavering commitment to strengthening stability in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Proudly, we share friendship based on common values of freedom and democracy. This fall we warmly welcomed to the United States the President of Kazakhstan, His Excellency Nursultan Nazarbayev, the architect of Kazakhstan's success and growing U.S.-Kazakhstan partnership.

Our cooperation has notably resulted in the elimination of weapons of mass destruction which Kazakhstan inherited from the Soviet Union, including hundreds of nuclear missiles aimed at the United States. President "Nazarbayev was instrumental in ridding his nation of this lethal legacy thus greatly enhancing global security.

In addition to supporting our arms control objectives, Kazakhstan has played a key role in promoting peace and stability in the region by initiating the summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia. This forum of 18 nations, including Russia, China, India, Pakistan, our NATO ally Turkey, Afghanistan and others provide a timely opportunity for Asian nations to address current challenges to international peace and stability and establish a framework to resolve them. I believe we should commend Kazakhstan for its vision and enormous efforts to bring about this new security forum for Asia.

Mr. Speaker, Kazakhstan is Central Asia's most progressive nation, positioned to set the example for democratic reform in this most important region. I cannot agree more with the Joint Statement by our two Presidents adopted during the recent visit of President Nazarbayev that "an enhanced strategic partnership between our countries will promote security and prosperity and foster democracy in the 21st Century."

THE LIFE OF JEANNE
KIRKPATRICK

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great American, Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick. Yesterday, the woman who worked diligently to bring peace to the world passed away peacefully in her sleep at the age of 80.

Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick was one of America's foremost authorities on international relations. She was the first female U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and represented our nation honorably. She had unwavering moral convictions and stood up to the world's bullies. Her thoughts on communism through Iraq and Islamic terrorism were firm and clear, just as she was.

My wife Vicki was in the same bible study as Ambassador Kirkpatrick and I had the privilege of meeting her on several occasions. She was an elegant woman with a quiet confidence. This country has lost a great patriot.

The world is a better place because of Jeanne Kirkpatrick. Her work will continue to live on in all those she touched and in those they have touched. God Bless Jeanne Kirkpatrick and her family.

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION OF
PROVISIONS DESIGNATED AS
EMERGENCIES, CONTINGENCY
OPERATIONS, OR UNANTICIPATED
DEFENSE-RELATED OPERATIONS

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of House Concurrent Resolution 376, I am transmitting this document titled "Guidelines for the Application of Provisions Designated as Emergencies, Contingency Operations, or Unanticipated Defense-related Operations." It sets forth an explicit explanation of the characteristics of spending that is appropriately exempted from the enforcement controls of the Congressional Budget Act.

This report is required under the terms of House Concurrent Resolution 376, which is currently in effect as a concurrent resolution on the budget in the House for fiscal year 2007, deemed in force under the provisions of House Resolution 818.

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS
DESIGNATED AS EMERGENCIES, CONTINGENCY
OPERATIONS, OR UNANTICIPATED DEFENSE-
RELATED OPERATIONS

SUMMARY

The fiscal year 2007 budget resolution, H. Con. Res. 376, sets forth three categories of spending that are treated by Congress under special procedures outside the normal budget process: domestic emergencies, defense-related emergencies, and contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism. The first of these, domestic emergencies, has a special reserve fund to finance emergency spending priorities, such as unforeseen natural disasters that tend to occur nearly every year. The remaining two categories—defense-related emergencies and terror-related response contingency operations—are exempted from normal controls due to the special nature of each.

Although Congress did not reach a conference agreement on the budget resolution, the House did deem the House-passed resolution to be in force for all purposes of the Congressional Budget Act. The general definition of an emergency, as spelled out in the budget resolution, is not new: its terms have long been employed by the administration's Office of Management and Budget [OMB], and have been carried in previous budget resolutions. What is new is the enhanced discipline, called for by the resolution, in applying these terms to the three special categories of spending cited above. Section 503 of the resolution includes the following mandate:

"In the House, as soon as practicable after the adoption of this resolution, the chairman of the Committee on the Budget shall, after consultation with the chairmen of the applicable committees, and the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, prepare guidelines for application of the definition of an emergency and publish such guidelines in the Congressional Record, and may issue any committee print from the Committee on the Budget for this or other purposes."

This discussion, therefore, provides guidelines for the application of these spending categories.

DEFINITION AND GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR
EMERGENCY SPENDING

Section 502 of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2007 estab-

lishes in general terms the definition of spending that is appropriately designated as an emergency. Although these guidelines may be used to apply to "unanticipated" defense-related emergencies, they aim principally to help determine what domestic priorities are eligible to be funded through the reserve fund established by the budget resolution, and to define an "emergency" in general.

The term "emergency" is important because any spending so designated escapes the regular controls applicable to all other spending. But the definition, and the guidelines below, are not intended to judge the policy importance of any given emergency spending; that is for the Appropriations Committee and the Congress in general to determine. It is rather to identify general characteristics of such spending that identifies it as meriting special procedures exempting it from the normal congressional budget process.

There are two essential components to the application of this designation: that an "emergency" concerns a threat to life, property, or national security; and that the event was "unanticipated." The definition also asserts that funding in response to an emergency should be temporary in nature.

The applicable text in the resolution fleshes out these terms, and is largely self-explanatory. It reads as follows:

"(1) The term 'emergency' means a situation that—

"(A) requires new budget authority and outlays (or new budget authority and the outlays flowing therefrom) for the prevention or mitigation of, or response to, loss of life or property, or a threat to national security; and

"(B) is unanticipated.

"(2) The term 'unanticipated' means that the underlying situation is—

"(A) Sudden, which means quickly coming into being or not building up over time;

"(B) Urgent, which means a pressing and compelling need requiring immediate action;

"(C) Unforeseen, which means not predicted or anticipated as an emerging need; and

"(D) Temporary, which means not of a permanent duration."

An example of "emergency" spending that was "unanticipated" was the major California earthquake of January 1993. The Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-211, 12 February 1994). The measure provided \$376.1 million to programs of the Department of Agriculture, such as for Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations. In contrast, there were attempts to declare the funding for the 2000 Census required by the Constitution as an emergency. This clearly would have been an abuse of the designation: The census has been required every ten years for over two centuries.

An example of "urgent" funding needs appeared in the response to Hurricanes Fran and Hortense and other disasters, Public Law 104-208. The measure provided \$88 million for U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA] flood assistance programs, including \$63 million for Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations, and \$25 million for the Emergency Conservation Program. Had the funding been delayed until the next budget cycle, the consequences of the hurricanes would have been irreparable, in Congress's judgment.

The term "unforeseen" applies to funding for activities that could not be anticipated as an emerging need and are over and above the aggregate level of anticipated emergencies that are normally estimated in advance. A good example of an unforeseen emergency is the terrorist attacks against New York and Washington, D.C. on 11 September 2001.