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No. 8

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 16, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, 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 New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) for 5 minutes.

AFGHANISTAN AND THE WAR ON TERROR

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I did not support the resolution authorizing the Iraq war, and I continue to believe it was a mistake, and that we should redeploy our armed forces out of Iraq as quickly as possible. Needless to say, I adamantly oppose the President's latest proposal to escalate the war, the so-called "surge."

Now, part of my concern over the Iraq war is that it continues to distract U.S. policy, both foreign and domestic, from more important concerns. The threat of international terrorism is real, and it came home to us vividly after 9/11, but the focal point of our war against terrorism should be Afghanistan, not Iraq.

While our soldiers continue to die in Baghdad and we spend hundreds of billions of dollars in Iraq, we are neglecting the situation in Afghanistan and its environs, particularly Pakistan, where bin Laden, al Qaeda and the Taliban grow stronger every day.

Mr. Speaker, last Saturday the New York Times did a front page story on the NATO struggle in Afghanistan, which stressed how the Taliban were coming back. The likelihood is there will be a new spring offensive by the Taliban as early as February, next month. The article went on to say that corrupt and ineffective leadership have turned people against the central government and its U.S. allies, and that U.S. reconstruction efforts are a failure.

Mr. Speaker, if there is any place where the United States should be stepping up its efforts, both in terms of resources and manpower, and where we would have international support, again, in terms of other countries' troops as well as other countries' resources and money, it would certainly be Afghanistan. The U.S. was directly attacked from there by bin Laden and al Qaeda operatives, and they were of course harbored by the Taliban.

So you might ask, Mr. Speaker, why does President Bush get on national TV last week and stress the need for a surge in Baghdad and reconstruction dollars for Iraq, and not prioritize Afghanistan instead?

In addition, President Bush continues to appease the military dictatorship in Pakistan, which effectively encourages and provides safe harbor in its frontier territories to the Taliban.

President Bush talks about democracy in Iraq, but what about democracy in Pakistan, which is much more likely to achieve democracy if the U.S. did not prop up the Musharraf dictatorship.

The media, Mr. Speaker, has reported many times that al Qaeda and the Taliban operate freely out of Pakistan where they maintain training camps and receive the support of Pakistan's ISI, the equivalent of the American CIA.

Last fall, the Pakistan government entered into an agreement with the Taliban. In return for not conducting raids into Afghanistan, they were guaranteed effective control of certain frontier regions of Pakistan. However, the incursions by the Taliban into Afghanistan continue while the Musharraf government left the Taliban alone in these areas of Pakistan.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the U.S. has the opportunity for nation-building in Afghanistan that will continue to elude us in Iraq. Afghanistan's economy is increasingly dependent on drugs; in other words, the opium crop which has expanded while the normal economy falters. Afghanistan needs a major infusion of resources from the United States and its allies to prevent a Taliban resurgence.

I simply ask, Mr. Speaker, as we debate President Bush's surge in Baghdad over the next few weeks, think about the alternative in Afghanistan. Let's not forget where the real U.S. and global threat of terrorism both started and continues this day.

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 38 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H517

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Almighty God and Father of all, yesterday this Nation and the world quickened the living legacy of a great American and citizen of the world, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

May the Members of Congress and all Americans rededicate ourselves to his clarion call to work toward the Beloved Community he envisioned both at home and abroad.

Help us, precious Lord, to dissolve all prejudicial thinking and take practical steps to build peace rooted in equal justice.

At this hour of uncertainty, Lord, fashion leaders whose actions spring from the inherent counsel of Dr. King's living legacy. In charting the course for the national stability of Iraq, let Dr. King's dream of little black children walking hand and hand with little white children come true for little Shi'a, Sunni, Kurdish, Christian and Jewish children. From the southern plains around Basra to the northern plateaus of Ninnevah, someday soon let them sing: "Free at last. Thank God Almighty. We are free at last." Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD 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.

APPEALS FOR REDRESS FROM ARMED SERVICES

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, today I received a petition, an appeal for redress from over 1,000 active duty members of the armed services. Many of these honorable soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines have served in Iraq. They did not challenge their orders, they did not challenge their duty to

serve, they do assert their constitutional rights and their military code rights to speak with Members of Congress.

Article 3.5.7, Department of Defense directive 1325.6 provides the right of servicemembers to request redress and grievances against the actions of their commanders. The action taken and presented to me by individual servicemembers is an appeal for redress to end the war in Iraq.

Troops are risking their careers to present this message to Congress. They have all individually signed the following statement:

As a patriotic American proud to serve the Nation in uniform, I respectfully urge my political leaders in Congress to support the prompt withdrawal of all American military forces and bases from Iraq. Staying in Iraq will not work and is not worth the price. It is time for U.S. troops to come home.

SALUTING THE 218TH INFANTRY BRIGADE OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, January 7, South Carolina's adjutant general, Stan Spears, hosted the departure ceremony for the 218th Enhanced Separate Infantry Brigade. The event was attended by 10,000 appreciative family members and supporters.

The 218th Brigade is commanded by Brigadier General Robert Livingston. General Livingston and his wife Barbara's daughters, Rachel, Rebecca and Roxanne, led the national anthem at the ceremony. The brigade consists of 1,800 soldiers and will be in Afghanistan for approximately 1 year. Its primary mission will be to train Afghan national army and national police. This is the largest single deployment of South Carolina Army National Guard since World War II.

As a grateful 25-year veteran of the 218th and father of four sons in the military, I have the deepest respect and admiration for the men and women who put their lives at risk to protect American families. My thoughts and prayers are with them and their families. Our office is available at all times for servicemembers and families toll free at 1-888-381-1442.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

DEMOCRATS ACCOMPLISH MUCH DURING FIRST 2 WEEKS OF 110TH CONGRESSIONAL SESSION

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, as we begin the third week of this new Congress, it is important that the

American people know what we have accomplished so far on their behalf.

During our first week in session, we changed the rules on how this institution works, cutting ties between lobbyists and lawmakers, and reinstating commonsense pay-as-you-go budget rules.

Last week we began our 100-hour agenda, passing four pieces of legislation that will help the American people live better and healthier lives. We increased the minimum wage for the first time in 9 years. We passed legislation giving the government the ability to fund promising stem cell research. We passed a bill that allows the government to negotiate better prescription drug prices for American seniors. We passed long overdue legislation instituting the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission that should make our Nation safer. And we are not finished yet.

This week we will make college more affordable by cutting interest rates in half on student loans and investing in biofuels by repealing unnecessary tax breaks to Big Oil.

Democrats are delivering on the promises we made to the American people.

TRANSIT FLEXIBILITY

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight an issue of importance to many of our Nation's small- and medium-sized public transportation systems. Outdated population limits established in law in the seventies have caused many of these transit agencies to lose flexibility in the way they spend Federal funds. As a result, many of these systems, approximately 110 to be exact, will be forced to dramatically scale back their operations, and that means not having a ride to work for thousands of riders.

In the coming days, I plan to reintroduce the Transit System Flexibility Act. This bill will allow local officials flexibility in the way they spend their Federal funds and save them from having to shut down important bus routes. And it will not cost any additional taxpayer money.

Madam Speaker, local officials know their own needs best. This is a sensible solution to an urgent problem, and I hope my colleagues who represent one of these 110 small transit systems will cosponsor the bill.

DEMOCRAT PRESCRIPTION DRUG BILL IS BAD MEDICINE

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, it seems that the Democrats have a one-size-fits-all solution for all the issues facing our country: Big Government. According to the Democrats, the best thing

for the American people is to involve the government in every aspect of our lives instead of letting citizens decide for themselves what is right for them.

An example of this is their current proposal to let the government, quote unquote, negotiate drug prices for prescription drugs covered by Medicare. No one will argue with lower drug prices, but that is not what this bill will accomplish. What the Democrats don't tell you is that this bill will lead to fewer choices of prescription drugs for our Nation's seniors and will hurt community pharmacies, as it will increase mail order prescriptions.

In short, Madam Speaker, this bill is bad medicine, as is the notion of Big Government that the Democrats are pushing on the American people.

JUDGES HALL OF SHAME

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, judges have the public duty to protect children from sexual deviants, including those from Vermont.

Mark Hulett molested a 6-year-old girl for 4 years. Reports indicate he even had a history of abusing women. But when he went to court for the child molesting charge, Judge Edward "Cushy" Cashman of Vermont put the molester in jail for only 60 days and ordered some "Kum-Ba-Yah" type of treatment.

The crime against this little girl is a human rights violation. The judge condoned the violation by not punishing the criminal. Has the judge made Vermont a safe sanctuary State for child molesters?

Almost everyone in America knows, except Judge Cushy, that you cannot cure child rapists. You keep them away from kids. You lock them up in jail. Why do you think we build those prisons? Judge Cushy should be held accountable and removed from the bench, then given sensitivity training on the effects of being raped as a child.

Justice will only be served when judges are as concerned about the molested as they are about the molesters, but for now the Judges Hall of Shame has a brand new member.

And 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.

OBSERVING THE BIRTHDAY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to

the resolution (H. Res. 61) observing the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., and encouraging the people of the United States to observe the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 61

Whereas Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Junior, was born January 15, 1929;

Whereas Dr. King attended segregated public schools in Georgia, and began attending Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, at the age of 15;

Whereas in February of 1948, Dr. King was ordained in the Christian ministry at the age of 19 at Ebenezer Baptist Church, in Atlanta, Georgia, and became Assistant Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church;

Whereas Dr. King was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1948 from Morehouse College, a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1951 from Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in the theology in 1955 from Boston University;

Whereas in Boston, Massachusetts, Dr. King met Coretta Scott, his life partner and fellow civil rights activist;

Whereas on June 18, 1953, Dr. King and Coretta Scott were married and later had two sons and two daughters;

Whereas in 1954, Dr. King accepted the call of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, and was pastor from September 1954 to November 1959, when he resigned to move back to Atlanta to lead the Southern Christian Leadership Conference;

Whereas Dr. King led the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott for 381 days to protest the arrest of Rosa Parks and the segregation of the bus system of Montgomery, during which time Dr. King was arrested and the home of Dr. King was bombed;

Whereas Dr. King responded to arrests and violence with non-violence and courage in the face of hatred;

Whereas the Montgomery bus boycott was the first great nonviolent civil rights demonstration of contemporary times in the United States;

Whereas on December 21, 1956, the Supreme Court declared laws requiring segregation on buses unconstitutional;

Whereas between 1957 and 1968, Dr. King traveled more than 6,000,000 miles, spoke more than 2,500 times, and wrote five books and numerous articles supporting efforts around the country to end injustice and bring about social change and desegregation;

Whereas from 1960 until his death in 1968, Dr. King was co-pastor with his father at Ebenezer Baptist Church;

Whereas on August 28, 1963, Dr. King led the March on Washington, D.C., the largest rally of the civil rights movement, during which, from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and before a crowd of more than 200,000 people, Dr. King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, one of the classic orations in American history;

Whereas Dr. King was a champion of non-violence, fervently advocated nonviolent resistance as the strategy to end segregation and racial discrimination in America, and in 1964, at age 35, became the youngest man to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition for his efforts;

Whereas through his work and reliance on nonviolent protest, Dr. King was instrumental in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965;

Whereas the work of Dr. King created a basis of understanding and respect and helped communities, and the United States as a whole, to act cooperatively and coura-

geously to restore tolerance, justice, and equality between people;

Whereas on the evening of April 4, 1968, Dr. King was assassinated while standing on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was to lead sanitation workers in protest against low wages and intolerable working conditions;

Whereas Dr. King dedicated his life to securing the fundamental principles of the United States of liberty and justice for all United States citizens;

Whereas Dr. King was the leading civil rights advocate of his time, spearheading the civil rights movement in the United States during the 1950's and 1960's and earning world-wide recognition as an eloquent and articulate spokesperson for equality;

Whereas in the face of hatred and violence, Dr. King preached a doctrine of nonviolence and civil disobedience to combat segregation, discrimination, and racial injustice, and believed that people have the moral capacity to care for other people;

Whereas Dr. King awakened the conscience and consciousness of the United States and used his message of hope to bring people together to build the "Beloved Community", a community of justice, at peace with itself;

Whereas in 1968, Representative John Conyers introduced legislation to establish the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. as a Federal holiday;

Whereas Coretta Scott King led the massive campaign to establish Dr. King's birthday as a Federal holiday;

Whereas in 1983, Congress passed and President Ronald Reagan signed legislation creating the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, which is now observed in more than 100 countries;

Whereas Dr. King's wife and indispensable partner, Coretta Scott King, was a woman of quiet courage and great dignity who marched alongside her husband and became an international advocate for peace and human rights;

Whereas Coretta Scott King, who had been actively engaged in the civil rights movement as a politically and socially conscious young woman, continued after her husband's death to lead the United States toward greater justice and equality, traveling the world on behalf of racial and economic justice, peace and non-violence, women's and children's rights, gay rights, religious freedom, full employment, health care, and education until her death on January 30, 2006;

Whereas the values of faith, compassion, courage, truth, justice, and non-violence that guided Dr. and Mrs. King's dream for America will be celebrated and preserved by the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Memorial on the National Mall between the Lincoln Memorial and the Jefferson Memorial and in the new National Museum of African American History and Culture that will be located in the shadow of the Washington Monument; and

Whereas Dr. King's actions and leadership made the United States a better place and the American people a better people: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) observes the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.;

(2) pledges to advance the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to—

(A) observe the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the life of Dr. King;

(B) commemorate the legacy of Dr. King, so that, as Dr. King hoped, "one day this Nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be

self-evident; that all men are created equal;"; and

(C) remember the message of Dr. King and rededicate themselves to Dr. King's goal of a free and just United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker and ladies and gentlemen of the House, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to insert additional material concerning House Resolution 61 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. I also want everyone to know that the gentleman from Georgia's resolution, JOHN LEWIS, Members will be able to join on it up until the time that we have a recorded vote in case there are Members coming back that may not be aware of this.

Today we have joined so many others in the Nation in honoring, in my judgment, our greatest American, Martin Luther King, Jr.

□ 1415

As the original author of the bill 4 days after his assassination, and one who worked on it for 15 years until it was passed in 1983, I am delighted to support and endorse the resolution of another supporter and one who worked closely with Dr. King, the gentleman from Georgia, JOHN LEWIS.

It was an interesting time for me yesterday. Not only did City Year, a national service movement that has young people pledging to work in schools, parks, and neighborhoods full-time for 10 months, headed by their president, Penny Bailey, in which I delivered my remarks about Dr. King, but I was also at Central Methodist Church in downtown Detroit, where Dr. King frequently came for his Easter or the Friday before Easter addresses, and where I was honored on his last visit to be supported by his actual endorsement.

And so I come here doubly proud of the fact that I was able to work with Dr. King as a young lawyer, but also to enjoy his support. Much of it came, of course, from Rosa Parks, who left Alabama and came to Detroit when she couldn't get work anymore. And she was a seamstress. And I was very happy to welcome her to my congressional office, where she worked for more than two decades. And her and Dr. King's fame and recognition kept growing and growing as she was called around the world to receive tributes.

And I remember Dr. King's very important receiving of the Nobel Prize. And it was about the question of peace. And it was not just racial discrimina-

tion. Dr. King was not a one-note person. He was a visionary. Jobs, justice, economic justice, political justice, and peace.

And we find ourselves wrapped up in these same considerations even today as we begin the third week of the 110th Congress. We need voter integrity. We need protection for those who seek the ballot. But more than anything else, I am reminded of the fact that we need to find a way out of the war in Iraq, an unnecessary, sad occasion in our history.

And you keep thinking, what would King have said? And I remember that one thing he said is that those who fail to talk about what is important really miss their chance in history to do something that is significant.

Madam Speaker, because we have so many speakers, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 61, which observes and celebrates the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and invites all Americans to join in this commemoration.

Dr. King's pursuit of social change and making this country worthy of its heritage was evident in all of his work. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the NAACP. He became the leader of the Montgomery Improvement Association which, of course, was the organization responsible for one of the most important nonviolent demonstrations of modern times in the United States, the 382-day bus boycott.

In 1957, Dr. King was elected President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Between 1957 and 1968, Dr. King appeared wherever he saw injustice. The injustice he saw took him many miles, and the speeches that he made are still taught in schools. They were taught yesterday. They are taught all over the country. They are things which we really do need to listen to and learn from and still have many things to learn from the things that Dr. King said.

Dr. King led a massive protest in Birmingham, Alabama, that drew the attention of the world, sparking what he called a "coalition of conscience."

Dr. King later directed a peaceful march here in Washington, DC, a march that a quarter of a million people attended, where he delivered his now famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

At the age of 35, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was the youngest man to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. When notified of his selection, he announced that he would turn over all of the prize money to further the civil rights movement.

On the evening of April 4, 1968, while standing on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was to lead a protest march in sym-

pathy with striking sanitation workers in that city, he was gunned down.

Dr. King's name is synonymous with the civil rights movement. His life was devoted to changing the conscience of this Nation. His experiences shaped his character, and through them, one of the greatest nonviolent leaders of our country has ever known was created.

Today, we honor the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King for his service and strength and devotion to the principle that all Americans are entitled to equal treatment under the law in this great Nation. We are a greater Nation because Dr. King lived.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield now to the one person in the House and the United States Senate who now presently knows and knew Dr. King and his family, and the civil rights movement more than any other person among us, and that is, of course, the Honorable JOHN LEWIS from Georgia, and I recognize him for 3 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my friend, my colleague, the chairman, for yielding.

Madam Speaker, it is only fitting and appropriate that we salute and commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as we celebrate his 78th birthday.

Martin Luther King, Jr., was a man of peace, a man of love, a man of non-violence. He must be considered one of the founding fathers of the new America.

Because of his dedication to the cause of injustice and his fight for human dignity, he wrestled with the very soul of this Nation and pushed it to reach for its greater destiny.

Dr. King had the ability to produce light in dark places; the ability to bring the dirt and the filth out from under the American rug, out of the cracks and the corner into the open light in order for us to deal with it.

He injected a new meaning into the very veins of our society and gave his life to make our democracy real. What he did and what he said and what he sacrificed inspired an entire generation and his power still rings today throughout the Nation and around the world.

We are a different country. We are a better people today. Martin Luther King, Jr., believed in the power of love over hate, the power of nonviolence over violence, the power of peace over war. He liberated all of us, black and white, Hispanic, Asian American and Native American.

If Dr. King could speak to us today, right now, he would say we must stop the madness of the war and bring our young people home. He would say that war is an ineffective tool of our foreign policy.

We must struggle against injustice and stand up for our goals. If peace is our goal, then peaceful ends must take peaceful means.

Dr. King would say, means and ends are inseparable. He would say we must

find a way to live together as brothers and sisters or we will perish as fools.

39 years later, we must rededicate ourselves to the struggle that was his struggle, and continue to see the goals that were his goals.

We know that his dream has not been fulfilled. It must be our task, our obligation, our mission, our mandate to renew our commitment to his dream.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN).

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution and in support of the honoring of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I can recall, two decades ago, being on this floor with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), and fighting to make sure that we established this holiday. Some may have forgotten that it took more than one time for this to occur. The resolution was defeated on two previous occasions. And I recall that some of us on our side of the aisle voted against it for fiscal reasons at that time.

And I also recall, after having that vote, going home and talking with my wife and saying, you know, I think I did the wrong thing; and her giving me the great advice that she gave me, she said, well, if you did, you'd better do something about it.

And at that time I had the opportunity to approach Congressman Jack Kemp, who had voted against it as well for "fiscal reasons," and working with Ed Bethune and Newt Gingrich and others, attempting to garner enough support from some on our side of the aisle to ensure that the vote would go forward and that we would honor Dr. Martin Luther King.

And the argument that was made at that time that I think was successful was that we have many different points of view, as we do today on the war, as we did at that time in how we appropriately deal with the then existing threat of the Soviet Union, many different issues that divided us in terms of our approach. But it seemed important for us to come together from all these different points of view to recognize Dr. Martin Luther King's contribution to this country where he brought people who had differences of opinion together in a united effort that reminded us very vividly that we are one people dedicated to the proposition that all men and women are created equal. And it was cutting through the differences that we had at that time on a number of different issues that allowed us to come together.

And I can recall going to visit Mr. CONYERS in his office and asking him whether it would be of any benefit for those of us who had initially opposed the resolution to come forward in support of it. And I can recall the gentleman from Michigan's statement at that time, suggesting that we all ought to come together.

So today, as we are again in a period of time in which there are sincere, passionate differences of opinion on issues such as the war and how we approach it, when we have some differences on how we deal with certain economic matters, when we have differences of opinion with respect to the extent and the definition of certain applications of affirmative action, isn't it good for us to at least step back and recognize that there is a commonality of purpose, a commonality of dedication, a commonality of the essence of America; that we recognize that we will never be perfect, but as we are moving to make real the promise of the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, that we actually have more that joins us together than breaks us apart. Because had we not had that belief, and had we not had that as our base decision some two decades ago, we would not now have, as a recognition of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, the national holiday.

It is not an African American holiday. It is not a Hispanic holiday, it is not an Irish American holiday. It is an American holiday that recognizes that Dr. King spoke to the essence of America.

□ 1430

There could be nothing greater in the annals of American history, in my judgment, than his magnificent statement contained in the letter from the Birmingham jail, where he said that we, as the people, understand the difference between a just and an unjust law. He didn't say let us look at this legal book and tell us where it is. He said an unjust law is a law which violates God's law; an unjust law is that which we know is wrong. I can also remember his great words in there when people said, Well, aren't you a radical? He said, What was Jesus but a radical for love.

He asked that we come together and look in our hearts, as much as our heads, and remember that as imperfect as we are, we do all share in this tremendous legacy of America, and we honor America by trying to be more true to that promise.

I thank the gentleman for this resolution. I thank the manager of this bill for his work today and other days, and I thank the gentleman from Ohio for giving me this time.

Mr. CONYERS. I thank the previous speaker, who is one of the few here on the floor that was around back then when these debates and this long 15-year period took place. I thank him for his contribution.

Madam Speaker, I now turn to the able gentlelady from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), and I recognize her for 2½ minutes.

Ms. NORTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me. I particularly thank him for his remarks, because what I am going to talk about, the link I am going to try to make, he knows very well. I appreciate his linking Dr. King

to the broad swath of issues for which he stood. How can you honor King without, in fact, talking about his issues.

Madam Speaker, recall the poor people's campaign on the Mall, and the gap between the rich and the poor that is greater today than when King lived, and recall the Vietnam war when his opposition was at high risk. Here we have a President attempting to escalate yet another war. But King's signature issue, my friends, was civil rights.

The House of Representatives must confront a civil rights issue that is 200 years old, the failure of the Congress of the United States for 200 years to grant equal rights to the citizens of the District of Columbia. Most recently, this has been a Republican failure. But Democrats are just as responsible. I would say more responsible in some ways, historically, than Republicans, because race was at the center of the denial. It was Democrats who stood in the way of home rule and a delegate for the District of Columbia. It was Democrats, however, who faced their racial failings 40 years ago, and, to their credit, became leaders in the fight for civil rights.

Yet, the majority African American District of Columbia remains without a vote despite Democratic Party platforms and countless statements, especially on this floor. Now is the time for Democrats to act to deliver. It is the last hope for years to come, a D.C.-Utah bill that delivers party parity, with great credit to my Republican cosponsor, who tried to deliver, great credit to my cosponsor, no partisan advantage.

Nonpartisan research reveals that a possible advantage occasionally raised is so de minimis that no credible argument can be made for further delay in failing to correct one of the most odious injustices in American history, 200,000 men and women in the District of Columbia sent to America's war since the creation of the Republic, second per capita of taxation without representation.

Dr. King held public officials on both sides of the aisle accountable. The only risk to Democrats on this issue is paying only lip service to his principles.

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

We have no further speakers at this time. However, I would note in the spirit of bipartisan cooperation, the gentleman from Michigan indicated he may have more speakers than he has time for. I would be happy to yield time to accommodate him if it comes to that.

Mr. CONYERS. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) 2¼ minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia, my friend, JOHN LEWIS, for introducing this resolution. I thank the gentleman

from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) for allowing time for me to speak today.

Madam Speaker, Dr. King was a visionary leader. He understood that America could never be a moral leader in the world when citizens within its own borders were treated legally as second-class citizens. I recall so vividly attending a standing-room only speech that Dr. King gave at the Booker T. Washington High School gymnasium in Rocky Mountain, North Carolina, on November 27, 1962.

Dr. King's speech included the "I Have a Dream" passage that he used in the historic march-on-Washington speech the following year. After the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, we were having difficulty in the south persuading black voters that it was really uncomplicated to register the vote. The act had removed the literacy test, and the process was easier. But black citizens were reluctant to step forward to register to vote for fear of intimidation and reprisal. At the urging of local leaders in my community, Dr. King accepted our invitation to lead a voter registration march on April 4, 1968.

But as fate would have it, he canceled his promised trip to our community so that he could go to Memphis to assist the garbage workers of that city, and we know the rest. Despite the absence of Dr. King from the registration march, we launched a massive voter registration drive and later filed and won a voting rights lawsuit in my district resulting in electoral opportunities.

Now, Madam Speaker, we have 301 elected black officials in my congressional district. In addition to having an African American Member of this body in the first district, African Americans hold the following office: 48 county commissioners, 7 sheriffs, 20 mayors, 129 municipal officials, 5 at our General Assembly, 6 superior court judges, 9 district court judges, 69 on boards of education, 4 registrars of deeds and 3 clerks of court.

Madam Speaker, much of this electoral progress that we have made in the South can be directly attributable to the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I would like now to call upon DAVID SCOTT of Georgia and to yield to him 2 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Thank you to the gentleman from Michigan. It is a pleasure to be on the floor with you.

Madam Speaker, more than anything else, Dr. King was a man of God. You know, when I think of Dr. King, I think of three people. The first one was the great prophet Isaiah. As you recall, Isaiah cried out in the year that King Uzziah died, was the year that I also saw the Lord. He went on to say that there was a voice that came to him that said, who will go for us, and whom shall we send?

Like the prophet Isaiah, in 1956, as a young 26-year-old person down in Ala-

bama, it was Martin Luther King, Jr., who said, Here am I, Lord, send me. Just like the prophet Isaiah. The second person is David the shepherd boy, who climbed up to go see about his brethren, and there was Goliath, issuing all kinds of threats.

They told him to go back, much as they did with Martin Luther King, Jr., but he didn't go back. Instead, he stood there and Martin Luther King, Jr., like David said, Is there not a cause. There is a cause for me, and there is a cause for you, and that is to beat down the Goliaths of racism, of prejudice and discrimination.

The third one is Jesus Christ, for when the Pharisees asked Jesus Christ what was the greatest commandment of all, Jesus said to love thy neighbor as thyself. At the bottom of it all, Dr. King's essence was love. As Jesus said, There is no greater love than that you would give your life for another. Dr. King paid that price and gave his life, love.

As the song writer said: Them's that got shall get and them's that not shall not lose cause the Bible says, and it still is news. Your mama may have and your poppa may have, but God bless this child. Martin Luther King, more than anything else, was a child of God, and we thank God for sending Martin Luther King, Jr., our way.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am now pleased to yield to my good friend, DENNIS KUCINICH of Ohio, 2 minutes.

Mr. KUCINICH. Thank you, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LEWIS and all Members of Congress.

Madam Speaker, as we honor Dr. King's legacy, let's remember it is a living legacy. We are not talking about cold prose and someone who is so distant from this moment. His ideas are so alive today and so needed today; that is why a month from now, I will be introducing legislation to create a Cabinet level Department of Peace, which takes Dr. King's vision of an America which organizes around principles of nonviolence and brings it to life in addressing the issues of domestic violence, spousal abuse, child abuse, violence in the schools, racial violence, violence against gays, police, community relations conflicts, and provides the resources so that we can deal with these as a living testimony to the love that we are showing today for Dr. King.

But he also was a visionary on the matter of war. He spoke many times warning this country about the danger of what happened in Vietnam. He spoke about the price that was being paid for the people of two nations in a speech at Riverside Church nearly 40 years ago. At Ebenezer Baptist Church he spoke about the interrelationship of all people, but how all people are one. It was that understanding of oneness that drove him to take a stand for peace.

Let us celebrate not only his life, but let the principles of his life continue to guide us as Americans. This is the moment to take a stand as we grapple with the question of Iraq.

I met with representatives of over 1,000 soldiers today who say it is time to get out of Iraq. Let us protect Dr. King's memory by standing for peace.

Madam Speaker, I would like to put into the RECORD Dr. King's speech from Ebenezer Baptist Church and part of his speech from Riverside Church, which need to be read today. I would also like to put in the RECORD a speech that I gave recently called "Out of Iraq and Back to the American City," which shows that only when we take a stand for peace are we able to get the resources that we need to provide jobs and health care and education and retirement security and housing for the American people.

Make Dr. King's legacy a living legacy.

A CHRISTMAS SERMON ON PEACE

Dr. King first delivered this sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where he served as copastor. On Christmas Eve, 1967, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation aired this sermon as part of the seventh annual Massey Lectures.

Peace on Earth. . . . This Christmas season finds us a rather bewildered human race. We have neither peace within nor peace without. Everywhere paralyzing fears harrow people by day and haunt them by night. Our world is sick with war; everywhere we turn we see its ominous possibilities. And yet, my friends, the Christmas hope for peace and good will toward all men can no longer be dismissed as a kind of pious dream of some utopian. If we don't have good will toward men in this world, we will destroy ourselves by the misuse of our own instruments and our own power. Wisdom born of experience should tell us that war is obsolete. There may have been a time when war served as a negative good by preventing the spread and growth of an evil force, but the very destructive power of modern weapons of warfare eliminates even the possibility that war may any longer serve as a negative good. And so, if we assume that life is worth living, if we assume that mankind has a right to survive, then we must find an alternative to war—and so let us this morning explore the conditions for peace. Let us this morning think anew on the meaning of that Christmas hope: "Peace on Earth, Good Will toward Men." And as we explore these conditions, I would like to suggest that modern man really go all out to study the meaning of nonviolence, its philosophy and its strategy.

We have experimented with the meaning of nonviolence in our struggle for racial justice in the United States, but now the time has come for man to experiment with nonviolence in all areas of human conflict, and that means nonviolence on an international scale.

Now let me suggest first that if we are to have peace on earth, our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional. Our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our nation; and this means we must develop a world perspective. No individual can live alone; no nation can live alone, and as long as we try, the more we are going to have war in this world. Now the judgment of God is upon us, and we must either learn to live together as brothers or we are all going to perish together as fools.

Yes, as nations and individuals, we are interdependent. I have spoken to you before of our visit to India some years ago. It was a marvelous experience; but I say to you this morning that there were those depressing moments. How can one avoid being depressed

when one sees with one's own eyes evidences of millions of people going to bed hungry at night? How can one avoid being depressed when one sees with one's own eyes thousands of people sleeping on the sidewalks at night? More than a million people sleep on the sidewalks of Bombay every night; more than half a million sleep on the sidewalks of Calcutta every night. They have no houses to go into. They have no beds to sleep in. As I beheld these conditions, something within me cried out: "Can we in America stand idly by and not be concerned?" And an answer came: "Oh, no!" And I started thinking about the fact that right here in our country we spend millions of dollars every day to store surplus food; and I said to myself: "I know where we can store that food free of charge—in the wrinkled stomachs of the millions of God's children in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and even in our own nation, who go to bed hungry at night."

It really boils down to this: that all life is interrelated. We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. We are made to live together because of the interrelated structure of reality. Did you ever stop to think that you can't leave for your job in the morning without being dependent on most of the world? You get up in the morning and go to the bathroom and reach over for the sponge, and that's handed to you by a Pacific islander. You reach for a bar of soap, and that's given to you at the hands of a Frenchman. And then you go into the kitchen to drink your coffee for the morning, and that's poured into your cup by a South American. And maybe you want tea: That's poured into your cup by a Chinese. Or maybe you're desirous of having cocoa for breakfast, and that's poured into your cup by a West African. And then you reach over for your toast, and that's given to you at the hands of an English-speaking farmer, not to mention the baker. And before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you've depended on more than half of the world. This is the way our universe is structured, this is its interrelated quality. We aren't going to have peace on earth until we recognize this basic fact of the interrelated structure of all reality.

Now let me say, secondly, that if we are to have peace in the world, men and nations must embrace the nonviolent affirmation that ends and means must cohere. One of the great philosophical debates of history has been over the whole question of means and ends. And there have always been those who argued that the end justifies the means, that the means really aren't important. The important thing is to get to the end, you see.

So, if you're seeking to develop a just society, they say, the important thing is to get there, and the means are really unimportant; any means will do so long as they get you there—they may be violent, they may be untruthful means; they may even be unjust means to a just end. There have been those who have argued this throughout history. But we will never have peace in the world until men everywhere recognize that ends are not cut off from means, because the means represent the ideal in the making, and the end in process, and ultimately you can't reach good ends through evil means, because the means represent the seed and the end represents the tree.

It's one of the strangest things that all the great military geniuses of the world have talked about peace. The conquerors of old who came killing in pursuit of peace, Alexander, Julius Caesar, Charlemagne, and Napoleon, were akin in seeking a peaceful world order. If you will read *Mein Kampf* closely enough, you will discover that Hitler

contended that everything he did in Germany was for peace. And the leaders of the world today talk eloquently about peace. Every time we drop our bombs in North Vietnam, President Johnson talks eloquently about peace. What is the problem? They are talking about peace as a distant goal, as an end we seek, but one day we must come to see that peace is not merely a distant goal we seek, but that it is a means by which we arrive at that goal. We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means. All of this is saying that, in the final analysis, means and ends must cohere because the end is preexistent in the means, and ultimately destructive means cannot bring about constructive ends.

Now let me say that the next thing we must be concerned about if we are to have peace on earth and good will toward men is the nonviolent affirmation of the sacredness of all human life. Every man is somebody because he is a child of God. And so when we say "Thou shalt not kill," we're really saying that human life is too sacred to be taken on the battlefields of the world. Man is more than a tiny vagary of whirling electrons or a wisp of smoke from a limitless smoldering. Man is a child of God, made in His image, and therefore must be respected as such. Until men see this everywhere, until nations see this everywhere, we will be fighting wars. One day somebody should remind us that, even though there may be political and ideological differences between us, the Vietnamese are our brothers, the Russians are our brothers, the Chinese are our brothers; and one day we've got to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. But in Christ there is neither Jew nor Gentile. In Christ there is neither male nor female. In Christ there is neither Communist nor capitalist. In Christ, somehow, there is neither bound nor free. We are all one in Christ Jesus. And when we truly believe in the sacredness of human personality, we won't exploit people, we won't trample over people with the iron feet of oppression, we won't kill anybody.

There are three words for "love" in the Greek New Testament; one is the word "eros." Eros is a sort of esthetic, romantic love. Plato used to talk about it a great deal in his dialogues, the yearning of the soul for the realm of the divine. And there is and can always be something beautiful about eros, even in its expressions of romance. Some of the most beautiful love in all of the world has been expressed this way.

Then the Greek language talks about "philia," which is another word for love, and philia is a kind of intimate love between personal friends. This is the kind of love you have for those people that you get along with well, and those whom you like on this level you love because you are loved.

Then the Greek language has another word for love, and that is the word "agape." Agape is more than romantic love, it is more than friendship. Agape is understanding, creative, redemptive good will toward all men. Agape is an overflowing love which seeks nothing in return. Theologians would say that it is the love of God operating in the human heart. When you rise to love on this level, you love all men not because you like them, not because their ways appeal to you, but you love them because God loves them. This is what Jesus meant when he said, "Love your enemies." And I'm happy that he didn't say, "Like your enemies," because there are some people that I find it pretty difficult to like. Liking is an affectionate emotion, and I can't like anybody who would bomb my home. I can't like anybody who would exploit me. I can't like anybody who would trample over me with injustices. I can't like them. I can't like anybody who threatens to kill me day in and day out. But Jesus re-

minds us that love is greater than liking. Love is understanding, creative, redemptive good will toward all men. And I think this is where we are, as a people, in our struggle for racial justice. We can't ever give up. We must work passionately and unrelentingly for first-class citizenship. We must never let up in our determination to remove every vestige of segregation and discrimination from our nation, but we shall not in the process relinquish our privilege to love.

I've seen too much hate to want to hate, myself, and I've seen hate on the faces of too many sheriffs, too many white citizens' councilors, and too many Klansmen of the South to want to hate, myself; and every time I see it, I say to myself, hate is too great a burden to bear. Somehow we must be able to stand up before our most bitter opponents and say: "We shall match your capacity to inflict suffering by our capacity to endure suffering. We will meet your physical force with soul force. Do to us what you will and we will still love you. We cannot in all good conscience obey your unjust laws and abide by the unjust system, because non-cooperation with evil is as much a moral obligation as is cooperation with good, and so throw us in jail and we will still love you. Bomb our homes and threaten our children, and, as difficult as it is, we will still love you. Send your hooded perpetrators of violence into our communities at the midnight hour and drag us out on some wayside road and leave us half-dead as you beat us, and we will still love you. Send your propaganda agents around the country, and make it appear that we are not fit, culturally and otherwise, for integration, and we'll still love you. But be assured that we'll wear you down by our capacity to suffer, and one day we will win our freedom. We will not only win freedom for ourselves; we will so appeal to your heart and conscience that we will win you in the process, and our victory will be a double victory."

If there is to be peace on earth and good will toward men, we must finally believe in the ultimate morality of the universe, and believe that all reality hinges on moral foundations. Something must remind us of this as we once again stand in the Christmas season and think of the Easter season simultaneously, for the two somehow go together. Christ came to show us the way. Men love darkness rather than the light, and they crucified him, and there on Good Friday on the cross it was still dark, but then Easter came, and Easter is an eternal reminder of the fact that the truth-crushed earth will rise again. Easter justifies Carlyle in saying, "No lie can live forever." And so this is our faith, as we continue to hope for peace on earth and good will toward men: let us know that in the process we have cosmic companionship.

In 1963, on a sweltering August afternoon, we stood in Washington, D.C., and talked to the nation about many things. Toward the end of that afternoon, I tried to talk to the nation about a dream that I had had, and I must confess to you today that not long after talking about that dream I started seeing it turn into a nightmare. I remember the first time I saw that dream turn into a nightmare, just a few weeks after I had talked about it. It was when four beautiful, unoffending, innocent Negro girls were murdered in a church in Birmingham, Alabama. I watched that dream turn into a nightmare as I moved through the ghettos of the nation and saw my black brothers and sisters perishing on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity, and saw the nation doing nothing to grapple with the Negroes' problem of poverty. I saw that dream turn into a nightmare as I watched my black brothers and sisters in the midst of anger and understandable outrage,

in the midst of their hurt, in the midst of their disappointment, turn to misguided riots to try to solve that problem. I saw that dream turn into a nightmare as I watched the war in Vietnam escalating, and as I saw so-called military advisors, sixteen thousand strong, turn into fighting soldiers until today over five hundred thousand American boys are fighting on Asian soil. Yes, I am personally the victim of deferred dreams, of blasted hopes, but in spite of that I close today by saying I still have a dream, because, you know, you can't give up in life. If you lose hope, somehow you lose that vitality that keeps life moving, you lose that courage to be, that quality that helps you go on in spite of all. And so today I still have a dream.

I have a dream that one day men will rise up and come to see that they are made to live together as brothers. I still have a dream this morning that one day every Negro in this country, every colored person in the world, will be judged on the basis of the content of his character rather than the color of his skin, and every man will respect the dignity and worth of human personality. I still have a dream that one day the idle industries of Appalachia will be revitalized, and the empty stomachs of Mississippi will be filled, and brotherhood will be more than a few words at the end of a prayer, but rather the first order of business on every legislative agenda. I still have a dream today that one day justice will roll down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream. I still have a dream today that in all of our state houses and city halls men will be elected to go there who will do justly and love mercy and walk humbly with their God. I still have a dream today that one day war will come to an end, that men will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks, that nations will no longer rise up against nations, neither will they study war any more. I still have a dream today that one day the lamb and the lion will lie down together and every man will sit under his own vine and fig tree and none shall be afraid. I still have a dream today that one day every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill will be made low, the rough places will be made smooth and the crooked places straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. I still have a dream that with this faith we will be able to adjourn the councils of despair and bring new light into the dark chambers of pessimism. With this faith we will be able to speed up the day when there will be peace on earth and good will toward men. It will be a glorious day, the morning stars will sing together, and the sons of God will shout for joy.

MARTIN LUTHER KING: BEYOND VIETNAM—A
TIME TO BREAK SILENCE

I come to this magnificent house of worship tonight because my conscience leaves me no other choice. I join you in this meeting because I am in deepest agreement with the aims and work of the organization which has brought us together: Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam. The recent statements of your executive committee are the sentiments of my own heart, and I found myself in full accord when I read its opening lines: "A time comes when silence is betrayal." And that time has come for us in relation to Vietnam.

The truth of these words is beyond doubt, but the mission to which they call us is a most difficult one. Even when pressed by the demands of inner truth, men do not easily assume the task of opposing their government's policy, especially in time of war. Nor does the human spirit move without great

difficulty against all the apathy of conformist thought within one's own bosom and in the surrounding world. Moreover, when the issues at hand seem as perplexed as they often do in the case of this dreadful conflict, we are always on the verge of being mesmerized by uncertainty; but we must move on.

And some of us who have already begun to break the silence of the night have found that the calling to speak is often a vocation of agony, but we must speak. We must speak with all the humility that is appropriate to our limited vision, but we must speak. And we must rejoice as well, for surely this is the first time in our nation's history that a significant number of its religious leaders have chosen to move beyond the prophesying of smooth patriotism to the high grounds of a firm dissent based upon the mandates of conscience and the reading of history. Perhaps a new spirit is rising among us. If it is, let us trace its movements and pray that our own inner being may be sensitive to its guidance, for we are deeply in need of a new way beyond the darkness that seems so close around us.

Now let us begin. Now let us rededicate ourselves to the long and bitter, but beautiful, struggle for a new world. This is the calling of the sons of God, and our brothers wait eagerly for our response. Shall we say the odds are too great? Shall we tell them the struggle is too hard? Will our message be that the forces of American life militate against their arrival as full men, and we send our deepest regrets? Or will there be another message—of longing, of hope, of solidarity with their yearnings, of commitment to their cause, whatever the cost? The choice is ours, and though we might prefer it otherwise, we must choose in this crucial moment of human history.

As that noble bard of yesterday, James Russell Lowell, eloquently stated:

Once to every man and nation comes a moment to decide,
In the strife of Truth and Falsehood, for the good or evil side;
Some great cause, God's new Messiah offering each the bloom or blight,
And the choice goes by forever 'twixt that darkness and that light.
Though the cause of evil prosper, yet 'tis truth alone is strong
Though her portions be the scaffold, and upon the throne be wrong
Yet that scaffold sways the future, and behind the dim unknown
Standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above his own.

And if we will only make the right choice, we will be able to transform this pending cosmic elegy into a creative psalm of peace.

If we will make the right choice, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our world into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood.

If we will but make the right choice, we will be able to speed up the day, all over America and all over the world, when justice will roll down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.

OUT OF IRAQ AND BACK TO THE AMERICAN CITY
(By Dennis Kucinich)

We are losing our nation to a philosophy of war and destruction. It is time for policies of peace and construction. It is time for the philosophy of peace, nonviolence and economic justice. This was the philosophy of Dr. King, Gandhi, Jesus, Fredrick Douglas, A. Philip Randolph, Bayard Rustin, Fannie Lou Hamer, Sojourner Truth, Cesar Chavez, and Jesse Jackson.

We are all united with the philosophy which birthed the New Deal, the New Frontier, the Great Society, the dreams of social

and economic justice which could be called forth by those who were ready to stand up, to speak out, to march, to demand, to testify about the good news:

The world is interconnected. The world is interdependent. We are not just our brother and sisters keeper, on a deeper spiritual level we are our brothers and sisters. This is the meaning of the Golden Rule, Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. This is the meaning of Love Thy neighbor as thy self. This is why policies of unilateralism, first strike, and preemption are dead ends. This is why nuclear proliferation is a threat to every person on the planet. This is why the very idea that war should be an instrument of policy needs to be challenged. War is not inevitable. Peace is inevitable if we are prepared to work for it.

Dr. King understood this. In his speech "Beyond Vietnam: A time to break silence" in New York City nearly forty years ago, he created a synthesis of peace and civil rights. "Somehow this madness must cease," Dr. King told those assembled at Riverside Church about the annihilation of the Vietnamese people and their nation. "I speak as a child of God and brother to the suffering poor of Vietnam. I speak for those whose land is being laid waste, whose homes are destroyed, whose culture is being subverted. . . . I speak as a citizen of the world, for the world, as it stands aghast at the path we have taken. I speak as one who loves America, to the leaders of our nation: The great initiative in this war is ours. The initiative to stop it must be ours too."

That is why tomorrow I will present Congress with a plan to get out of Iraq. We must end the occupation, close the bases, and use the money that is there now to bring the troops home while we prepare Iraq for an international security force. I led the effort in the House of Representatives challenging the Bush Administration's march toward war in Iraq. I organized 125 Democrats to vote against the war.

There were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. But there are plenty of weapons of mass destruction here in the United States which need to be removed. Poverty is a weapon of mass destruction, homelessness is a weapon of mass destruction, joblessness is a weapon of mass destruction, poor health care is a weapon of mass destruction, theft of pensions, a weapon of mass destruction, hopelessness is a weapon of mass destruction.

Let's deal with the WMD's in our cities. It is time to get out of Iraq, which did not have weapons of mass destruction and into our American cities, which are loaded with weapons of mass destruction.

This then is a call for a politics of unity where human unity becomes an imperative. This is a call for a politics of economic justice, where wealth creation is available to everyone, where the government becomes an engine to create wealth for all, where it functions to equitably redistribute the wealth.

We know the challenges. The war in Iraq is the product of the same type of thinking which underlies racism. Us vs. them. The minute there is a they or a them it creates separation. Separation is the basis for discrimination. Separation is the basis for subjugation. Separation is the basis for insularity. Separation is the basis for conflict. Separation is the basis for war. Separation is the basis for the destruction of our environment. Separation is the basis for the destruction of the planet.

We are at a moment where our survival instinct causes us to declare the imperative of human unity. A unity of states is a superficial unity if it does not embrace policies which promote human unity, human equality, human striving, the practical aspirations of people.

There has been a massive redistribution of wealth in our society. Government has been turned into an engine to redistribute the wealth upwards. Our whole monetary system is based on debt creation for the masses and wealth creation for the few. War has become an engine of wealth for military contractors. Health care has become an engine of wealth for the pharmaceutical companies and the insurance companies. The tax system is used to accelerate wealth to the top. Our banking and credit systems accelerate wealth to the top. Our electric utilities, our gas companies, our oil companies accelerate wealth to the top. Our energy systems accelerate wealth to the top. Our transportation systems accelerate wealth to the top. Our information systems accelerate wealth to the top.

The concentration of wealth in our society has jeopardized our democracy. It has created a two class society. And in doing so jeopardizes the very institutions of wealth creation. Franklin Roosevelt recognized this in the creation of the New Deal which saved not only economic opportunities for the masses, but also saved capitalism itself.

There is an unlimited amount of wealth that can be created in our society. We need to teach our children wealth creation. But we need to challenge the fundamental assumptions that guide our society, assumptions such as "a certain amount of unemployment is necessary to the functioning of the economy." or "let the market decide access to health care." We need to perfect our union. This then is the perfect opportunity for us to perfect our union, to perfect the purpose of government, to perfect our mutual pledge to each other. It is time for a declaration of human economic rights of citizens of an urban society, and tie that declaration to legislation and use that legislation to create wealth and harmony and peace.

Langston Hughes wrote: "Life for me ain't been no crystal stair." We know that experience, we also know that we can teach people to create wealth if we can help them find a way to get access to wealth.

I am a product of the city. My parents never owned a home. I grew up in 21 different places by the time I was 17, including a few cars. I've learned about opportunities. I've learned that if you believe it you can conceive it. I've learned about pulling oneself up by bootstraps. I've also seen the cynicism which comes when you tell people to pull themselves up by their bootstraps and then you steal their shoes. I've seen people dreaming the dreams and stuck singing Sixteen Tons.

We are not going back to the days of Sixteen Tons.

So let it be said here:

We have a right to a job.

We have a right to a living wage.

We have a right to an education.

We have a right to health care.

We have a right to decent and affordable housing.

We have a right to a secure pension.

We have a right to air fit to breathe.

We have a right to water fit to drink.

We have a right to be free of the paralyzing fear of crime.

We have a right to be free of a government tapping our phones, opening our mail, checking out our library reading lists, snooping into our medical records, and our credit records.

We have a right to fair, open, and verifiable elections where every vote counts and every vote is counted.

We have a right to peace.

We have a right to prosperity.

This means ending the war in Iraq.

This means bringing the money home to our cities.

This means a full employment economy.

This means good paying jobs.

This means a living wage.

This means a federal infrastructure bill to put millions to work rebuilding our schools, our bridges, our libraries, our universities, our hospitals, our city halls, our recreation centers, our sidewalks, our street lights, our parks, our water systems, our sewer systems, our neighborhoods.

This means a more perfect union.

This means every child goes to a pre-kindergarten and every young person goes to a junior or a four year college.

This means universal health care.

This means a new housing initiative where everyone has access to affordable housing.

This means full protection of social security and no privatization.

This means protection of private pension funds.

This means giving workers access to the power of their pension funds to invest in job creation.

This means cleaner energy, greener energy.

This means programs for safer neighborhoods.

This means initiatives which bring people out of prison and into the mainstream of society.

This means a Department of Peace and nonviolence.

I don't just talk the talk. I walk the walk.

The universal health care bill is called Conyers-Kucinich. It calls for a universal single payer not-for-profit health care system to lift everyone up. To give everyone access to health care.

I wrote the federal infrastructure bill.

I wrote the universal pre-kindergarten bill.

I wrote the bill for a Department of Peace and non-violence to make Dr. King's dream of non-violence a reality. That bill will deal with the realities of violence in our society and take a path towards more peaceful relationships. It will help families who suffer from domestic violence, spousal abuse, child abuse; it will meet the challenge of violence in the schools, racial violence, violence against gays, police community conflicts, using the principles for which Dr. King lived. And it will create a context where a peaceful America can help to create a peaceful world. Imagine. Peace as an organizing principle. Prosperity as an organizing principle.

And when I am elected President of the United States, in my first day in office I will be ready to push. I will send to the Congress a bill for universal single payer not-for-profit health care.

I will send to the Congress legislation for creating millions of jobs through rebuilding America's infrastructure, I will send congress legislation to create a summer jobs program.

I will send Congress legislation to create affordable housing.

I will send congress a bill to establish a cabinet level Department of Peace and Non Violence.

I can do this because I have already written many of these bills. They are ready and so am I. I will move to restore the Constitution, restore habeas corpus, and repeal the Patriot Act. If you are ready, I am ready for a new America. And I am ready to unite this country in the cause of peace, justice and prosperity.

Our unity extends to all people everywhere. The Bible tells us to make peace with our brother because we are all one. We are told whatever we do for the least of our brothers and sisters, we do for the Lord, because we are all one in spirit. We are told that we have an obligation to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked not simply because we are our brother and sisters keeper, not just because there but for

the grace of God go I, but because wherever there is a hungry person, there I am. Wherever there is someone who is homeless, there I am.

Wherever someone is walking the streets looking for a job. That person is my brother and that person is me. Wherever a child goes to bed hungry, I am there. We connect with each other in our profound, human experience. We connect with each other through the imperative to love one another. We bind to each other in all of our hopes, in all of our dreams, and in all of our sufferings. The awareness which bids us to pursue a more perfect union make us aware of the perfectibility of our social systems, our economic systems and our own lives. We are meant for higher things. We are meant for better things. We are meant for peace, for prosperity, for enlightenment, for health, for love, for a more perfect union with ourselves, with each other, with our nation and with the world. Human unity is the great path that we all can walk upon. The world is interconnected. The world is interdependent.

I know that we are on the threshold of greatness because the people are great and we just need to call forth that awareness, call forth that ability, give people the resources, show people the money, show them their power, show them their beauty, show them that we can all be more than we are, better than we are. It's about reaching up and reaching out. It's about Push. It's about the Rainbow Coalition. It's about Human Unity. It's about a new America. It's about a new world. Let us begin.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased now to yield to my old friend, the delegate from American Samoa (Mr. FALOMAVAEGA) 2 minutes.

Mr. FALOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I am honored to be here this morning and certainly want to thank my good friends, the gentleman from Michigan and the gentleman from Georgia, for allowing me to participate in this proposed legislation to honor the memory and legacy of one of the great spiritual giants, not only as a native son of our Nation, but certainly of the world, that of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King was not a political leader, nor was he a military leader, nor was he a noted writer or author. Nor was he a philosopher. He was a Christian minister who understood thoroughly the real spiritual and the moral force of the principles taught by the Savior some 20 centuries ago, that of loving our neighbors as ourselves, showing tolerance and respect for our fellow human beings.

Dr. King was well aware of the social, economic and political inequalities that existed in our Nation, that his own people, the African Americans for some 200 years, have been treated as second-class citizens despite the hundreds of thousands of their sons and daughters who fought and bled and died defending our Nation against its enemies.

□ 1445

Dr. King's statement and speeches are well noted throughout the world. One of the statements that I like best is, "At the end, we will not remember the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." And, yes, we all

remember one of his most memorable speeches in that August during the summer of 1963 at the Lincoln Memorial, where he spoke before some 250,000 people and hundreds of millions more around the world, when he echoed the words, "I have a dream, that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Madam Speaker, this is what America is all about, and I thank Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for reminding us what our Nation should stand for, the real meaning of freedom under the provisions of our national Constitution.

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

Madam Speaker, we have heard a number of very moving tributes to Dr. Martin Luther King and I think it is important that we continue to remember what he said. I think what Mr. FALOMAVAEGA quoted sums it up better than anything else, and that is that a person should be judged by the content of their character and not by the color of their skin. I think that is something we should always strive for in this Nation.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I thank the Members that have participated in this activity. We will have 5 days to continue to introduce our comments into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and I also remind those that would like to join in the cosponsorship of Congressman LEWIS' resolution, they still have an opportunity to do so.

Madam Speaker, I will introduce into the RECORD five articles dealing with Dr. King. One is from the Washington Post entitled, "From Dr. King, a reminder on Iraq." Another from the same source, "The quest to keep King's legacy alive." Another, "Walking just like King did." Another, "Democrats hail civil rights leader King." Finally, the last one, "Martin Luther King papers go on display."

Madam Speaker, what I would conclude with is the pleasure that I have in seeing this holiday increasingly observed from year-to-year. Martin Luther King's birthday is not a shopping day. It is not a day off. It is not a day that you worry about getting some things done around the house. There are untold thousands of celebrations, some large, some small, some in churches, some signified by marches. There are so many different ways that he is being observed.

I was so pleased yesterday to be at the church that Dr. Martin Luther King had the privilege of addressing on numerous occasions. Then earlier I was with some very young people who were just learning about Dr. King, and they were taking a day on instead of a day off. They are working with schools and

other youngsters in parks and recreation, in the City Year agency led by Penny Bailey.

So, Madam Speaker, I am pleased that the Congress under the leadership of the gentleman from Georgia would have this resolution brought to the floor today.

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 13, 2007]

THE QUEST TO KEEP KING'S LEGACY ALIVE

(By Hamil R. Harris)

On Monday, the country honors the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who would have been 78 years old. The civil rights leader, who was assassinated in 1968 at the age of 39, launched many of his efforts from the pulpit. To mark his birthday, religious leaders were asked: Is King's legacy of social activism still alive in the faith community today?

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, founder of the Rainbow/Push Coalition: "The activist black churches are still the conscience of our nation. . . . I was with Dr. King on his last birthday. We must remember that a lot of churches didn't support King then. He was expelled from the National Baptist Convention. Our mission today is to green line a red-lined America. It is good to talk about raising the minimum wage in Congress, but for those who don't have jobs, the issue doesn't touch them. We need to continue to work on an urban agenda."

Rabbi Marla J. Feldman, director of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism: "Dr. King's legacy is very much still alive and his legacy continues to inspire the faith community across the country. I know that . . . reformed congregations around the country will do something special for the King holiday to honor his legacy. . . . There will be congregations all over the country involved in social activist enterprises, including in the Washington, D.C., area. All of the rabbis that I know will be preaching about Dr. King and the issues that we are wrestling with today, such as economic justice and the war in Iraq."

The Rev. Artie L. Polk, assistant pastor of Mount Gilead Baptist Church in the District and founder of the Martin Luther King memorial breakfast celebration in Prince George's County: "It is a real challenge to keep the King legacy alive, especially in light of this new prosperity gospel where preachers are talking about name it and claim it. Too many people are focused today on themselves instead of keeping alive King's legacy of service and commitment to the least of these."

Mohammed Shameem, a broadcast engineer from Bowie who volunteers at the Prince George's Muslim Association in Lanham: "More so than ever before, people of the faith community should adhere to Dr. King's principles in terms of equality and unity in the community because our civil rights are being eroded today, and the civil rights of Muslims are being trampled upon. Social activism calls for pointing out injustice. Hardworking and innocent Muslims are being profiled just because of their faith. A group of imams were stopped in the airport because they were being profiled."

Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, prelate of the 2nd Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church: "The movement is still regarded as effective for that time, but that style has changed. The frightful part is that in the old days, there was a theological mandate to do social activism, now among Generation Next, there is an emphasis on acquisition and materialism, much to the exclusion as to what is good for the whole community. There is nothing wrong with a prosperity message, but you have to guide people to understand the whole gospel,

which also includes helping others; it can't be self-centered, it has to be others-oriented."

Rabbi Douglas Heifetz of the Oseh Shalom Congregation in Laurel: "Yes! King's legacy is alive today. It needs to be spread far and near. For example, the Jewish community has been extremely active in working with a coalition of other groups to call for an end to the genocide in Darfur because this is massive human rights abuse on a wide scale. We are called to follow King's legacy because the Hebrew Bible calls for ongoing social transformation to affect the lives of people, paying special attention to the lives of those who are most in need."

Auxiliary Bishop Martin D. Holley of the Archdiocese of Washington: "King's dream is very much alive today. It is very prophetic, especially his letter from the Birmingham jail. Here was a man who believed so much in the dignity of the human person that he was willing to go to jail for it. He led by example. He went beyond making statements. He paid a heavy price. He gave his life for all people."

Cain Hope Felder, professor at the Howard University School of Divinity and founder of the Biblical Institute for Social Change: "I am sick and tired of hearing Dr. King's 'I Have a Dream' speech when the daily reality is that for an increasing number of Americans, and the African American poor in particular, living is a nightmare. Dr. King's legacy is barely alive today. There needs to be a vigorous effort for religious leaders to be far more proactive than they have been in the past two decades of co-optation."

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 13, 2007]

FROM DR. KING, A REMINDER ON IRAQ

(By Colbert I. King)

Forty years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whom the nation will honor on Monday, took to the pulpit of Riverside Church in New York City at a meeting organized by Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam. The date was April 4, 1967, one year before his assassination in Memphis.

King said he was in New York because his conscience had left him no choice. In his speech, "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence," King declared: "That time has come for us in relation to Vietnam."

King acknowledged the reluctance of some people to speak out on Vietnam—the same hesitation some Americans may have today over voicing their concerns about Iraq. People, he explained, "do not easily assume the task of opposing their government's policy, especially in time of war."

But King concluded that too much was at stake. He and the other religious and lay leaders were moved by what the conflict in Vietnam was doing to the United States. Vietnam, King said, was consuming American troops and money like "some demonic, destructive suction tube" even as that war was laying waste to the Vietnamese people and to America's standing in the world.

And on this Martin Luther King Jr. Day, in 2007.

More than 3,000 Americans have been killed in Iraq, while 22,000 others have been wounded. Billions of dollars that could have been invested here at home have been spent there, a lot of it wasted, some of it stolen, plenty of it unaccounted for. And Iraqis in Baghdad, who cowered for decades under a brutal dictator, have been living in the midst of violence almost continuously since Saddam Hussein was deposed.

"We are creating enemies faster than we can kill them" read a bumper sticker in Washington this week.

Now enter George W. Bush—the president who got America into this debacle through a series of misjudgments that would make Alfred E. Neuman look brilliant. This week

Bush announced plans to plop down thousands of additional troops in the middle of a sectarian war and to shell out billions of additional dollars to pacify a war-weary Iraqi population that, truth be told, wants America gone.

Why trust this administration?

Contrary to what Bush and his allies said: There were no weapons of mass destruction poised to strike America and her allies.

A quick defeat of Hussein did not lead to chocolates and flowers in the streets of Baghdad.

An American invasion did not produce a unified, nonsectarian and Western-oriented Iraq or spark a desire for U.S.-style governance throughout the Arab world.

De-Baathification and the imposition of a market economy at gunpoint did not usher in a period of tranquility or the flowering of capitalism.

The Bush administration struck first because it had the power to strike and the arrogance to think, foolishly, that it could win and dominate the conquered on the cheap.

King spoke in '67 about "the Western arrogance of feeling that it has everything to teach others and nothing to learn from them." Witness the Bush team in Iraq.

Today they have a bloodbath on their hands to show for their labors, and Iran is on the verge of getting an Iraqi neighbor beyond its wildest dreams.

Yet even now, neoconservatives inside and outside of government are counseling Bush to remain in Iraq for years to prevent the Shiite-dominated regime from collapsing. They also are encouraging him to prepare for battle with Iran and Syria if those countries start meddling in Iraq—as if they aren't now. With what exactly and for how long we are supposed to do battle with Tehran and Damascus, the militaristic neocon noncombatants in Washington don't say. But then again, they have a tolerance for risk and cost that exceeds that of those who actually do the fighting and dying.

Forty years ago at Riverside Church, people of conscience declared that "a time comes when silence is betrayal." They went beyond using their voices and votes when they agreed to break their silence. They responded, as King had urged, by matching their words with actions. "We are at the moment when our lives must be placed on the line if our nation is to survive its own folly. Every man of humane convictions must decide on the protest that best suits his convictions, but we must all protest," King preached that day.

Yes, this is a different time and a different world. Global terrorism is a sobering reality. And America is on the right side in that war. To not fight back is tantamount to indulging a death wish.

But the first blow in Iraq, which was not a battleground for terrorism, was struck by Bush. He now, stubbornly and in the face of legitimate opposition, proposes to make matters worse.

Remember King and the words: "A time comes when silence is betrayal."

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 15, 2007]

MARTIN LUTHER KING PAPERS GO ON DISPLAY (By Errin Haines)

ATLANTA.—The legacy of Coretta Scott King loomed large Monday over the first observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day since her death, with tributes at the church where her husband preached and visits to the tomb where both civil rights activists are now buried.

"It is in her memory and her honor that we must carry this program on," said her sister-in-law, Christine King Farris, at the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church. "This is as she would have it."

Mayor Shirley Franklin urged the congregation not to pay tribute to King's message of peace and justice on his birthday and then contradict it the next.

"Millions can't find jobs, have no health insurance and struggle to make ends meet, working minimum-wage jobs. What's going on?" Franklin said, repeating a refrain from soul singer Marvin Gaye.

As King condemned the war in Vietnam 40 years ago, Ebenezer's senior pastor, the Rev. Raphael G. Warnock, denounced the war in Iraq.

"The real danger is not that America may lose the war," Warnock said. "The real danger is that America may well lose its soul."

Not far from the church, visitors also paid homage to the Kings at their tomb.

"They're together at last," said Daphne Johnson, who was baptized by King at Ebenezer.

Coretta Scott King died last year on Jan. 31 at age 78. An activist in her own right, she also fought to shape and preserve her husband's legacy after his death, and founded what would become the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

Crowds lined up early at the Atlanta History Center to see the first exhibition of King's collected papers since they were returned to his hometown. The papers brought back difficult memories for some.

"I remember a lot that I don't care to say," said Bertis Post, 70, of Atlanta, who marched with King in Alabama and Atlanta. "I always wanted to see the papers in person—just to be here and be around what you believe."

The exhibit includes King's letter from the Birmingham jail, an early draft of his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, his acceptance speech for the Nobel Prize and more than 600 other personal documents.

In California, Stanford University released some of King's earliest sermons and other writings Monday, a decade after the documents were discovered in a moldy cardboard box in an Atlanta basement.

The texts include sermons written when King was a 19-year-old seminary student in 1948 until 1963.

In a 1949 sermon, King asked God to "help us work with renewed vigor for a warless world, a better distribution of wealth and a brotherhood that transcends race or color."

Elsewhere, thousands observed the holiday by volunteering. Organizers expected about 50,000 people to participate in about 600 projects, said Todd Bernstein of the group MLK Day of Service.

President Bush, in an unannounced stop at a high school near the White House, said people should honor King by finding ways to give back to their communities. Classes were not in session but volunteers were sprucing up the school.

"I encourage people all around the country to seize any opportunity they can to help somebody in need," Bush said. "And by helping somebody in need you're honoring the legacy of Martin Luther King."

A historical marker was unveiled commemorating the site in Rocky Mount, N.C., where Martin Luther King Jr. delivered one of the earliest versions of his "I Have a Dream" speech. Hundreds of people attended a ceremony and march held near the high school where King spoke in November 1962.

Several hundred people gathered in West Columbia, S.C., for a breakfast prayer service, where the Rev. Brenda Kneece said King set the standard for sacrifice and vision.

King's "vision became even more powerful because he understood the risks he was taking," said Kneece, executive minister of the South Carolina Christian Action Council. "It's very important for our children to know that his sacrifice didn't win the war. We still have to keep at it"

At Michigan State University, officials presented a one-day civil rights exhibit that displayed slave shackles, a document from King's voting rights march in Alabama and a fingerprint card for Rosa Parks made after her 1955 arrest for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white man.

Marchers commemorating King Day in Troy, Ohio, were heckled by a group of seven neo-Nazi protesters shouting white power slogans and carrying signs, police said. There were no arrests.

And in North Carolina, 400 workers walked off the job or refused to show up at a huge Smithfield Foods Inc. hog slaughtering plant in Tar Heel after managers refused to grant the King holiday as a paid day off.

The company said a union request last week for the day off came too late for a change of work plans.

King, who would have turned 78 this year, was assassinated April 4, 1968, while standing on the balcony of a hotel in Memphis, Tenn. His confessed killer, James Earl Ray, was arrested two months later in London.

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 16, 2007]

WALKING JUST LIKE KING DID

(By Michael E. Ruane and Hamil R. Harris)

The opening song was No. 540 in the hymnal, but most people at the Covenant Baptist Church tribute to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. yesterday already knew the words well.

Lift ev'ry voice and sing, Til earth and heaven ring. . . . Stony the road we trod, Bitter the chast'ning rod. . . .

Inside the venerable Washington church, which was the destination for hundreds participating in the city's Martin Luther King Peace Walk, the throng sang the verses to James Weldon Johnson's civil rights anthem with gusto.

Yet with a steady beat, Have not our weary feet come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

It seemed a fitting climax to the 18-block walk honoring King's birthday, which was led by DC Mayor Adrian M. Fenty and wound along Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE to the church on South Capitol Street.

It was one of numerous tributes across the region to the slain civil rights leader, who would have turned 78 yesterday. King was assassinated in Memphis on April 4, 1968.

The peace walk began about 10 a.m. at V Street SE in Anacostia after speeches by the mayor and other officials, clergy members and civic leaders. Crowding the sidewalk for blocks, the marchers enjoyed balmy January weather as they strode south on the avenue, chanting slogans and carrying banners.

"Today we're blessed. The weather is not a problem," said Denise Rolark Barnes, one of the walk's organizers. Over the years, King birthday commemorations have been affected by harsh winter weather, she noted.

While an official King Day parade in the District is scheduled for April 7, Barnes said many people believed King's birthday needed to be observed, too. "Many of us who work and live along the avenue just felt as though there was something that we should do. . . . We said, 'Rain, snow, sleet or hail, we would be out here,' and fortunately it doesn't look like we're going to get any of that."

Fenty (D) said the walk would be a simple statement "We're going to just go out and put one foot in front of the other, and tell people that, although we made a lot of progress, we've got a long way to go."

He said it could be especially instructive for the children participating.

"It won't be hard to explain to the kids how Martin Luther King was able to make so much progress just by walking when they're

going to do it themselves," Fenty said. "I think they'll appreciate the hours and hours and months and months [spent walking] in the South to get civil rights advancements if we do a little bit of walking here ourselves."

Residents watched from front porches and windows as the march proceeded and a recording of one of King's speeches drifted from a passing car, along with the thump of pop music from another.

Past the avenue's multitude of churches the marchers went, past the nail salons and convenience stores. One house on the route was adorned with the images of King and fellow civil rights champion Malcolm X arrayed on its front steps. There were black marchers and white marchers, people in sneakers and others wearing cuff links.

One marcher, Keith Day, 45, who works at a drug addiction prevention agency, said: "I came down here to keep the legacy of Dr. King alive. If it wasn't for him, none of this would be happening. It took a man like him to stand up for peace."

Elsewhere yesterday, more than 300 people gathered at the La Fontaine Bleu banquet facility in Lanham for the 13th Annual Martin Luther King memorial breakfast sponsored by the Ebony Scholarship Society. There, Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson Jr. of the Second Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church challenged those gathered to go beyond just remembering King.

"From memorial to movement, let the movement begin anew," Richardson said. "It is right for us to be told Dr. King's words, to hear what the words mean in the context of 2007. At a time when we are waging war like swatting flies, it would be refreshing to hear King's words that violence is a poor teacher."

Maryland Del. Carolyn J.B. Howard (D-Prince George's), who attended the event, said that although such programs have become common since King's death, "we still need to remember what he did."

"It is easy to stay away, but we need to come out," she said. "There needs to be a new sense of activism today."

[From the Associated Press, Jan. 16, 2007]

DEMOCRATS HAIL CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER KING

(By Jim Davenport)

COLUMBIA, S.C.—Democratic presidential hopeful Joseph Biden said Monday he thinks the Confederate flag should be kept off South Carolina's Statehouse grounds.

The comments by the U.S. senator from Delaware on a day of events celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy came as a potential Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, evoked the memory of the slain civil rights leader.

"As I recall, Dr. King wasn't hanging out in Manhattan, Dr. King wasn't hanging out in Beverly Hills," Obama, D-Ill., told a King remembrance service in an economically depressed south Chicago suburb.

Introducing Obama, the Rev. Jesse Jackson told a crowd at the annual King scholarship breakfast, "it's a long, nonstop line between the march in Selma in 1965 and the inauguration in Washington in 2009."

Screaming admirers managed to get Obama's autograph after he advocated removing troops from Iraq, rebuilding struggling areas such as the suburb of Harvey where he was speaking and increasing civic activism and calling on people, especially fathers, to be better parents.

In San Francisco, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi reminded more than 1,000 people attending a union-sponsored breakfast honoring King that the slain civil rights leader spoke out against the Vietnam War because he saw domestic and national security issues as inextricably intertwined.

Pelosi, D-Calif., said Democrats would counter President Bush's proposal to send more troops to Iraq with a plan changing the U.S. mission there "from combat to training, to fighting terrorism, to protecting our forces."

"The nation is spending "two billion a week in Iraq—think of what we could do a week, a month, a day with that money," Pelosi said, adding that the nation also has paid too great a cost in casualties, its international reputation and military readiness at home.

In Columbia, S.C., more than six years after the Confederate flag was taken down from the Capitol dome, its location in front of the Statehouse remains an issue.

"If I were a state legislator, I'd vote for it to move off the grounds—out of the state," Biden said at an NAACP march and rally at the Statehouse.

Jim Hanks stood across from the South Carolina Statehouse with about 35 Confederate flag supporters. "We love this flag. We love our heritage," said Hanks, of Lexington.

Some carried signs saying, "South Carolina does not want Chris Dodd," referring to the Connecticut senator who, along with Biden, attended the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People rally at the Statehouse.

On Sunday, Dodd told The Associated Press at a King remembrance service in Greenville that the Confederate flag belongs in a museum.

"I don't think it belongs on the Capitol grounds," Dodd said.

In 2000, as the NAACP began a South Carolina tourism boycott, the flag was flying on the Capitol dome and in House and Senate chambers. Legislators agreed to take the flag down that year, but raised the banner outside the Statehouse beside a Confederate soldiers monument.

Biden expects legislators here will eventually move the flag. Pointing to his heart, he said, "as people become more and more aware of what it means to African-Americans here, this is only a matter of time."

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 15, 2007]

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

On April 4, 1968, the day of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, the doctor who examined his body estimated that, after years of sit-ins, marches, long nights and inspiring speeches, Dr. King, 39, had the heart of a 60-year-old. On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, America honors not only Dr. King's accomplishments, though they are profound; his oration, though it is lyrical; and his dream, though it lives on; but also the tireless devotion with which he pursued them.

For too many Americans, however, the holiday has become little more than an excuse to skip work and sleep in.

Enter the Corporation for National and Community Service, the government agency that administers the AmeriCorps program. It wants to make the King holiday a time of service rather than sloth, and it is organizing community projects and events across the country to do it. The agency is particularly eager to make the Washington area a model of civic participation and service on Dr. King's birthday. Its spokesmen boast that it has assembled an event schedule including a kickoff at Howard University and 80 community service projects around the District. Organizers from the Corporation for National and Community Service expect 10,000 volunteers to contribute time and effort across the region today.

We hope even more show up. We can think of little more fitting than celebrating the values of service and self-sacrifice on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Though ground has

been broken on a long-awaited memorial to Dr. King on the Mall, words etched in stone, however grand, cannot honor his legacy as emulating his example can. Visit <http://www.mlkday.gov>. find a project in your area, and paint a school or clean up a sidewalk today.

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks.

All of us here, representing Congress have the distinct honor and privilege of working in the one place where America's history meets the law of our land, the one place that displays the many historic monuments, memorials, and permanent images of our Nation.

One of the most powerful images in Washington for me is the image of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., conveying his dream during his 1963 "March on Washington" on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Dr. King dedicated his life to achieving equal rights for all Americans and had a clear vision on that day in 1963 for what America should look like today.

Dr. King understood government has a fundamental responsibility to meet the needs of all Americans regardless of race or economic class. His vision was for true equal economic opportunity for all. In his "I Have a Dream" speech, Dr. King spoke of the "fierce urgency of now." He said, "This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism." Those words were true in 1963 and continue to remain true today.

My Democratic colleagues and I are working hard to ensure that Congress fulfills its responsibility to realizing Dr. King's dream. Within these first 100 hours of this Congress, we have already passed legislation to make the American people safer, make our Congress more honest and open, make life better for our seniors, and to give a living wage to all Americans.

As our Nation celebrates Martin Luther King Day, we remember him as a beacon of change. Dr. King helped change America by leading the civil rights movement. He gave people the faith and courage to work peacefully for change to stop racial discrimination, and promote equality and opportunity across America. So on this day, and everyday, let us recommit to changing and working to bring about opportunity for all Americans.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Dr. King's birthday, let us carry out his vision for social justice, equality, and peace. Let us continue to work together for the common cause, in the effort of humanity and brotherhood, so all people may enjoy a better way of life and a higher dignity.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the extraordinary life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Few individuals have left such an indelible mark on society through their selfless and tireless actions to improve the lives of those around them. Dr. King was a powerful voice for justice and equality, and we must remember his legacy, not simply by reading aloud his works, but by heeding his call for action.

After receiving his doctorate from Boston University, Dr. King worked to confront the civil rights abuses that targeted the Black residents of Montgomery, Alabama. After the Montgomery bus boycott earned him national attention, Dr. King used his platform to highlight other forms of racial segregation in the South. His actions, including nonviolent civil

disobedience, laid the foundation for passage of both the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Despite his myriad accomplishments, Dr. King continued to work day and night until his death, often delivering rousing speeches even when physically and mentally exhausted.

These later speeches included powerful denunciations of the Vietnam war, and calls for a more just and peaceful society. Dr. King recognized that resources that could have been used to fight racial and economic inequalities at home were being squandered on an unnecessary war half a world away. Dr. King demanded that people sacrifice their energy to fight for causes larger than themselves. I am glad to see that the Corporation for National and Community Service has asked Americans to honor that call by volunteering their time on Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. We must all actively work to achieve peace, both in our communities and abroad, and I am proud to stand before this body today to celebrate the life of Dr. King.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today we are here to recognize Dr. King's legacy and the millions of men and women who have fought for freedom and justice for all Americans.

It is rare that one person can change the fate of our Nation; however Dr. King was able to do just that. Dr. King relied on his relationship with God and his faith in justice to articulate his vision for America in a way that touched the hearts and minds of the American public.

Dr. King called on all of us to no longer stand alone in silence, but to stand up together as a voice against injustice. He inspired us to fight for change through nonviolent means, and paved the road for us to continue that fight even after his death.

Dr. King once said "All progress is precarious, and the solution of one problem brings us face to face with another problem." This statement was not meant to be a deterrent, but rather to remind us that we need to remain diligent, and prepare for the long road ahead. If we become apathetic we will regress. We have not, and must not forget the fight is not over.

This is the first year that we'll recognize Martin Luther King Day since the death of Mrs. Coretta Scott King. Mrs. King and I were friends and confidants for many years. She was an incredible woman—graceful and dignified—who showed strength in the face of indignation and tragedy.

Following Dr. King's assassination, she continued his legacy promoting social and economic justice for all. Mrs. King was determined to make his dream a reality. And we would not be celebrating the legacy of Dr. King today without her contributions.

There are many young people who may not have experienced Dr. King's battle towards equality. That is why it is so important to familiarize them with our history and struggles. It is imperative we recognize the history of our nation, because we cannot look towards the future without applying the lessons we have learned from the past.

Today's Martin Luther King Day is as much about the past as it is about the future. Dr. King's dream is truly timeless, and I hope that all the young people will find inspiration in his faith and vision.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res.

61, and thank my friend from Georgia, JOHN LEWIS, for authoring this important resolution.

Madam Speaker, yesterday the Nation observed for the 21st time the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday. Each year this day is set aside for Americans to celebrate the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America. The Martin Luther King holiday reminds us that nothing is impossible when we are guided by the better angels of our nature.

Dr. King's inspiring words filled a great void in our Nation, and answered our collective longing to become a country that truly lived by its noblest principles. Yet, Dr. King knew that it wasn't enough just to talk the talk; he knew he had to walk the walk for his words to be credible. And so we commemorate on this holiday the man of action, who put his life on the line for freedom and justice every day.

We honor the courage of a man who endured harassment, threats and beatings, and even bombings. We commemorate the man who went to jail 29 times to achieve freedom for others, and who knew he would pay the ultimate price for his leadership, but kept on marching and protesting and organizing anyway.

Dr. King once said that we all have to decide whether we "will walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness. Life's most persistent and nagging question, he said, is 'what are you doing for others?'"

And when Martin talked about the end of his mortal life in one of his last sermons, on February 4, 1968, in the pulpit of Ebenezer Baptist Church, even then he lifted up the value of service as the hallmark of a full life. "I'd like somebody to mention on that day Martin Luther King, Jr. tried to give his life serving others," he said. "I want you to say on that day, that I did try in my life . . . to love and serve humanity."

Madam Speaker, during these difficult days when the United States is bogged down in a misguided and mismanaged war in Iraq, which has claimed the lives of too many of our brave young service men and women, we should also remember that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was, above all, a person who was always willing to speak truth to power. There is perhaps no better example of Dr. King's moral integrity and consistency than his criticism of the Vietnam war being waged by the Johnson administration, an administration that was otherwise a friend and champion of civil and human rights.

Speaking at the historic Riverside Church in New York City on April 4, 1967, Dr. King stated:

I am as deeply concerned about our own troops there as anything else. For it occurs to me that what we are submitting them to in Vietnam is not simply the brutalizing process that goes on in any war where armies face each other and seek to destroy. We are adding cynicism to the process of death, for they must know after a short period there that none of the things we claim to be fighting for are really involved. Before long they must know that their government has sent them into a struggle among Vietnamese, and the more sophisticated surely realize that we are on the side of the wealthy, and the secure, while we create a hell for the poor.

Somehow this madness must cease. We must stop now. I speak as a child of God and brother to the suffering poor of Vietnam. . . . I speak as a citizen of the world, for the world as it stands aghast at the path we have

taken. I speak as one who loves America, to the leaders of our own nation: The great initiative in this war is ours; the initiative to stop it must be ours.

Madam Speaker, these words were spoken by Dr. King 1 year to the day before his death. Thus it is that nearly 40 years after his death, Dr. King continues to teach us all.

Madam Speaker, the death of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will never overshadow his life. He was both a dreamer and a man of action. He leaves a legacy of hope, tempered with peace. It is a legacy not quite yet fulfilled.

Madam Speaker, Dr. King's dream of equality under the law will never die so long as there are those like us in the Congress, and millions of people in this country and around the world, who are willing to continue the fight to make it real for all persons.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, Dr. King brought the civil rights movement to every living room in this country. He marched for freedom in the face of unspeakable racial prejudice, yet preached a message of non-violence, civility, and tolerance. It took Dr. King's forceful movement and powerful words to bring about real and lasting change to this country.

This will be the first Martin Luther King, Jr. Day since the passing of Dr. King's wife, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, a legendary civil rights advocate whose memory we honored at a community-wide march last year in Miami. During a time of national grief and unrest following Dr. King's assassination, she became a symbol of her husband's struggle for peace and unity. On this day, we also honor this wonderful matriarchal figure, a role model who helped lead the struggle for equality.

Minority communities face obstacles every day—poverty, unemployment, lack of healthcare, and access to housing. It is a tragic waste that 1 in 5 children live in poverty, including more than one-third of African American children.

Dr. King paved the way for so many people, including me, to assume roles of influence in this country. And for all this work, he created a more just society and made this country an even better place to live. On this day of remembrance, let us work even harder toward fulfilling Dr. King's legacy of public service.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, the fabric of our lives and the lives of all Americans has been shaped indelibly by the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King had just 39 years to teach our country the way to achieve racial and economic justice through peace and non-violence. Although his life was short, his legacy—the rich vision of social justice he inspired—is alive and well 40 years after his death. It is with great pride that I take part in this celebration today, to pay homage to his memory.

Dr. King was a leader who focused his efforts on improving the lives of the disadvantaged in our society. He knew that we must be forever attentive to the least privileged, for they are the measure—the only measure that matters—of the depth of our compassion and the strength of our laws.

We still have much to learn from Dr. King, as the dreams he envisioned for our grandchildren still resonate in today's America: equal opportunity, freedom from oppression, justice for all. The eloquent cadences of his "I

Have A Dream" speech left a lasting impression on America, and we cannot afford to forget his words. For Dr. King's dream, his concrete vision for the future, has yet to be realized. I look forward to working with my colleagues in this Congress to further the realization of his goals and his strong vision.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker I rise in strong support of House Resolution 61, a resolution which honors the great Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for his outstanding contributions to our country in the past and the continuing impact of his life and legacy.

Born on January 15, 1929, Martin Luther King, Jr., was destined to follow in his grandfather's and father's footsteps as a Baptist minister, but no one could have known he would play such an important role in this history of our Nation. After graduating from high school at the age of 15, Martin Luther King, Jr., attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA., just as his grandfather and father had done before. He became a pastor in Ebenezer Baptist Church, and quickly rose to become the leader of the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, inspiring first the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955, and subsequently a nationwide battle to bring an end to racial discrimination in our Nation's laws and public accommodations, and to ensure full voting rights for African Americans. Though bus boycotts had been attempted before, none lasted as long, drew as much attention or were as successful. The Montgomery Bus boycott lasted for almost an entire year and had a profound effect on the businesses in Montgomery.

In recognition of his great leadership, Reverend King was the youngest person ever to win a Nobel Peace Prize at the age of 35. He donated all of the prize money to the Civil Rights Movement.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a spiritual giant who possessed a keen intellect and remarkable insights on the human condition. In Massachusetts, we feel a sense of privilege knowing that this extraordinary historic figure lived and learned among us during his lifetime. In 1955, he received a Doctorate of Philosophy in Systematic Theology from Boston University. He also studied at Harvard University. But most important, it was in Boston that he met Coretta Scott, who became his wife, the mother of his four children, and his indispensable partner in a destiny of struggle, transformation and remarkable achievement.

Many of the words of Dr. King speak greatly to the adversities that we still face today. As we work to change the direction of our country, those of us in government must repeatedly seek out those with whom we may sometimes disagree to accomplish those great things that are most worth doing. "Like an unchecked cancer," said Dr. King, "hate corrodes the personality and eats away its vital unity. Hate destroys a man's sense of values and his objectivity. It causes him to describe the beautiful as ugly and the ugly as beautiful, and to confuse the true with the false and the false with the true."

As Dr. King so eloquently put it, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

I urge adoption of the resolution.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—a man who answered humanity's highest calling and profoundly transformed the world in which we live.

Yesterday, like many of our colleagues here, I had the privilege of joining with my constituents in rejoicing, remembering and giving thanks to God for the wisdom that Dr. King imparted and the enduring spirit he shared with all mankind.

And at an event at St. Mary's College in southern Maryland, I encountered a man who told me that the third Monday of every January isn't just a national holiday—it's a national holy day—and he was exactly right.

The commemoration of Dr. King's birthday and the ideals for which he stood represent a sacred trust—an opportunity to take note of the heights we have reached as a Nation and celebrate the hard-earned triumphs of African Americans, while also demonstrating the courage to accept that we are still far from perfect and much good work remains undone.

Coretta Scott King, who provided a shining example of strength and determination in her own right, once said, "Struggle is a never ending process and freedom is never really won. You earn it and win it in every generation."

I would take that statement a step further and say that it is up to us to win it and earn it in every day, hour, minute and second of our lives.

If we take nothing else from the life and work of Dr. King, it should be that each of us shares the responsibility of preserving the legacies of peace, equality and understanding that were left in our hands.

And if we take nothing else from yesterday's commemoration, it should be that our work is never done, and our mission is never completed.

In his letter from a Birmingham City Jail in April of 1963, Dr. King reminds us all that, "Human progress never rolls on the wheels of inevitability—it comes through the tireless efforts of men willing to be co-workers with God."

One of those co-workers is a distinguished Member of this body, an inspiration to all of those who continue to fight for social justice and equality, and the sponsor of this legislation. I, of course, am referring to our colleague and my very good friend, Congressman LEWIS of Georgia, who I regard as nothing less than a national hero for demonstrating the courage to confront centuries of prejudice and racism and helping to move us toward a day where men and women are judged by the content of their character not the color of their skin.

As we continue to be co-workers with both the American people and the divine spirit that guides them, we should never forget Dr. King's immortal words from that Birmingham jail or the lessons he taught.

We are indebted to men and women like Dr. King and Coretta Scott King and JOHN LEWIS. Through their courage and their fortitude, we are a better Nation today.

While this important day is indeed a day of remembrance, it also is a day of reaffirmation—reaffirmation of the principles that guided Dr. King's life.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I strongly support H. Res. 61, which observes and celebrates the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., and encourages the people of the United States to celebrate his life and legacy.

We should all thank Dr. King not only for his role in helping to end discrimination, but also for his role in helping to remove a stain on American history that had lingered far too long.

Dr. King's commitment to nonviolent change never wavered. Between the time he assumed leadership of the Montgomery, AL, bus boycott in 1955, until his tragic assassination years later, Dr. King faced hundreds of death threats and a firebombing of his home with his wife and children inside. Still, he remained an unblinking beacon to all those who sought peaceful change. He grew from a person taught in segregated schools to a world leader who was awarded the Nobel Prize.

Dr. King delivered his now famous speech entitled "I Have a Dream" following a march of 250,000 people in Washington, DC. Twenty years ago, the City of San Antonio's Martin Luther King, Jr., Commission began honoring Dr. King with a march that furthers his legacy and serves to educate local citizens regarding his deep, rich legacy. That march has become one of the largest in the country and this march marked its own 20th anniversary yesterday, the day Dr. King would have turned 78.

Despite near freezing temperatures, the San Antonio march attracted thousands of people of diverse backgrounds, which in the past has featured Rosa Parks, the woman who sparked the modern civil rights movement by refusing to sit at the back of the bus. Those in the march knew that no matter what the weather, it paled in comparison to the slings and arrows—the death threats and beatings, and the repeated arrests—Dr. King faced during his too-short but immensely inspiring life.

Such peaceful marches are possible today in large part because of Dr. King's abiding courage. The San Antonio march serves as a powerful reminder that if one person finds the strength to keep walking forward, determined to reach what Dr. King called the "Promised Land," he or she can leave in their wake a lasting legacy of marches—stretching from generation to generation—that celebrate and encourage changes in both laws and attitudes that will continue to make America a better place.

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 61, a resolution observing and celebrating the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., and encouraging the people of the United States to celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., and his life and legacy.

When Martin Luther King, Jr., articulated his dream on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial before 200,000 people in the tumultuous August of 1963, I was living and working on my father's farm in Canutillo, Texas, not yet a high school graduate. Though instilled with the values of hard work and education by my parents and grandparents, I first encountered Dr. King's hopeful and empowering words with an unfortunate understanding, one borne from the prejudice of the times. As a Mexican-American, I knew, I would be limited in my pursuit of the celebrated American dream. Dr. King's dream contradicted that understanding.

Although Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech addressed the plight of the African American, his commitment to civil rights, equality, and empowerment through education lifted all people. With Dr. King's leadership, through the sheer force of his will and the strength of his arguments, men and women of my generation, Black, White, and Brown, were able to rise and prosper in society on the basis of our hard work and God-given talents.

Dr. King's work and influence on society opened doors for me that, as a teenager, I

thought would always be closed. I had a long and successful career in the U.S. Border Patrol, rising from agent to be the agency's first Hispanic sector chief. In 1996, I ran for Congress and became the first Latino to represent El Paso, a city that is 80 percent Hispanic. And just this past year, I was selected as chairman of this body's Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, completing a journey from the farm in Canutillo that I would never have been able to imagine during that August of 1963.

I thank my colleagues and urge adoption of the resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, this Monday the Nation observed for the 21st time the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday. On Monday, we celebrated the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America. The Martin Luther King holiday reminds us that nothing is impossible when we are guided by the better angels of our nature.

Dr. King's inspiring words filled a great void in our Nation, and answered our collective longing to become a country that truly lived by its noblest principles. Yet, Dr. King knew that it wasn't enough just to talk the talk, that he had to walk the walk for his words to be credible. And so we commemorate on this holiday the man of action, who put his life on the line for freedom and justice every day.

We honor the courage of a man who endured harassment, threats and beatings, and even bombings. We commemorate the man who went to jail 29 times to achieve freedom for others, and who knew he would pay the ultimate price for his leadership, but kept on marching and protesting and organizing anyway.

Dr. King once said that we all have to decide whether we "will walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness. Life's most persistent and nagging question," he said, is "what are you doing for others?"

And when Martin talked about the end of his mortal life in one of his last sermons, on February 4, 1968, in the pulpit of Ebenezer Baptist Church, even then he lifted up the value of service as the hallmark of a full life. "I'd like somebody to mention on that day Martin Luther King, Jr. tried to give his life serving others," he said. "I want you to say on that day, that I did try in my life . . . to love and serve humanity."

Madam Speaker, during these difficult days when the United States is bogged down in a misguided and mismanaged war in Iraq, which has claimed the lives of too many of our brave young service men and women, we should also remember that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was, above all, a person who was always willing to speak truth to power. There is perhaps no better example of Dr. King's moral integrity and consistency than his criticism of the Vietnam War being waged by the Johnson Administration, an administration that was otherwise a friend and champion of civil and human rights.

Speaking at the historic Riverside Church in New York City on April 4, 1967, Dr. King stated:

I am as deeply concerned about our own troops there as anything else. For it occurs to me that what we are submitting them to in Vietnam is not simply the brutalizing process that goes on in any war where armies face each other and seek to destroy. We are

adding cynicism to the process of death, for they must know after a short period there that none of the things we claim to be fighting for are really involved. Before long they must know that their government has sent them into a struggle among Vietnamese, and the more sophisticated surely realize that we are on the side of the wealthy, and the secure, while we create a hell for the poor.

Somehow this madness must cease. We must stop now. I speak as a child of God and brother to the suffering poor of Vietnam. I speak for those whose land is being laid waste, whose homes are being destroyed, whose culture is being subverted. I speak for the poor of America who are paying the double price of smashed hopes at home, and death and corruption in Vietnam. I speak as a citizen of the world, for the world as it stands aghast at the path we have taken. I speak as one who loves America, to the leaders of our own nation: The great initiative in this war is ours; the initiative to stop it must be ours.

Madam Speaker, these words were spoken by Dr. King 1 year to the day before his death. Thus it is that nearly 40 years after his death, Dr. King continues to teach us all.

THE LIFE OF THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 15, 1929.

Martin's youth was spent in our country's Deep South, then run by Jim Crow and the Klu Klux Klan. For a young African-American, it was an environment even more dangerous than the one they face today.

A young Martin managed to find a dream, one that he pieced together from his readings—in the Bible, and literature, and just about any other book he could get his hands on. And not only did those books help him educate himself, but they also allowed him to work through the destructive and traumatic experiences of blatant discrimination, and the discriminatory abuse inflicted on himself, his family, and his people.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that we celebrate here today could have turned out to be just another African American who would have had to learn to be happy with what he had, and what he was allowed. But he learned to use his imagination and his dreams to see right through those "White Only" signs—to see the reality that all men, and women, regardless of their place of origin, their gender, or their creed, are created equal.

Through his studies, Dr. King learned that training his mind and broadening his intellect effectively shielded him from the demoralizing effects of segregation and discrimination.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a dreamer. His dreams were a tool through which he was able to lift his mind beyond the reality of his segregated society, and into a realm where it was possible that white and black, red and brown, and all others live and work alongside each other and prosper.

But Martin Luther King, Jr., was not just an idle daydreamer. He shared his visions through speeches that motivated others to join in his nonviolent effort to lift themselves from poverty and isolation by creating a new America where equal justice and institutions were facts of life.

In the Declaration of Independence in 1776, Thomas Jefferson wrote, "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all Men are Created Equal." At that time and for centuries to come, African Americans were historically, culturally, and legally excluded from inclusion in that declaration.

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" Speech, delivered on August 28, 1963, was a clarion call to each citizen of this great Nation that we still hear today. His request was simply and eloquently conveyed—he asked America to allow of its citizens to live out the words written in its Declaration of Independence and to have a place in this Nation's Bill of Rights.

The sixties were a time of great crisis and conflict. The dreams of the people of this country were filled with troubling images that arose like lava from the nightmares of violence and the dissension that they had to face, both domestically and internationally.

It was the decade of the Cuban missile crisis, the Vietnam war, and the assassinations of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Malcolm X, Presidential Candidate Robert Kennedy, and the man we honor here today.

Dr. Martin Luther King's dream helped us turn the corner on civil rights. It started with a peaceful march for suffrage that started in Selma, Alabama, on March 7, 1965—a march that ended with violence at the hands of law enforcement officers as the marchers crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge. But the dream did not die there.

Dr. King led the Montgomery bus boycott, often with Rosa Parks. The boycott lasted for 381 days, as an end result, the United States Supreme Court outlawed racial segregation on all public transportation. Dr. King used several nonviolent tactics to protest against Jim Crow laws in the South. Furthermore, he organized and led demonstrations for desegregation, labor and voting rights.

On April 4, 1967, at Riverside Church in New York City, he spoke out against the Vietnam War, when he saw the devastation that his nation was causing abroad and the effect that it had on the American men and women sent overseas. I quote:

. . . it became clear to me that the war was doing far more than devastating the hopes of the poor at home. It was sending their sons and their brothers and their husbands to fight and to die in extraordinarily high proportions relative to the rest of the population. We were taking the black young men who had been crippled by our society and sending them eight thousand miles away to guarantee liberties in Southeast Asia which they had not found in southwest Georgia and East Harlem.

When the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was stolen from us, he was a very young 39 years old. People remember that Dr. King died in Memphis, but few can remember why he was there.

On that fateful day in 1968 Dr. King came to Memphis to support a strike by the city's sanitation workers. The garbage men there had recently formed a chapter of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees to demand better wages and working conditions. But the city refused to recognize their union, and when the 1,300 employees walked off their jobs the police broke up the rally with mace and billy clubs. It was then that union leaders invited Dr. King to Memphis. Despite the danger he might face entering such a volatile situation, it was an invitation he could not refuse. Not because he longed for danger, but because the labor movement was intertwined with the civil rights movement for which he had given up so many years of his life.

The death of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will never overshadow his life. That is his legacy as a dreamer and a man of action. It is a legacy of hope, tempered with peace. It is a legacy not quite yet fulfilled.

I hope that Dr. King's vision of equality under the law is never lost to us, who in the present, toil in times of unevenness in our equality. For without that vision—without that dream—we can never continue to improve on the human condition.

For those who have already forgotten, or whose vision is already clouded with the fog of complacency, I would like to recite the words of the good Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., himself:

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former shareholders will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the State of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but for the content of their character. I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day down in Alabama with its vicious racists, with its Governor having his lips dripping with words of interposition and nullification—one day right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough place will be made plain and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

Dr. King's dream did not stop at racial equality, his ultimate dream was one of human equality. There is no doubt that Dr. King supported freedom and justice for every individual in America. We continue that fight today and forever, in the great spirit that inspired the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Madam Speaker, I thank all my colleagues for being here and remembering Dr. King's dream and for all that has been done to keep his dream alive.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SOLIS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 61.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. CONYERS. 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.

PROVIDING NEW EFFECTIVE DATE FOR APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF LAW

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 188) to provide a new effective date for the applicability of certain provisions of law to Public Law 105-331.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 188

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the purposes of Public Law 105-331, the end of the 2-year period specified in subparagraph (B) of section 5134(f)(1) of title 31, United States Code, shall be July 1, 2007. This section shall apply on and after December 31, 2006, as if the section had been enacted on such date.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. 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 thereon.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I urge today that the House pass H.R. 188, which was introduced by the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey, Representative PALLONE.

This bill has the simple purpose of addressing a glitch in the distribution of surcharges on the sale of commemorative coins that honor America's great inventor, Thomas Edison.

In 1988, legislation authorizing the production of the coin was enacted and the U.S. Mint minted and issued the coin in 2004. But as a result of some unclear language in the documents provided both the Mint and to recipient organizations, it was unclear that the matching funds required by law in the order for recipient organizations to receive the coin's proceeds must be raised entirely from private sources and that no other government funds could be used for this purpose.

This bill extends for a period of 6 months the amount of time in which the recipients of surcharges on the sales of the Thomas Edison commemorative coin are allowed to raise matching funds.

While the House passed the bill to remedy this problem by voice vote under suspension of rules last November, the Senate failed to act on this in a timely manner, so I would urge the House to consider the bill and immediately adopt the underlying text.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 188, introduced by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE). This bill will provide a new effective date for certain provisions in Public Law 105-331. It is a simple bill and it is simple to describe.

Passage will allow the Edison Tower Museum in Edison, New Jersey, an extension until the end of June to raise private funds. These funds will match the roughly \$380,000 in surcharges due from the sale of coins as part of the Thomas Alva Edison Commemorative Coin Act of 2004.

As a result of some miscommunications and, frankly, a lack of clarity in materials, the United States Mint provided the Edison Memorial Tower Corporation regarding statutory requirements, this brief extension is necessary. It will allow the corporation time to raise private sector matching funds and thus claim the surcharges from the sale of the coins.

The situation is now cleared up and the Mint has corrected the documentation and all concerned agree that a brief extension of the statutory 2-year timeline is both reasonable and a practical and fair way to deal with the situation.

The matching fund requirements were part of sensible reforms to the commemorative coin program enacted in the 104th Congress at the behest of the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE). They are an important safeguard against misuse of the commemorative coin program. This modest extension creates no precedent for future surcharge recipients who fail to raise the required funds in a timely fashion, and is merely a brief pause to allow satisfaction of the statute.

This is a good bill, one that passed the House in November of 2006 by voice vote but was not acted upon by the other body. I urge its immediate passage.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), someone who is truly a leader in this Congress and the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Georgia for those very kind words.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which already passed the House by voice vote last November and was well on its way to becoming law until it was held up in the other body.

I have reintroduced the bill with Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, who is, of course, the chairman of the Financial Services Committee, and my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. SIREN) who is also here to speak on the bill, and also Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. It is a very simple

bill, designed to provide the Edison Memorial Tower Corporation additional time to raise funds to match a Federal grant.

The Edison Memorial Tower is a 131-foot tower built in 1937 on the exact spot where Thomas Edison's original Menlo Park laboratory was located in New Jersey. It was built to commemorate Edison's work and is connected to a museum displaying many of the inventor's creations.

Unfortunately, the tower has suffered more than \$3 million worth of water damage. The Edison Memorial Tower Corporation, which oversees the tower, was designated as a recipient of Federal funds under the Thomas Alva Edison Commemorative Coin Act, which we passed in 1998.

That funding became available at the beginning of last year but required a non-Federal match. After reading a document published by the Mint, the Tower Corporation originally thought that they could use State funds to pay for the match. Unfortunately, they were informed recently by the U.S. Mint that they could only use funds raised from private sources.

Once they realized this, the Tower Corporation approached me for help since they were faced with the need to raise more than \$300,000 by the end of 2006 to reach the statutory deadline for applying for the Federal funding. That is why I introduced the legislation to extend that deadline by 6 months, to give them adequate time to raise private funds.

I would point out that the board of the Tower Corporation has assured me and the Committee on Financial Services that they will be able to raise the necessary funds in 6 months and that they would not request another extension.

We all know that Thomas Edison's contributions to our society are too numerous to count, but by creating the modern light bulb at this location he is one of America's most recognized thinkers and inventors. The Memorial Tower helps celebrate his achievements and salutes the spirit of innovation that he fostered. We need to pass this to ensure that the Memorial Tower can be repaired and serve not only as a memorial to a great man, but also as a symbol of America's potential for technological innovation and achievement.

Lastly, Madam Speaker, I just would like to thank sincerely my colleagues, first of all Chairman FRANK, and, of course, Ranking Member BACHUS, for their willingness to move this bill, and the leadership on both sides of the aisle for putting it on the suspension calendar so early in this new Congress.

□ 1500

I want to thank, again, first of all, Eric Gordon, my staff person sitting to my left, who worked so hard on this, and also the hard work of Jamie Lizarraga on the Democratic staff of the Financial Services Committee

which has been critical to moving the legislation. Joe Pinder of the Republican committee staff has also been quite helpful, and I thank him as well.

I thank my two colleagues, both the gentleman from Georgia and my Republican colleague, for the statements they made today.

This bill will go a long way towards ensuring that we can preserve an important landmark saluting a great American, and I ask my colleagues for their support.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 1 minute to one of our distinguished newer Members from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs).

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, I want to first thank senior Congressman PALLONE for allowing me to be part of this bill.

Madam Speaker, this bill gives the Edison Memorial Tower Corporation an extension to raise private matching funds. This would allow the corporation to receive Federal funding from the minting of the Thomas Alva Edison Commemorative Coin.

The corporation is a group of local residents from Edison, New Jersey, who oversee and manage the Edison Memorial Tower. The tower, built as a memorial to Thomas Edison in 1937, has suffered damage over the years and is in need of about 3 to \$4 million worth of repairs.

A misunderstanding between the mint and the corporation left the corporation short of matching funds. This bill simply extends the amount of time the corporation has to raise nongovernmental funds from December 31, 2006, to July 1, 2007. It rectifies a misunderstanding between the mint and a group of concerned citizens in my home State of New Jersey.

I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 188 and thank you very much for the time.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to also extend my deep courtesies to Mrs. BIGGERT. It is always a pleasure to be on the floor with her, and I appreciate her kindness and consideration and the work she has put into this bill and the Republicans on the other side.

Madam Speaker, Thomas Edison is truly an American hero, and this bill will go a long way to helping to fix just a minor problem and give just a little bit more time for the people to do a fitting commemorative to him.

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for his kind words.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 188, which extends the effective date for the applicability of certain provisions of law to Public Law 105-331 to July 1, 2007. Public Law 105-331 revises the nonfederal matching re-

quirements conditioning payment to a designated recipient organization of certain proceeds from any surcharges on the sale of Thomas Alva Edison Commemorative Coins.

H.R.188 will establish July 1, 2007, as the end of the 2-year period after which there must be deposited in the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts any amounts deriving from such surcharge proceeds which have not been paid to a designated recipient organization solely because of the organization's failure to submit an audited financial statement demonstrating that all matching requirements have been met.

This extension will allow many organizations to receive the funds provided to them under the bill, and thus carry out the original intent of this body to celebrate the legacy of Thomas A. Edison, one of this country's greatest inventors.

The 2004 Thomas Alva Edison Commemorative Coin Act, Public Law 105-331, authorizes the production of up to 500,000 silver dollar coins. This coin commemorates the 125th anniversary of Thomas Edison's invention of the light bulb.

Thomas Edison made immeasurable contributions to this country. His inventions include the invention of a complete system of electric light and power and the launching of the modern electric utility industry. The Pearl Street station, which opened in lower Manhattan in September 1882, featured safe and reliable central power generation, efficient distribution, and a successful end use (i.e., the long-lasting incandescent light bulb and electric motors. In the 1890s, Edison began working on motion picture technology, and in the process created a third industry. Edison began commercial production of short movies in 1893, often filming in the famous "Black Maria," the first motion picture studio. Like the electric light and phonograph before it, Edison developed a complete system that encompassed everything needed to both film and show motion pictures.

We must continue to acknowledge and honor Thomas Edison for his irreplaceable contributions, many of which we cannot imagine living without. Some of the organizations that will receive funds to help honor the many great contributions of Thomas A. Edison include:

Museum of Arts and History—Up to one-eighth to the Museum of Arts and History, in the city of Port Huron, Michigan, for the endowment and construction of a special museum on the life of Thomas A. Edison in Port Huron;

Edison Birthplace Association—Up to one-eighth to the Edison Birthplace Association, Inc. in Milan, Ohio, to assist in the efforts of the association to raise an endowment as a permanent source of support for the repair and maintenance of the Thomas A. Edison birthplace, a national historic landmark;

National Park Service—Up to one-eighth to the National Park Service, for use in protecting, restoring and cataloguing historic documents and objects at the "Invention Factory" of Thomas A. Edison, in West Orange, New Jersey;

Edison Plaza Museum—Up to one-eighth to the Edison Plaza Museum in Beaumont, Texas, for expanding educational programs on Thomas A. Edison and for the repair and maintenance of the museum;

Edison Winter Home and Museum—Up to one-eighth to the Edison Winter Home and

Museum in Fort Myers, Florida, for historic preservation, restoration, and maintenance of the historic home and chemical laboratory of Thomas A. Edison;

Edison Institute—Up to one-eighth to the Edison Institute, otherwise known as “Greenfield Village” in Dearborn, Michigan, for use in maintaining and expanding displays and educational programs associated with Thomas A. Edison; and

Edison Memorial Tower—Up to one-eighth to the Edison Memorial Tower in Edison, New Jersey, for the preservation, restoration, and expansion of the tower and museum.

It is important that we allow these organizations that were selected to receive proceeds from the sale of the commemorative coins to receive the funds that will financially support their efforts to honor the legacy of Thomas A. Edison.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 188 to provide a new effective date for the applicability of certain provisions of law to Public Law 105–331.

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, I am happy to rise today in strong support of H.R. 188, legislation “to provide a new effective date for certain provisions of law in Public Law 105–331,” introduced by the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. PALLONE.

Enacted in 1998, Public Law 105–331 provided for the issuance in 2004 of the Thomas Alva Edison Commemorative Coin, commemorating the 125th anniversary of Edison’s invention of the light bulb.

In the years between the passage of that legislation and now, leadership of the group that operates the Edison Memorial Tower in Edison, New Jersey made plans to comply with statutory requirements to raise funds to match one-eighth of the surcharges raised from the sales of the coins—about \$380,000—and thus claim the surcharge funds. Unfortunately, through a series of miscommunications, it was not made clear to the board that these must be non-governmental funds.

When the error was discovered, the group moved quickly, seeking an extension of the 2-year time limit to raise those funds. Madam Speaker, on November 16 of last year, the House passed legislation similar to that which we are considering today that would have permitted an extension until the end of June. Unfortunately, during the wrap-up of the 109th Congress, the other body did not consider the legislation. However, I am confident that when the House sends this version of the bill to the Senate, it will quickly pass.

It is for these reasons, and because the invention of the light bulb is as good a thing to commemorate as I can imagine, that I urge immediate passage of this legislation.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 188.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORITY TO CONTINUE TO INSURE HOME EQUITY CONVERSION MORTGAGES

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 391) to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to continue to insure, and to enter into commitments to insure, home equity conversion mortgages under section 255 of the National Housing Act.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 391

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY TO INSURE HOME EQUITY CONVERSION MORTGAGES.

The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may, until the date specified in section 106(3) of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (Division B of Public Law 109–289; 120 Stat. 1313), insure and enter into commitments to insure mortgages under section 255 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z–20), without regard to the limitation in the first sentence of such section 255(g), as amended by section 131 of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (120 Stat. 1316).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may need.

First of all, H.R. 391 is a bill sponsored by my good friend and colleague from Utah (Mr. MATHESON). H.R. 391 would prevent any shutdown of the Federal Housing Administration, FHA, reverse mortgage program. This program is also known as the Home Equity Conversion Mortgage program, or the HECM program.

As we are all aware, the Federal Government is currently operating with temporary funding authority that expires on February 15, 2007. The FHA can insure no more than 275,000 FHA reverse mortgages cumulatively nationwide under this authority.

A reverse mortgage is a unique loan that enables senior homeowners to remain in their homes and remain financially independent by converting part of their home equity into income without having to sell their home, give up title, or take on a new monthly mortgage payment.

Reverse mortgage is an apt name because the payment stream is reversed. Instead of making monthly payments to the lender, as with a regular mortgage, the lender makes payments to the homeowner. Payments to the borrower come in the form of a lump sum, monthly payments, a line of credit, or a combination thereof. Thus, the funds can be adapted to the financial needs of the senior taking out that particular loan.

Mr. MATHESON’s bill is necessary because surging FHA reverse mortgage

loan volume could result in this current national volume cap of FHA reverse mortgage loans being reached before February 15.

The FHA HECM program is the oldest and most popular reverse mortgage product, accounting for 90 percent of the total market. It has been available since 1989 to homeowners aged 62 or older. HECM loans are insured by the Federal Government through the Federal Housing Administration at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD.

The HECM program was created to serve our seniors who are cash poor but equity rich. The majority of loan recipients are elderly widows. The funds from a reverse mortgage can be used for anything: daily living expenses; home repairs or modifications; health care expenses, including prescription drugs or in-home care; existing debts; and other needs. This is extraordinarily important and timely legislation for our seniors.

The HUD HECM program has proven to be a growing success, serving its mission, while actually making money for the Federal Government. Its rapid pace of growth created a near crisis in 2005 when the number of FHA reverse mortgage loans began to near a statutory volume cap on the number of reverse mortgages that FHA could insure, leaving the program on the edge of suspension.

However, emergency appropriations legislation for fiscal year 2005 raised the volume cap from 150,000 to 250,000. Last fall, in the face of a similar concern, the limit was increased a little further to 275,000. However, current projections show a very real risk that the cap will be met before February 15.

In 2006, the House passed a bill that included a provision eliminating the FHA reverse mortgage volume cap, but unfortunately, the Senate did not act on this bill. As a result, in the short term, the statutory cap needs to be kept above the actual number of loans, or HUD will be required under law to suspend the program. That is why we need this very important piece of legislation passed.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 391, legislation that would temporarily remove the cap on the number of home equity conversion mortgages that may be insured by the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s FHA program. I would like to thank my colleagues, Congressman JIM MATHESON, and Congresswoman GINNY BROWN-WAITE, for introducing this important bill.

This legislation is similar to H.R. 2892, the Reverse Mortgages to Help America’s Seniors Act, which was approved by the House by voice vote in the previous Congress.

Madam Speaker, this legislation would enable senior homeowners to

continue to tap into an important source of cash, the equity in their own homes. Nicknamed "reverse mortgages," these HECMs allow Americans age 62 and older to maintain financial independence while staying in their own homes.

The reverse mortgage is a unique loan that allows seniors who are homeowners to convert part of the equity in their homes into tax-free income without having to sell their home, give up title, or take on new mortgage payments.

The funds collected from a reverse mortgage can be used for whatever needs a senior may have, including home repairs, health care costs, debts or simple daily living expenses.

Instead of making monthly payments to the lender, as with a regular or forward mortgage, the senior can receive payments or a payment from the lender. Under the reverse mortgage, senior homeowners can receive a lump sum, fixed monthly payments, a line of credit or a combination of the three, depending on their individual situations.

The program ensures that the reverse mortgage is paid back when they move or when they pass away, and the homeowner will never owe more than the house is worth.

With a reverse mortgage, senior homeowners who are house rich but cash poor can access cash for their needs while keeping their homes.

When the Home Equity Conversion Mortgage program was initially made permanent, the number of such loans that the FHA program could handle at any given time was capped so that HUD and Congress could determine the safety and soundness of the program.

Nearly 10 years later, we now know the program is successful. In my home State of Illinois alone, the number of FHA-insured reverse mortgages has nearly doubled since 2004 to just short of 2,000 in 2006.

With the removal of the cap, more seniors will be able to put the equity in their homes to work for them.

Under this bill, the cap only will be removed through February 15, as was noted. It is my hope that by temporarily removing this cap, which currently limits the number of outstanding loans to 275,000, another measure that we will consider later could expand the removal further, eventually leading to a permanent fix.

According to the AARP, a leading supporter of this bill, only the complete removal of the volume cap will prevent the possibility of detrimental program disruptions in the future.

Living in the home that may have seen the raising of children and the joy of grandchildren should be an option for seniors well into retirement. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill that will protect the ability of seniors to stay in their homes and provide them with economic security.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON), who has provided sterling leadership on this issue and is an outstanding leader in the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I really would like to first thank Chairman FRANK and Ranking Member BACHUS for their help in moving ahead with this bill. I am pleased to have worked with the Financial Services Committee on this legislation, and I appreciate leadership's prompt scheduling of this bill today for consideration.

I would also like to thank some of the Financial Services Committee members who have worked with me on this legislation, including Congresswoman GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida who introduced the bill with me. It is a good, bipartisan bill.

There are many members of the committee who have cosponsored the bill, including Chairman FRANK, Ranking Member BACHUS, Chairwoman WATERS and Ranking Member BIGGERT, members GEOFF DAVIS and GARY MILLER.

I want to thank the staff of the Financial Services Committee as well. They have been very helpful in moving this legislation along.

You have heard a description of this. It is quite frankly a rather simple bill. It will temporarily lift the statutory limitation, or cap, on the number of home equity conversion mortgages that the FHA may insure. As you have heard, the current limit right now is at 275,000 HECM mortgages, and it is important we are considering this legislation right now because we are approaching that limit. In fact, as I understand it, right now the portfolio stands at over 260,000 today, and there are many more loans in the pipeline waiting for HUD endorsement for insurance. So this is a timely bill.

My bill would lift the cap in order to prevent FHA lending to shut down this very popular and necessary program, and my bill would suspend the cap through the time covered under the current continuing resolution.

This bill is a good step to take today, but it is just one step. We are going to need to go further. Along with many of my colleagues who are on the floor with me today, I plan to introduce a separate bill that will permanently eliminate the cap.

Now, this program, you have heard the description from both Mr. SCOTT and Mrs. BIGGERT, it helps so many seniors who really have a need.

□ 1515

It is such an important program, and it is great that we have an opportunity right now to eliminate what would be an unnecessary impediment to having seniors take advantage of this opportunity.

We should provide stability to this program, and we should avoid any disruption and uncertainty in the market-

place by passing this bill today and moving ahead on the broader legislation in the near future.

So I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 391 and providing seniors with the assurance that they can utilize this important program and not face an arbitrary deadline by hitting the cap. I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time.

Let me just say in concluding, this is vitally important, this is vitally important to all Americans, but it most certainly is extraordinarily important to our seniors, and especially those that are widowed, so that we can lift this cap to save this program. It is a very, very important program.

Again, I commend Mrs. BIGGERT and all of those on the House Financial Services, and Mr. MATHESON for the brilliant leadership he has provided us with, and the fact that we all stand ready to assist Mr. MATHESON when he brings the other bill back so that we can permanently solve this problem.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SOLIS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, in closing let me just say that the number of elderly people in America continues to rise, and with advances in health care and technology seniors will continue to represent a larger percentage of the population. It is important that these citizens have as many economic resources as possible to support them in the future.

Further, studies show that given the chance seniors overwhelmingly desire to live out their lives in their own homes. The reverse mortgage is an important tool that can help in addressing the needs of seniors today and in the years to come.

I thank the gentleman from Utah for introducing this bill, and I thank the gentleman from Georgia for managing the bill. I urge support of this legislation.

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 391, sponsored by my colleagues Congresswoman GINNY BROWN-WAITE and Congressman JIM MATHESON, which would temporarily remove the cap on the number of reverse mortgages that may be insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA).

The FHA reverse mortgage program, known as HUD's Home Equity Conversion Mortgage Program, or "HECM," is the oldest and most popular reverse mortgage program in the country, accounting for 90 percent of the total market. It has been available since 1989 to

homeowners age 62 and older and is an important tool providing seniors with much-needed cash flow.

By 2010, the number of elderly Americans is expected to top 40 million. Over the next 35 years, the expected number of older seniors—those age 85 and older—will quadruple from 3.5 million to 14 million. Besides finding safe and affordable housing, seniors face the challenge of paying for daily expenditures and rising healthcare costs. These growing financial responsibilities are coupled with a diminishing income and cash flow.

The reverse mortgage product fills in this gap by enabling senior homeowners to remain in their homes and maintain financial independence. Through this program, seniors convert part of the equity in their homes into tax-free income without having to sell the home, give up title, or take on a new monthly mortgage payment. Previously, the only way for a homeowner to extract cash from their home was to sell it, or to borrow against it and begin making monthly payments.

The HECM program was created to serve our seniors who are “cash poor” but “equity rich,” and the majority of loan recipients are elderly widows. The funds from a reverse mortgage can be used for anything: daily living expenses; home repairs or modifications; health care expenses, including prescription drugs or in-home care; existing debts; prevention of foreclosure; and other needs.

For example, a 75-year-old with a home worth \$100,000 could receive a reverse mortgage loan that could payout \$500 per month for almost 12 years. This loan is then repaid when the borrower dies or the home is sold.

Not only do seniors face a shortage of affordable housing, but surveys show that most seniors prefer to live out their lives in the own homes. According to a study by AARP, over 80 percent of respondents indicated that they wanted to stay in their current residence as long as possible. Further, according to the National Council on the Aging, of the over 27 million households in the U.S. over 62 years of age, 82 percent live in homes that they own and over 74 percent own those homes free and clear.

In 1998, Congress adopted legislation making the HECM program permanent, but set a cap of 150,000 loans that could be outstanding at any one time. Because production of HECM loans began to bump up against that cap, Congress first increased the authorization cap to 250,000 in 2005 and then to 275,000 in late 2006. However, there are indications that this increase may not be sufficient, and that this cap will stifle the ability of seniors to tap into this important equity as a way of addressing everyday needs. According to the Wall Street Journal, in Fiscal Year 2006, homeowners took out a record 76,351 reverse mortgages, which represents an increase of 77 percent over the previous year.

This legislation will remove the cap on the number of reverse mortgages that can be insured by the HECM program through February 15, the date on which the current Continuing Resolution expires. This measure is similar to H.R. 2892, the “Reverse Mortgages to Help America’s Seniors Act,” which was passed by the House by voice vote in the last Congress. While only a temporary fix, today’s bill will pave the way for removal of the cap through the end of 2007.

For most seniors, and most Americans, a home represents more than just a place to

live. It holds treasured memories and provides economic security to support increasingly longer lives. I urge Members to unanimously support this bill so that seniors can maintain their independence and stay in their homes.

Mrs. BIGGERT. 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 Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 391.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STUDENT LOANS

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

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, this week Democrats will continue to meet the needs of the American people by introducing the legislation to cut student loans interest rates in half.

The cost of attending college continues to skyrocket, putting college out of reach for more and more students. Tuition and fees at public universities have increased by 41 percent after inflation since the 2000–2001 academic year, and fees at private universities have jumped 17 percent after inflation. Today, the typical student borrower graduates from college with \$17,500 in debt. According to the Department of Education, the rising cost of higher education will prevent 4.4 million high school graduates from attending a 4-year college over the next decade.

Madam Speaker, more than ever the health of our economy rests on having a highly skilled and educated workforce. College access is key to America’s future, and cutting student loan interest rates is key to making college more affordable to millions of Americans.

HONORING THE MARE ISLAND ORIGINAL 21ERS

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 31) honoring the Mare Island Original 21ers for their efforts to remedy racial discrimination in employment at Mare Island Naval Shipyard.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 31

Whereas over 45 years ago African-American workers employed by the Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, California, despite having work experiences and qualifications comparable to their counterparts, experienced racial discrimination resulting in the denial of opportunities in employment, training, and apprenticeship positions, supervisory positions, promotions, and awards;

Whereas in March 1961 President John F. Kennedy issued Executive Order 10925 estab-

lishing the President’s Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity and reaffirming the prohibition of discrimination against any employee of, or applicant for employment by, the Federal Government because of race, color, religion, or national origin;

Whereas Executive Order 10925 laid the foundation for title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964;

Whereas on November 17, 1961, 21 African-American shipyard workers at Mare Island Naval Shipyard filed a racial discrimination complaint with the Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity;

Whereas the complaint outlined nine allegations of racial discrimination in employment at Mare Island Naval Shipyard and requested that the Committee investigate and correct the deplorable conditions at Mare Island Naval Shipyard;

Whereas the filing of this complaint along with other similar complaints of racial discrimination led to an acknowledgment by then Defense Secretary Robert McNamara in 1963 that there was employment discrimination based on race in the military;

Whereas on November 8, 1963, the Original 21ers Club was officially recognized with the purpose of elevating qualified minorities in every phase of Mare Island employment, creating a better relationship between management and employees and better acquainting their membership with the working conditions of every occupation;

Whereas the actions and persistence of the Original 21ers provided the means for overturning racial discrimination in employment at Mare Island Naval Shipyard and resulted in new employment opportunities for African-American workers at Mare Island Naval Shipyard;

Whereas the Original 21ers went on to organize for equal employment opportunities in other local military facilities in the San Francisco Bay Area of California; and

Whereas the heroic deeds of the Original 21ers have remained heretofore unacknowledged: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

(1) that the Congress recognizes the historic accomplishments of the Mare Island Original 21ers in combating racial discrimination in employment as envisioned in title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and providing equal employment opportunities for African-American shipyard workers;

(2) that the Congress recognizes the importance of the Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity as a forerunner to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission which continues the fight in resolving complaints of racial discrimination in employment; and

(3) that the Congress recognizes the importance of title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as a powerful and ongoing tool for eliminating racial discrimination in employment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, yesterday on the occasion of his birthday people across this country took time to honor and celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King. Many of us participated in acts of community service and community rallies or took time out to listen to the

words of Martin Luther King and his speeches. We were reminded that the words and works of this great civil rights leader are still timely today.

In his writings Dr. King often cited examples of how the simple but courageous acts of one or two people to fight racial discrimination had far reaching implications for the future of this country. He talked about the persistence, the relentless persistence of average individuals to fight against discrimination, to fight against injustice, and to fight against inequalities. In his cell from the Birmingham jail, he writes of James Meredith and Rosa Parks, and how the simple but selfless acts of just one person helped change the course of this country. As he saw it, these acts and the destiny of African Americans were tied up with the destiny of America.

The resolution I bring forward today honors a group of men, the Mare Island 21ers, whose destiny was tied up when they bravely took action to end racial discrimination in naval shipyards in the San Francisco Bay Area in the early 1960s.

The Mare Island 21ers were a group of 21 African American shipyard workers employed at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, California. At that time minorities were mostly working in unskilled positions at Mare Island, as sandblasters, laborers and cleaners, with efforts to keep them out of certain positions. The discrimination was not restricted to withholding promotions and unfair hiring practices, according to one of the workers; they faced discrimination at every turn.

Long time denied opportunity for advancement, these workers decided to organize. Under the leadership of Willie Long, a journeyman pipefitter from Shop 56 who was also a World War II veteran and a Pearl Harbor survivor, the group met in complete secrecy to protect their safety and their jobs.

Not long after the group began to meet, President Kennedy issued his executive order establishing the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunities and reaffirming the prohibition against discrimination against any employee of or application for employment by the Federal Government because of race, color, religion, or national origin. The order issued in March of 1961 also created a discrimination complaint process for Federal workers.

Learning of the President's executive order, the 21ers decided to file a complaint with the committee. The complaint covered deplorable conditions for African American workers at the shipyard, including the denial of promotions and access to the apprenticeship program, and general unfair treatment.

In their report they cited that there was an established unwritten practice at the Mare Island Shipyard not to upgrade third step mechanics no matter what the qualifications of the employee are at any given time. As a re-

sult, there are Negro employees with 15 or 20 years of experience still in this category while white workers with much less experience and time have moved rapidly up the ladder of promotion. They also said that Negro employees are systematically barred from supervisory positions although many are entitled to such positions by reason of seniority and experience. There are two Negro lead men and sandblasters and one Negro leading man laborer out of a force of hundreds of supervisors, and the statistics proved this discrimination. He also said that Negroes who take examinations for advancement for the most part are flunked out on later oral interviews even though they passed the previous examination. The board is made up of the top three supervisors within the shop; and so long as this situation exists, Negroes will never be able to advance through examination. Young Negro men are refused the opportunity of apprenticeship training for the most part in Shop 56. No Negro apprentices have been hired in at least 3 years. In over 20 years at Mare Island, no Negro mechanic has ever received a superior accomplishment award, to our knowledge, which included cash bonuses for those who got it. Then, in fact when the time came for apprenticeship programs, they were not given credit for the training related to their jobs and they take on their own orders in advance of themselves. In fact, Negroes are discouraged from taking any training. And, of course, when the fleet started to change in this country and we went to atomic submarines, there were no Negroes who had been selected for the training of this program.

This was the kind of discrimination that this brave group of men who had to meet in secret, who had to be very careful that anybody at the workplace would not know that they were discussing this with their fellow workers when they met at home, they said, with all of the shades drawn, this is the discrimination that they were living under in the Naval Shipyard at that time and this is the discrimination that they cited to President Kennedy's employment board. It was a complaint among many that were received by the Committee on Equal Employment in the early days of its existence. Finally, the Navy was forced to pay attention to the long history of discrimination felt by the workers at Mare Island. In August of 1963, almost 2 years after the initial complaint was filed, the Navy put policies in place to affirmatively take action on behalf of minority workers. These heroic men included Willie Long, Boston Banks, Jr., Matthew Barnes, Louis Greer, Jake Sloan, Charles Fluker, Clarence Williams, James Davis, Thomas King, Robert E. Borden, James O. Hall, Matthew Luke, Herman Moore, Jimmy James, John L. McGhee, James J. Colbert, Virgil N. Herndon, Eddie Brady, Brodie Taylor, W.J. Price, Levi Jones, Herbert H. Lane, Kermit Day, and Charles Scales.

The actions of the Mare Island 21ers resulted in new employment opportunities for African Americans at other naval bases all across the Nation.

Despite these pioneering steps, their early civil rights efforts remained in obscurity until recently. The group's surviving members still talk about the movement, but the full story was buried in the 1960s and only recently came to light as a result of a series in the newspaper articles by the Vallejo Times Herald reporter Matthias Gafni.

Mr. Speaker, in tribute to these men and their fight to end racial discrimination in the workplace, it is proper for Congress to formally recognize the Mare Island Original 21ers and thank them for their heroic actions and their gift to this Nation to end discrimination in the naval shipyards.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res 31.

First, I would like to thank the gentleman from California, my friend and our committee's new chairman, for bringing this important legislation to the floor of the House.

Madam Speaker, the British political philosopher and statesman Edmund Burke famously observed many years ago that, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

Forty-five years ago, at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard, there was such a group of good men who chose not to do nothing, but instead to do something. These men whom today we know as the Mare Island Original 21ers took a brave step by coming forward and raising complaints about how they felt they were being treated and about the discrimination they faced based on their race.

Madam Speaker, we lived in a different time then. The year was 1961, and there was no Civil Rights Act protecting Americans from discrimination in the workplace based on race or color. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which today works to ensure that our workplaces are free of discrimination, did not yet exist. Indeed, then-President Kennedy had only just established the Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity and the things we take for granted in our society today. That the color of one's skin, whether in a boardroom or a boiler room, simply does not matter was not yet ingrained in our national consciousness.

Now, the Original 21ers' complaint did not immediately serve to address all of the issues they faced. As with all struggles, they faced backlash and challenge. In the end, though, they prevailed.

Today, I can state with authority from firsthand experience as a former United States Marine that our Armed Forces are a model of integration and

nondiscrimination, that in today's military it truly is one's skills, talents, ability, and merit that allows men and women of any color, race, or creed to advance to the highest levels of leadership. That is exactly how it should be.

I would also echo the gentleman from California's comments with respect to the importance of title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the continued good work done by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the hundreds and thousands of employers and businesses in this country who have worked to ensure that the workplace of 2007 is free from discrimination on any racial or any other grounds.

Today, as our military looks forward and continues to prepare itself for the challenge of the 21st century and beyond, we pause for a moment to look back and remember some of those who took brave first steps. The Mare Island Original 21ers are among those courageous men, and it is proper that Congress today should pause to commemorate their efforts.

□ 1530

I thank the gentleman from California for his leadership and initiative on this issue.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for his comments and appreciate his support for this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), a member of the committee.

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me commend the gentleman from California, chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, for bringing forth this very important resolution dealing with the equal employment opportunities in the military.

I think that it is great that we are finally recognizing these 21 brave men who had the courage to stand up and say that enough is enough. In many instances, workers are intimidated by the surroundings, by worrying about their positions, worrying about having action taken against them; and so it is always great when people decide it is time to step forward and do the right thing.

Dr. King said, in his march on Washington that there was a promissory note that was sent out by America to the, at that time, the Negroes, and that the check came back, the promissory note, marked "insufficient funds." And this was a part of the insufficient funds, people willing to work, but being denied. As a matter of fact, when World War II began, that infamous December 7 surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, our country was caught off guard; we did not have the build-up, the military wherewithal, we did not have the weapons, we did not have the ships, we did not have the tanks.

And there then became a move to try to catch up to the enemy because they were preparing for war and we were not. However, blacks were not allowed to work in the factories that were producing or tried to catch up. It actually took President Roosevelt at that time to encourage U.S. businesses, even though they were short of manpower because the draft had come in, they would not hire blacks, even though it meant that we could not prepare and produce the equipment that we needed. And so sometimes racial discrimination really makes no sense at all.

I agree with the gentlemen from California and from Minnesota who said that there have been big changes, things are different now. I would like to once again thank the gentleman from California for bringing forth this resolution.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his support of this.

This naval shipyard, it has been closed and it is going through the re-used process, and it is a very, very exciting economic development plan for the city of Vallejo. It is in my district. And just down the way, down the river to San Francisco Bay is the Rosie the Riveter historic site. And at Rosie the Riveter, they talk about the various sites where we assembled the great American armada to carry supplies and troops to the Pacific during the Second World War.

In the town in which I was born, in Richmond, California, the Second World War and the Kaiser shipyards being located there overnight completed integrating the city. And of course we all know the story of women who went to work, women of all races went to work in those Kaiser shipyards; blacks went to work alongside white shipyard workers. Then they moved on, the shipyard, in peacetime at Mare Island, and that is where this discrimination took place.

Because of the actions of President Kennedy, because of the actions of people like the Mare Island 21ers and a lot of other brave people, today we look back at this as part of history in terms of workplace discrimination, certainly the Federal Government, one of the integrated workforces in the country. It is because of these kinds of actions that we can now speak of this, for the most part, as part of our historical past, but never losing sight of the sacrifice and the courage of ordinary people to move the dial toward integration from discrimination.

It wasn't easy in these communities; it wasn't easy in these workplaces. So when we see actions like this taken, I think it is quite fitting that the Congress would recognize this by passing this resolution commending the actions of courage of these 21 African American workers in the shipyard.

I thank my colleagues for support of this resolution. I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for his words in support of this resolution. I would hope

that the House would adopt it unanimously.

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

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues to support this 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 California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 31.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. 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.

COMMENDING THE FLORIDA GATORS FOR WINNING THE NATIONAL COLLEGE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 39) commending the University of Florida Gators for their victory in the 2006 Bowl Championship Series (BCS) and for winning the national college football championship, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 39

Whereas, on January 8, 2007, the University of Florida Gators won the 2006 Bowl Championship Series national title with a stunning 41-14 defeat over the Ohio State University Buckeyes;

Whereas the University of Florida is one of the premier academic institutions in the State of Florida;

Whereas the University of Florida football program celebrated its 100th Anniversary this season;

Whereas the University of Florida Gators captured the South Eastern Conference (SEC) Championship title on December 2, 2006;

Whereas the University of Florida won the NCAA Championship title in basketball in April 2006;

Whereas the University of Florida is the first Division I school to hold the national championship title in both football and men's basketball concurrently;

Whereas Florida football Head Coach Urban Meyer is only the 7th coach to win a national championship in his first two seasons as a Division I college football coach;

Whereas senior quarterback Chris Leak was the Most Valuable Player of the BCS national championship game;

Whereas the Florida defense held Ohio State to only 82 yards of offense, the lowest ever for a BCS game;

Whereas the University of Florida student athletes are among the most talented in the Nation;

Whereas University of Florida fans worldwide supported and encouraged the Gators throughout the football season;

Whereas J. Bernard Machen, President of the University of Florida, and Athletic Director Jeremy N. Foley have shown great leadership in bringing success and glory to the University of Florida; and

Whereas the University of Florida students, faculty, alumni, and all Gator fans are deeply committed to bringing pride to the University of Florida and the entire State of Florida: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Florida Gators for their victory in the 2006 Bowl Championship Series and for winning the national college football championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and staff whose hard work and dedication helped the University of Florida Gators win the championship; and

(3) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution to University of Florida President J. Bernard Machen, football Head Coach Urban Meyer, and Athletic Director Jeremy N. Foley for appropriate display.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Let me begin by thanking my colleague, Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for introducing this resolution, and also to congratulate her and her fellow alumni for the Gators' win last week in the 2006 Bowl Championship Series.

A week ago Monday marked the University of Florida's second national football championship when they defeated Ohio State University Buckeyes. College football fans, student athletes and the general public were treated to an exciting national championship game, an end to the college football season.

I want to extend my congratulations to head coach Urban Meyer, athletic director Jeremy N. Foley, University of Florida president J. Bernard Machen, and Florida's student athletes for attaining the unprecedented achievement of holding concurrent Division I national championships in football and men's basketball.

I also want to extend my congratulations to the Ohio State University Buckeyes and their student athletes for a great season. Ohio State won all of their games during the regular season and produced the 2006 Heisman trophy winner, Troy Smith. Winning concurrent championships has brought national acclaim to the University of Florida, and I know the fans of the university will remember this very special moment for many years to come.

It takes a great deal to assemble a world-class football team. It takes dedication of the young men who are playing on the team. It takes support from the alumni. It takes patient and accomplished coaching. It takes support from the community. A winning

football team can bring an entire community together. It brings pride to the individuals on the team, but it brings joint pride to the community in general.

And so although many people say why is so much emphasis put on sports, I think that it is one of the tools that brings us together that has the esprit de corps that makes America great. As a former, simply, high school coach, I know the hard work and the time and effort and the sacrifice, really, that it takes for the players, that it takes for the coaches being away from their families, their children, away on weekends. It is a real sacrifice. And so I once again commend the university and once again say, to have the number one football and number one basketball team in the country in the same year is a great achievement.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 39, recognizing the achievements of the University of Florida Gators. Last week, the University of Florida won the Division I-A college football national championship with a decisive 41-14 victory over the Ohio State Buckeyes.

As a Floridian, I am very honored to be recognizing the Gators' accomplishments, and I would be remiss if I did not offer my condolences to our distinguished minority leader, Mr. BOEHNER, and to my former colleague on the Education Committee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI).

The University of Florida's victory in the BCS championship game capped a remarkable 13-1 season and win of the Southeastern Conference Championship. This national championship is the Gators' second, with their first occurring a decade ago in 1996. The University of Florida also won the 2006 NCAA Division I men's college basketball national championship. Florida is the first university to hold both of these titles at the same time.

I hold up the cover of Sports Illustrated this week showing our MVP, Chris Leak, quarterback of the Florida Gators with the title "Gator Raid." It points out that there was history in Gainesville with the first simultaneously men's basketball and football titles in 1 year. There is a lot of pride all of us have from the State of Florida, understandably.

In addition to these athletic achievements, the University of Florida is consistently recognized as one of the country's best public universities. I would like to extend recognition to Dr. Bernard Machen, president of the University of Florida; Mr. Jeremy Foley, the athletic director; head football coach Urban Meyer; and the many other members of the university community that contribute to the institution's academic and athletic excellence.

I also extend my congratulations to the University of Florida, in particular its football team, for this latest national championship, and also to the University of Florida fans worldwide who have supported the Gators, the good times and bad.

I thank my colleague from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for bringing this resolution forward. I also want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS), who represents the University of Florida.

I urge all of my colleagues to join us in recognizing this achievement and supporting House Resolution 39.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. I appreciate the gentleman's support for this resolution.

Madam Speaker, as we indicated, the unique victory in that very important game tied in with the fact that their men's basketball team exceeded themselves in the Final Four and won the championship game of the NCAA college men's basketball, combined with this outstanding effort for the football team shows that the University of Florida, in addition to having great academic programs, preparing young Americans for the future, dealing with the current challenges to keep America strong, to keep America on the cutting edge, to keep America ahead for technology and for other technological advances, we really are very pleased that this university stands head and shoulders.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS), who represents the University of Florida.

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. I thank my distinguished colleague from Florida. My colleagues, I also rise to praise the University of Florida, the Gators, for not only winning their second football national title but on their many off-the-field accomplishments as well.

With their 41-14 victory over the Ohio State Buckeyes, as mentioned earlier, the Gators became the first Division I school to hold a national championship in men's basketball and football at the same time.

Coming into this game, many of the experts did not give the Gators any chance of defeating the previously undefeated Buckeyes. However, once they took the field, the Gators were not intimidated. In fact, the Gators held their own and held Ohio State to only 82 yards of total offense, the fewest number of yards in BCS history.

Notwithstanding this event, as my colleague on the other side mentioned, Ohio State had a very great season; and I congratulate and commend this wonderful football team and its coach

and all its players for a very successful season.

My colleagues, the Florida Gators are excellent representatives of both the university and I believe the great State of Florida in their tenacity, spirit, and their willingness to try to succeed. I take great pride in representing the University of Florida and congratulate Coach Urban Meyer and the entire university on this great accomplishment.

The university's accomplishments extend beyond the field or on the courts in the sports arena. UF boasts a 91 percent graduation rate among its athletes, including all of its sports, making it only one of four programs in the National All-Sports Top 10 to achieve a graduation success rates that is above 90 percent. Furthermore, in 2002-2003, UF placed a record 193 student athletes on the SEC academic honor roll, marking six consecutive years UF placed 100 or more UF student athletes on the SEC Honor Roll.

The University of Florida's accomplishments go well beyond athletics. It is ranked fifth among Kiplinger's Top 10 Public Colleges. UF's faculty are among the best and most decorated in the world, winning awards such as the Fields Medal, two Pulitzer Prizes, NASA's top award for research, and the Smithsonian Institution's conservation award.

University of Florida is also the first university in the world to be designated a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary for its agriculture faculty's commitment to environmental and wildlife management.

Enrolling almost 50,000 students annually, UF is home to 16 colleges and more than 150 research centers and institutes. During the 2005-2006 school year, UF was awarded \$519 million in sponsored research. This research includes diverse areas such as health care and citrus production, including the world's largest citrus research center.

My colleagues, one example of this innovative research is veterinarian Julie Levy, who is one of the worldwide leaders of research into a revolutionary, humane drug option for spraying and neutering cats and dogs. As it is now, the only way to permanently sterilized these animals is surgically. What if this process were as simple as a vaccine? Dr. Levy, at the University of Florida, is working on this research project today.

On both the field and in the classroom, the students, faculty, and administration of the University of Florida are champions. I am honored that this world-class university is in my congressional district and I look forward to many great things in the future.

As they say at the university, Go Gators!

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolu-

tion 39, to congratulate the University of Florida football team on winning the 2006 national championship.

As a University of Florida graduate born in Gator country, that is Gainesville, Florida, I could not be happier with the outcome of the championship game.

Very few people believed the Gators deserved to beat Ohio State or to get in the championship game, let alone beating Ohio State, a great team. But the SEC did beat the Big 10. They certainly proved the critics wrong.

I also would like to congratulate the University of Florida for becoming the first institution in Division I history to hold both the NCAA men's basketball championship and the football championship simultaneously. And, who knows, there may be another basketball championship in the waning. Right now we are number one.

This achievement, of course, is very historic. Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating a great coach, Urban Meyer, and the fine young men from the University of Florida. And congratulations to Gators everywhere. It is great to be a Florida Gator. Go Gators!

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I will close by saying that after the winning the national championship in football and basketball, the baseball team has to be feeling some pressure right now down in Gainesville.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H. Res. 39.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I would thank all of the speakers who participated. I think it is really a great achievement, and I want to commend the sponsor of this resolution, Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for her outstanding leadership and how much she has done to support that great athletic institution. I would wish the Gators success in the future as they have done in the past.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days to insert materials relevant to H. Res. 39, and the previous bill, H. Con. Res. 31.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PAYNE. 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. PAYNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 39, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. PAYNE. 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.

COMMENDING THE BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY BRONCOS FOR WINNING THE 2007 FIESTA BOWL AND COMPLETING AN UNDEFEATED SEASON

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 43) commending the Boise State University Broncos football team for winning the 2007 Fiesta Bowl and completing an undefeated season.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 43

Whereas the Boise State University Broncos football team won the 2007 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, defeating the University of Oklahoma Sooners by a score of 43-42 at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, on January 1, 2007;

Whereas the Broncos have won the last 5 consecutive Western Athletic Conference football championships;

Whereas the Broncos are the Nation's top scoring Division I-A collegiate football team for the last 7 seasons, with an average of over 42 points per game;

Whereas the Broncos are the Nation's 4th winningest Division I-A collegiate football team for the last 7 seasons, with a record of 75-13 and winning percentage of over .850.

Whereas the 2007 Fiesta Bowl is widely considered one of the best games in the history of college football;

Whereas the Broncos are the only Division I-A collegiate football team to complete the 2006-2007 season undefeated;

Whereas Broncos head coach Chris Peterson called some of the most creative and courageous offensive plays in bowl-game history, including the game-saving "hook-and-lateral", game-extending "tailback pass", and game-winning "Statue of Liberty";

Whereas the Broncos are 5-2 in Division I-A collegiate post-season games;

Whereas Broncos quarterback Jared Zabransky was named the Offensive Most Valuable Player of the Fiesta Bowl;

Whereas Jared Zabransky threw for 3 touchdowns and 262 yards in the Fiesta Bowl and completed his college career with a record of 33-5 as a starting quarterback;

Whereas Broncos defensive back Marty Tadman was named the Defensive Most Valuable Player of the Fiesta Bowl;

Whereas Marty Tadman intercepted 2 Sooner passes, including one returned for a touchdown, and had 5 tackles in the Fiesta Bowl;

Whereas Broncos running back Ian Johnson, one of the Nation's most exciting running backs, gained 101 rushing yards, scored 1 touchdown, and scored the game-winning 2-point conversion in overtime of the Fiesta Bowl;

Whereas the entire Broncos team should be commended for its determination, work ethic, attitude, and heart;

Whereas the Broncos are deserving of an opportunity to play for the National Championship;

Whereas the Broncos are building an impressive legacy of excellence in its football program; and

Whereas the Broncos have brought great honor to themselves, their university, the

city of Boise, and the State of Idaho: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Boise State University Broncos football team for winning the 2007 Fiesta Bowl; and

(2) congratulates the team for completing an undefeated, 13-0 season.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for 5 legislative days during which Members may insert into the RECORD any material relevant to H. Res. 43.

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

There was no objection.

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

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend the Boise State University Broncos' victory over the mighty Oklahoma Sooners in the 2007 Fiesta Bowl.

For all of you who watched the game, you know it was an exciting game from start to finish, and anyone who was not a fan of the Sooners had no choice but to cheer for the underdog Boise State as the game progressed into the second half and overtime.

Every player for the Broncos should be commended for their effort throughout the game, and head coach, Chris Peterson, should be commended for making risky calls and preparing his team, a decided underdog, for success and for victory.

Since the Bowl Championship Series began in the 1998-1999 college football season, only two teams from non-BCS conferences have been invited to BCS games. Following the 2004 season, the Utah Utes from the Mountain West Conference defeated the Pittsburgh Panthers in the 2005 Fiesta Bowl, and now the Boise State Broncos from the Western Athletic Conference have become the second non-BCS team to win a BCS game, winning one of the most exciting games ever played.

Boise State's success should not be a shock to anyone who has followed this team over the past 5 years. Their victory in the Fiesta Bowl completes an undefeated season and their second 13-win season in the past 4 years.

Over the past 5 years, they have an astounding 58 wins and only seven losses. There are very few teams during that span of time to have experienced a modicum of success that this State University in Idaho has experienced.

I also want to congratulate the Oklahoma Sooners for battling their way back in this very exciting ball game. They fell behind by 18 early in the second half, but showed tremendous poise

and character by coming back in the game and even taking the lead very late in the game.

However, after it was all said and done, the Broncos, led by quarterback Jared Zabransky, executed a tremendous hook and ladder for a touchdown to send the game in overtime. In overtime, Boise State, down one, went for a two-point conversion, and called the patriotic Statue of Liberty play, run by Ivan Johnson, to complete the 43-42 victory.

I congratulate Boise State University's president, Dr. Bob Kustra, Coach Chris Peterson, and the Boise State University's football team for a wonderful season and for being the only undefeated major division college football team in the Nation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 43. This resolution recognizes the stellar undefeated season of the Boise State Broncos, as well as their dazzling 43-42 win over the University of Oklahoma Sooners at the 2007 Bowl Championship Series' Fiesta Bowl.

Boise State was wisely considered the underdog going into the game and walked away with an impressive victory. Many considered it to be the best college football game ever played. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON), and I ask unanimous consent that he be allowed to control that time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to congratulate the Boise State University Broncos football team on an exceptional football season and a great victory in the 2007 Fiesta Bowl.

I listened with interest to the last resolution congratulating Florida and the Florida Gators and their national championship game. They truly deserved it. The Florida Gators went into the game against Ohio State as significant underdogs in the minds of most of the media, and so did the Boise State Broncos against the Oklahoma Sooners enter that game as significant underdogs. Nobody really gave them a chance.

□ 1600

But when the Broncos defeated the University of Oklahoma in the 2007 Fiesta Bowl on New Year's Day, they completed the only, and I will repeat, the only undefeated season of any Division I-A collegiate football team in the 2006-2007 season. More than that, they showed the country what thousands of Boise State fans, known as the Bronco

Nation, already know; the Boise State Broncos can play with the best.

Some have suggested that maybe Boise State doesn't have as tough a schedule as some other teams. I will tell you that on their schedule this year I think they played six teams that were in bowl games in post season. They had a pretty tough schedule, and they beat them all.

The 2007 Fiesta Bowl will go down in the books as one of the best and most exciting games in the history of college football. Both teams played with talents and heart, unwilling to let mistakes or shifts in momentum force their hands. And when, with only moments left in regulation, it looked like it was all over, the Broncos knew otherwise and turned to the back of their playbook.

Plays like the "hook-and-lateral" and the now famous "Statue of Liberty" required creativity, skill and guts. The talented Broncos executed them perfectly, winning the game in the heart-stopping last seconds of overtime. Head Coach Chris Peterson and his players should be commended for their courage, resolve and ability.

Last week Coach Peterson was awarded the Paul "Bear" Bryant Award and was named 2006 National Coach of the Year. He and his talented coaching staff will continue striving to make a winning program even better.

The BSU Bronco football program has taken gifted, big-hearted young men and created an impressive legacy in the making. The Broncos have won the last five consecutive Western Athletic Conference football championships and, with the Nation's top scoring Division I-A football team for the last seven seasons.

Their roster includes such talents as quarterback Jared Zabransky, the game's Offensive Most Valuable Player, who completed his college football career with a 33-5 record as starting quarterback; Marty Tadman, Defensive MVP of the game; and Ian Johnson, one of the Nation's most exciting running backs, who scored the game-winning two-point conversion in overtime, and after the game proposed to his fiancée, now a Boise State cheerleader. I don't know if I would have had that much courage, quite frankly, to propose to someone on national television. But it just shows the heart and courage of this team.

These stars are just a few examples of the determination, talent and heart that make up the whole Bronco football team. The entire team should be commended for both its success on the field and the character displayed by each individual.

The Boise State Broncos football team has made us proud; has made the State of Idaho, the City of Boise proud, and I am glad that we have this chance to recognize them today.

And in case anybody wonders if this is just about football, I will tell you, in talking to the President of the University, he said that after the Bronco season, the number of applications for the

postgraduate program has skyrocketed. So this is more than just about football. It is about national recognition for a team and a school, and the outstanding character of that school and the educational opportunities it provides to people from all over this country.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for allowing me to speak on this and for bringing this to the floor today. This Saturday they have a parade and a day of recognition for the Boise State team, and I am sure that they will be very honored to have this.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON). And there is no question that he has every right to be very proud of the Boise State Broncos.

As a matter of fact, I think that because it is a small school, because it is a school that is not the perennial schools that finish up top, say, the last 50 years, for the last 8 or 10 years Boise State has had a difficult time trying to prove its worth. Even though they beat top contenders, they will say it was a fluke; it was some mistake, it was just by luck. And I think that by their continuing winning, by them moving up and winning the national championship, I believe that they will finally have the naysayers saying that this is really an outstanding team.

We found the same situation in the great State of New Jersey, where Rutgers University, a State university that has had a terrible football program for years and years and years, although it played one of the first football games in the country in 1897 against Princeton, when Princeton and Rutgers played. They have now, finally, been able to, after last year wasn't a fluke, this year losing only two games and going to a major bowl.

Athletes from New Jersey now are staying in New Jersey, and that is what made the difference. New Jersey athletes have made other States' teams great, and now that they are staying in the State, we will certainly expect to see Rutgers University, perhaps, play Boise State next year for the national championship.

So with that, Madam Speaker, I, again, congratulate the Boise State Broncos.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SOLIS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 43.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. PAYNE. 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.

COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA GATORS FOR THEIR 2006 BOWL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES VICTORY

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 39, the Wasserman Schultz-Stearns resolution commending the University of Florida Fighting Gators for their victory in the 2006 Bowl Championship Series and for winning the national college football title.

Madam Speaker, after a hard-fought football season, the Florida Gators proved victorious on January 8 with a dazzling 41-14 triumph over the Ohio State University Buckeyes.

While many critics expressed doubt about the Gators' chances for victory, Florida's Congressional Delegation and all of the students, alumni and friends in the Gator Nation stood by the Orange and Blue.

Led by senior quarterback Chris Leak, the MVP of the game, and Florida's impenetrable defense, Florida Gators dominated the game when the stakes were the highest.

This season, as Florida's football program celebrated its 100th anniversary, the University of Florida made history by winning national titles in both men's basketball and football in the same season.

Congressman STEARNS and I would like to extend special congratulations to Florida's head coach, Urban Meyer, who trained this football team to be the best in the country.

The Florida players, coaches, faculty, students and alumni all pulled together with hard work and dedication to help the team win. All of the student athletes are shining stars for the University, and deserve our highest praise.

The Gator Nation's academic reputation is stellar, our sports teams are number one, and our fans are like none other.

Madam Speaker, it is great to be a Florida Gator.

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 4 o'clock and 7 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. THOMPSON of California) 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 motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 61, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 39, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 43, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

OBSERVING THE BIRTHDAY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 61.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 61, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 418, nays 0, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 24]

YEAS—418

Abercrombie	Burgess	Diaz-Balart, L.
Ackerman	Butterfield	Diaz-Balart, M.
Akin	Camp (MI)	Dicks
Alexander	Campbell (CA)	Dingell
Allen	Cannon	Doggett
Altmire	Cantor	Donnelly
Andrews	Capito	Doolittle
Arcuri	Capps	Doyle
Baca	Capuano	Drake
Bachmann	Cardoza	Dreier
Bachus	Carnahan	Duncan
Baird	Carney	Edwards
Baker	Carson	Ehlers
Baldwin	Carter	Ellison
Barrett (SC)	Castle	Ellsworth
Barrow	Castor	Emanuel
Bartlett (MD)	Chabot	Emerson
Barton (TX)	Chandler	Engel
Bean	Clarke	English (PA)
Becerra	Clay	Eshoo
Berkley	Cleaver	Etheridge
Berman	Clyburn	Everett
Berry	Coble	Fallin
Biggert	Cohen	Farr
Bilbray	Cole (OK)	Fattah
Bilirakis	Conaway	Feeney
Bishop (GA)	Conyers	Ferguson
Bishop (NY)	Cooper	Filner
Bishop (UT)	Costa	Flake
Blackburn	Costello	Forbes
Blumenauer	Courtney	Fortenberry
Blunt	Cramer	Fossella
Boehner	Crenshaw	Fox
Bonner	Crowley	Frank (MA)
Bono	Cubin	Franks (AZ)
Boozman	Cuellar	Frelinghuysen
Boren	Culberson	Garrett (NJ)
Boswell	Cummings	Gerlach
Boucher	Davis (CA)	Giffords
Boustany	Davis (IL)	Gilchrest
Boyd (FL)	Davis (KY)	Gillibrand
Boyda (KS)	Davis, David	Gillmor
Brady (PA)	Davis, Jo Ann	Gingrey
Brady (TX)	Davis, Lincoln	Gohmert
Brale (IA)	Davis, Tom	Gonzalez
Brown (SC)	DeFazio	Goode
Brown, Corrine	DeGette	Goodlatte
Brown-Waite,	DeLahunt	Gordon
Ginny	DeLauro	Granger
Buchanan	Dent	Graves

NOT VOTING—17

Aderholt	Gallegly	Radanovich
Burton (IN)	Hinojosa	Ryan (OH)
Buyer	Johnson, Sam	Shimkus
Calvert	McCaul (TX)	Sullivan
Davis (AL)	Norwood	Wexler
Deal (GA)	Pryce (OH)	

1905

So (two-thirds of those being 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.

COMMENDING THE BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY BRONCOS FOR WINNING THE 2007 FIESTA BOWL AND COMPLETING AN UNDEFEATED SEASON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 43.

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. PAYNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 43, 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 415, nays 0, answered “present” 2, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 26]
YEAS—415

Abercrombie	Brady (TX)	Culberson
Ackerman	Braley (IA)	Cummings
Akin	Brown (SC)	Davis (CA)
Alexander	Brown, Corrine	Davis (IL)
Allen	Brown-Waite,	Davis (KY)
Altmire	Ginny	Davis, David
Andrews	Buchanan	Davis, Jo Ann
Arcuri	Burgess	Davis, Lincoln
Baca	Butterfield	Davis, Tom
Bachmann	Camp (MI)	DeFazio
Bachus	Campbell (CA)	DeGette
Baird	Cannon	Delahunt
Baker	Cantor	DeLauro
Baldwin	Capito	Dent
Barrett (SC)	Capps	Diaz-Balart, M.
Barrow	Capuano	Dicks
Bartlett (MD)	Cardoza	Dingell
Barton (TX)	Carnahan	Doggett
Bean	Carney	Donnelly
Becerra	Carson	Doolittle
Berkley	Carter	Doyle
Berman	Castle	Drake
Berry	Castor	Dreier
Biggert	Chabot	Duncan
Bilbray	Chandler	Edwards
Bilirakis	Clarke	Ehlers
Bishop (GA)	Clay	Ellison
Bishop (NY)	Cleaver	Ellsworth
Bishop (UT)	Clyburn	Emanuel
Blackburn	Coble	Emerson
Blumenauer	Cohen	Engel
Blunt	Cole (OK)	English (PA)
Boehner	Conaway	Eshoo
Bonner	Conyers	Etheridge
Bono	Cooper	Everett
Boozman	Costa	Fallin
Boren	Costello	Farr
Boswell	Courtney	Fattah
Boucher	Cramer	Feeney
Boustany	Crenshaw	Ferguson
Boyd (FL)	Crowley	Finer
Boyd (KS)	Cubin	Flake
Brady (PA)	Cuellar	Forbes

Fortenberry	Loeb sack	Rogers (MI)
Fossella	Lofgren, Zoe	Rohrabacher
Fox	Lowey	Ros-Lehtinen
Frank (MA)	Lucas	Roskam
Franks (AZ)	Lungren, Daniel	Ross
Frelinghuysen	E.	Rothman
Garrett (NJ)	Lynch	Roybal-Allard
Gerlach	Mack	Royce
Giffords	Mahoney (FL)	Ruppersberger
Gilchrest	Maloney (NY)	Rush
Gillibrand	Manzullo	Ryan (WI)
Gillmor	Marchant	Salazar
Gingrey	Markey	Sali
Gohmert	Marshall	Sanchez, Linda
Gonzalez	Matheson	T.
Goode	Matsui	Sanchez, Loretta
Goodlatte	McCarthy (CA)	Sarbanes
Gordon	McCarthy (NY)	Saxton
Granger	McCollum (MN)	Schakowsky
Graves	McCotter	Schiff
Green, Al	McCrary	Schmidt
Green, Gene	McDermott	Schwartz
Grijalva	McGovern	Scott (GA)
Gutierrez	McHenry	Scott (VA)
Hall (NY)	McHugh	Sensenbrenner
Hall (TX)	McIntyre	Serrano
Hare	McKeon	Sessions
Harman	McMorris	Sestak
Hastert	Rodgers	Shadegg
Hastings (FL)	McNerney	Shays
Hastings (WA)	McNulty	Shea-Porter
Hayes	Meehan	Sherman
Heller	Meek (FL)	Shuler
Hensarling	Meeks (NY)	Shuster
Herger	Melancon	Simpson
Herseth	Mica	Sires
Higgins	Michaud	Skelton
Hill	Millender-	Slaughter
Hinchey	McDonald	Smith (NE)
Hirono	Miller (FL)	Smith (NJ)
Hobson	Miller (MI)	Smith (TX)
Hodes	Miller (NC)	Smith (WA)
Hoekstra	Miller, Gary	Snyder
Holden	Miller, George	Solis
Holt	Mitchell	Souder
Honda	Mollohan	Space
Hooley	Moore (KS)	Spratt
Hoyer	Moore (WI)	Stearns
Hulshof	Moran (KS)	Stupak
Hunter	Moran (VA)	Sutton
Inglis (SC)	Murphy (CT)	Tancredo
Inslee	Murphy, Patrick	Tanner
Israel	Murphy, Tim	Tauscher
Issa	Murtha	Taylor
Jackson (IL)	Musgrave	Terry
Jackson-Lee	Myrick	Thompson (CA)
(TX)	Nader	Thompson (MS)
Jefferson	Napolitano	Thornberry
Jindal	Neal (MA)	Tiahrt
Johnson (GA)	Neugebauer	Tiberi
Johnson (IL)	Nunes	Tierney
Johnson, E. B.	Oberstar	Towns
Jones (NC)	Obey	Turner
Jones (OH)	Olver	Udall (CO)
Jordan	Ortiz	Udall (NM)
Kagen	Pallone	Upton
Kanjorski	Pascarell	Van Hollen
Kaptur	Pastor	Velázquez
Keller	Paul	Visclosky
Kennedy	Payne	Walberg
Kildee	Pearce	Walden (OR)
Kilpatrick	Pelosi	Walsh (NY)
Kind	Pence	Walz (MN)
King (IA)	Perlmutter	Wamp
King (NY)	Peterson (MN)	Wasserman
Kingston	Peterson (PA)	Schultz
Kirk	Petri	Waters
Klein (FL)	Pickering	Watson
Kline (MN)	Pitts	Watt
Knollenberg	Platts	Waxman
Kucinich	Poe	Weiner
Kuhl (NY)	Pomeroy	Welch (VT)
LaHood	Porter	Weldon (FL)
Lamborn	Price (GA)	Weller
Lampson	Price (NC)	Westmoreland
Langevin	Putnam	Whitfield
Lantos	Rahall	Wicker
Larsen (WA)	Ramstad	Wilson (NM)
Larson (CT)	Rangel	Wilson (OH)
Latham	Regula	Wilson (SC)
LaTourette	Rehberg	Wolf
Lee	Reichert	Woolsey
Levin	Renzi	Wu
Lewis (CA)	Reyes	Wynn
Lewis (GA)	Reynolds	Yarmuth
Lewis (KY)	Rodriguez	Young (AK)
Lipinski	Rogers (AL)	Young (FL)
LoBiondo	Rogers (KY)	

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—2

Linder	Stark	
NOT VOTING—18		
Aderholt	Diaz-Balart, L.	Pryce (OH)
Burton (IN)	Gallegly	Radanovich
Buyer	Hinojosa	Ryan (OH)
Calvert	Johnson, Sam	Shimkus
Davis (AL)	McCaul (TX)	Sullivan
Deal (GA)	Norwood	Wexler

1914

So (two-thirds of those being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I was absent from votes today, January 16, 2007, due to a memorial service in Ohio. As a result, I was not recorded for a series of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on rollcalls 24, 25, and 26.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to my leave of absence, I am submitting for the RECORD how I would have voted if I had been present earlier today.

I would have voted “aye” on all suspension measures put to the House for a rollcall vote which are as follows:

Rollcall No. 24 “aye”—H. Res. 61—observing and celebrating the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. Rollcall No. 25 “aye”—H. Res. 39—Commending the University of Florida Gators for their victory in the 2006 BCS. Rollcall No. 26 “aye”—H. Res. 43—Commending the Boise State University Broncos football team for winning the 2007 Fiesta Bowl and Completing an undefeated season.

STATE OF EMERGENCY IN OKLAHOMA

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

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I bring some bad news from my home State of Oklahoma. We are facing a terrible ice storm in the eastern portion of our State, the Second Congressional District. We have had many homes without power. We have had trees fall over. We have had individuals lose their life.

So I would like the record to reflect that I am not going to be here tomorrow because I think it is more important that I be with my constituents. The Governor of the State of Oklahoma, Brad Henry, is also going to be touring the damage with me. And I would like the record to reflect that if I were here in this Chamber, I would have voted “aye” in regards to the cost savings for our college students here in the Congress.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 6

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I be removed

as cosponsor of H.R. 6. My name was listed inadvertently as a cosponsor.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 6

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Tennessee Mr. JOHN TANNER's name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 6.

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

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

INVESTING IN AMERICA'S FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we will invest in America's future tomorrow by making college more affordable and accessible for over 5 million Americans. We are going to cut the interest rate in half over the next 5 years for undergraduates with subsidized student loans. Interest on those loans will drop from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent over the next 4 years.

Investing in America's future is long overdue. Now, the question is: Who benefits? Ordinary Americans, that is who. This legislation will help low- and middle-income Americans who rely on subsidized loans to make college a reality. It gives them a real shot at the American Dream.

We know that an undergraduate college degree is a minimum education requirement for participating in the hope and opportunity of the 21st century. We also know that our sons and daughters have been forced to take on significant debt in recent years to pursue that college degree. In the last 5 years, undergraduate students and their families have seen tuition and fees rise over 40 percent at public universities after inflation. At the same time, the cost of borrowing money has gone up by 2 percent.

It is a debt load that is forcing talented young Americans to pass up a

college education and America cannot afford to let that happen. Americans with an undergraduate degree earn much more on average than Americans without one. In 2005, the average earnings of someone with a college degree was 60 percent more than someone with only a high school degree. In today's dollars, we are talking about \$37,000 versus \$67,000 for a college graduate.

And there is every reason to believe this income gap will widen in coming years. Making college more affordable and accessible gives more of our children and grandchildren access to a better life, and those economic benefits ripple through the entire economy.

I represent Seattle, a city where technological innovation is a daily ingredient of our local economy, from Boeing to Microsoft, through a thousand start-ups. These companies need an educated workforce to succeed. Like it or not, we are competing in a global economy, and Americans deserve every fair advantage.

A college education is one of the best advantages, and it isn't just about making money. With a college degree, students have more careers to choose from. In other words, a college degree is a key that can unlock your own personal happiness. Imagine working at something you want to do every day instead of something you have to do.

Today, too many promising young Americans are not going to college because it costs too much, not because they do not have the ability to succeed. And we know there are racial and gender disparities that make it imperative for us as a Nation to make college more affordable, accessible, and available.

For those who do go to college, the typical student graduates over \$17,000 in debt. So we are making a downpayment in this bill on America's future by cutting the interest rate on subsidized student loans, and we would be wise as a Nation to do more.

Today, the United States accounts for 14 percent of the world's college graduates. That is just half of the percentage we accounted for 30 years ago. In other words, knowledge is power, and other nations have dramatically stepped up their efforts.

A few months ago, the nonpartisan National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education released a new report that ranks the United States 16 among the 27 industrialized nations in the world for the number of students who complete a college education or advanced certificate degree. The data in the report also suggests there is a shortage of college-educated young Americans ready to take over as the college-trained baby boomers retire. We could be as much as 15 million college graduates short in just over a decade. That would be completely unacceptable in the United States of America.

Cutting interest rates in half on subsidized student loans is a start, but it is just that. It is just a beginning. We

need to find other ways to invest in America's future by investing in America's future generation. We say it over and over again, that children are our future. This is an opportunity to put in law the fact that we mean business. The 21st century will require nothing less.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ADERHOLT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SPECIALIST RYAN BERG—TEXAS SOLDIER

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, last Wednesday, January 10, 2007, the flag flew at half mast in the small coastal town of Sabine Pass, Texas. The neighbors had learned of the sacrifice of their hometown son, Specialist Ryan Berg, who was 19. He was fighting the war in the land of Iraq.

Army Specialist Ryan Berg was an American soldier. When others his age were talking about going to college or working in the nearby refineries, Ryan went to the local Army recruiter's office on his 18th birthday and joined the United States Army, knowing America was at war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He was proud to be an American, and Ryan chose to serve his Nation. He wanted to make a difference by being an American soldier. Ryan Berg had spent his entire life in Sabine Pass, Texas, and he knew everybody in town. Ryan always planned on returning to his home to live and raise a family after he finished his duty with the United States Army and for America.

Like his mother and his father, Ryan attended and graduated from Sabine Pass School. The Sabine Pass School has all the grades in just one building. Ryan played football, basketball, and golf. Childhood friends of Ryan knew him as an outgoing and friendly guy. One of his friends said, "There wasn't anything or anyone he didn't like, and everybody liked him." He was a gentleman who always helped others who needed it in Sabine Pass.

Ryan knew his calling after high school was to join the United States Army. He simply wanted to protect his country, like he had protected those he knew and loved all his life. He was stationed in Fort Hood, Texas. Ryan met his wife, Katy, in September of 2006, just a few months ago. The young newly wed couple soon received the news that Ryan, like so many others before him, would be sent to the desert sands of Iraq.

He was deployed to Iraq on October 4, 2006, and he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, Alpha Section, 3rd Platoon.

Ryan called home weekly, but the thunder of battle sometimes forced him to quickly end those phone calls. As the 2006 Christmas season approached, Ryan was given last-minute leave to spend the holidays at home in Texas with his family and his neighbors in Sabine Pass.

During Christmas, Scottie, Ryan's mother, held her son tightly and told him that she was not going to let him go back to Iraq. Ryan replied, Mr. Speaker, "I've got to go back over there. I've got to make it safe for my wife, my mom, my dad, and all those I love."

Mr. Speaker, amazing people, these Americans who go to war. On January 4, 2007 with nearly a year to go in Iraq, the teenager returned to the battlefront to fight against these insurgents and their terror against the people of Iraq. Ryan was only in Iraq for 5 days when he was shot by a hidden enemy sniper. The wound was fatal.

Last week, 19-year-old U.S. Army Specialist Ryan Berg became the first son of Sabine Pass, Texas, to be killed defending freedom in that land far, far away, of Iraq. For his courage during combat, Ryan was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

The news of his death at the hands of the anarchists stunned the Berg family and the people of Sabine Pass. Through their tears, Ryan's mother and father, Scottie and Travis; his brother Brad, his sister Marissa, and his new wife, Katie, and countless other relatives and friends have, in their anguish, honored the American warrior.

Ryan's loved ones expressed their pride of his service to America and the bravery their soldier exhibited throughout his career. They also asked for the community to pray not only for Ryan but for those soldiers still amid the dusty trenches fighting for freedom and securing liberty.

Those who knew Ryan, and I have a photograph of him, Mr. Speaker, those who knew him, remember his loyalty to his family and to his friends, but not only as a man who never knew a stranger, but Ryan devoted his life to guarding them from danger, those especially who could not stand up for themselves.

This Nation owes its gratitude, its liberties, its freedom, to people like Specialist Ryan Berg and to brave soldiers who have walked the path of sacrifice for the rest of us.

So God bless Sabine Pass, Texas and God bless the Berg family and God Bless Ryan Berg.

It has been said that when the Rolling Legions went into battle one of their generals once told his men, "How you yet live will echo throughout eternity."

Ryan, your deeds will always speak the example of the spirit of the American soldier.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1930

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of California). Under a pre-

vious 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.)

BRING THE TROOPS HOME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, along with Congresswoman BARBARA LEE and Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, I will be introducing the Bring the Troops Home and Iraqi Sovereignty Restoration Act.

This bill fulfills the voters' November 7 mandate to the Congress. It ends the occupation of Iraq and, at the same time, it strengthens the Iraqi government, and it also meets the needs of our returning troops.

It will, one, bring our troops home; two, it will expedite the training of Iraqi security forces; and three, if invited by the Iraqis, work with the international community to rebuild Iraq's infrastructure, while four, fully funding the commitment we have made to our returning soldiers for full health care benefits, physical and mental.

The situation in Iraq, Mr. Speaker, gets worse every day, and it is clear that we cannot provide security to Iraqis in the middle of a civil war. We need to bring our brave and capable men and women home to safety and to their families, and we need to help the Iraqi people regain their sovereignty.

President Bush does not have a plan to bring our troops home. In fact, if anything, he is escalating this occupation with absolutely no end in sight. Our standing in the region and our standing around the world is at an all time low, and this administration has all but given up on diplomacy.

We can no longer wait for the Commander-in-Chief to come up with a plan. We are in the fourth year of this occupation. We have waited long enough. That is why I will introduce the Bring the Troops Home and Iraqi Sovereignty Restoration Act tomorrow.

Whether my colleagues voted to support the invasion of Iraq or not, they can now unite behind a comprehensive plan, a plan to bring peace and stability to the region.

One of the most important elements of this bill is to live up to the promises made to those who have put their lives on the line for this President's fiasco in Iraq.

Our most solemn obligation is to the men and women who have been placed in harm's way. To fulfill our obligation, we must bring them home to their families, while, at the same time, guaranteeing physical and mental health care for all U.S. veterans of military operations in Iraq and other conflicts around the world. It is the least we can do. It is the least we can

do to show the gratitude of a grateful Nation.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for our troops, stand up for Iraqi sovereignty. Cosponsor the Bring the Troops Home and Iraqi Sovereignty Restoration Act.

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.)

12-POINT PLAN FOR IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House of Representatives, last week the President of the United States gave a speech to this Nation that he intends to escalate the war against Iraq. Compounding his speech was the point-by-point recitation of his intention to continue to escalate tensions between the United States and the sovereign nation of Iran.

At this moment, when this Congress has honored the memory of Dr. King, it bears reflection as to whether or not we in this Nation have the capacity to begin to pursue a path of nonviolence in our relations with other countries.

Our President is intent on escalating a war against Iraq. He is intent on precipitating a war against Iran. Whatever happened to the science of human relations? Whatever happened to using our head in dealing with people so that war is not an acceptable option, but that peace becomes inevitable because we pursue talking to one another?

If we had taken the case for Iraq to the U.N., we would not have gotten approval for an attack against Iraq. How much better it would have been if this Nation had not decided to attack Iraq, because Iraq had no weapons of mass destruction, did not have the intention or capability of attacking the United States, was not trying to get uranium from Niger, did not, in effect, constitute a threat to the United States of America.

And yet, we attacked a nation which did not attack us, at tremendous consequence, the death of over 3,000 American men and women who served this country valiantly, the deaths of over 650,000 innocent Iraqis, according to the Lancet Report, during the conduct of the war; complete annihilation of so much of the cities of Iraq.

What are we doing? What do we stand for as a nation? Does this really represent what America is all about? Or does America have a higher destiny? Is it our destiny to rule the world with our military might? Or is it our destiny to hold up our values of peace and justice, and to live them in our own

Nation, and to nourish them abroad through following international law?

It is a critical moment for America, Mr. Speaker. This Congress must stand up. We must not just set aside the escalation, we must set aside the occupation. We must not simply challenge this President and his buildup to war in Iran. We must let this President know that any action he takes against Iran will have constitutional consequences.

We are at a moment when we need to defend our Constitution. We need to stand up for the American way, which is not the way of war. It is not the way of aggressive war. It is not the way of preemption, unilateralism and first strike.

Mr. Speaker, it is really time for America to take a new direction in the world, and that direction is to work with the nations of the world.

I put forth a 12-point plan for Iraq. It called for America to announce the end of the occupation, the closing of the bases, withdrawal of our troops. But we cannot do that unless, simultaneously, we let the nations of the world know that we are going to take a new direction in world affairs. We need to ask the world community to help us, to mobilize a peacekeeping and security force that will move in as our troops move out so that the people of Iraq can be secure. When we do that we can build a basis for a reconciliation in Iraq between the Kurds, the Shiites, the Sunnis. When we do that we can have a legitimate program for reconstruction and reparations for the Iraqi people. We can help safeguard their oil wealth for the people of Iraq, not for private American oil companies.

Iraq should be a turning point for this Nation. It should be a turning point away from war as an instrument of policy. It should be a turning point where we address the needs of the people of the United States, the real human needs, for health care, education and jobs. And that is what my 12-point program leads to.

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.)

CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY AND PUBLIC HOLIDAY FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased that I got an opportunity to listen to the statement from the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH), who just made what I would consider to be one of the most common

sense, passionate and eloquent statements about where America ought to be and what its position should be vis-a-vis the rest of the world. And so I want to thank you so much, Mr. KUCINICH, for having had the opportunity to just hear the statement that you have just made.

Mr. Speaker, like many others, I spent much of the weekend talking about the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King and what he meant to America. And earlier today, we had a resolution, bill on the floor, celebrating the birthday and public holiday for Martin Luther King, Jr.

One of the young staffers in Government Reform and Oversight had written a statement that I was supposed to have read at that time because I was supposed to have managed that bill, but I was not here. But I was so impressed by the statement that this young person had written that I decided that I would come and share it with the rest of America anyway.

And so he wrote, Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Nation celebrated the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the impact he made on our society. His nonviolent struggle for freedom, dignity and equality of all races broke down longstanding barriers which denied equal opportunity to all Americans. Although we still have a long march ahead toward Dr. King's dream of peace and impartiality, his work inspired many to work for a world that respects and celebrates diversity.

Born January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. King stood out as a student and entered into the Christian ministry. There he responded to racial prejudices and injustices that surrounded him when Rosa Parks refused to relinquish her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus. Dr. King was elected to the Montgomery Improvement Association and led the bus boycott that ensued. Later, King would organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which provided him a platform to become a more influential leader in the civil rights movement.

He continued to advocate civil disobedience, despite the fact that fire hoses and attack dogs were turned on him and fellow protesters in Birmingham. He spearheaded the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963. The March on Washington brought more than 200,000 people to the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and demanded the elimination of racial segregation in public schools, protection for demonstrators against police brutality and self-government for the District of Columbia. This march also included Dr. King's now famous, "I Have a Dream" speech, which became a profound turning point in the American conscience.

In 1964, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, and continued to lead the civil rights movement. His interests broadened from civil rights to include criticism of the Vietnam war and the plight of the impoverished.

□ 1945

His plan for another march to Washington meant for underprivileged Americans was cut short when he was shot and killed on April 4, 1968. As we commemorate his life and work, we should apply the lessons he demonstrated in the context of current world events. His nonviolent approach to constructive change and his firm stance of fairness are leadership qualities that Washington and the world must remember and emulate.

As we face issues of national importance day in and out in this Chamber, we must bear in mind the example that Dr. King set in the hope that one day, as he said, the leaders of the world will sit down at the conference table and realize that unless mankind puts an end to war, war would put an end to all of us.

I think that is exactly what Mr. KUCINICH was saying a moment ago.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you again for the opportunity to have addressed the House this evening, and I thank my young colleague for having written such an eloquent statement.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IN REMEMBRANCE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MILTON H. MEDENBACH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SESTAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I wish to honor a proud American and because it is my sad duty to announce the loss of Lieutenant General Milton H. Medenbach, superintendent emeritus of Valley Forge Academy in Wayne, Pennsylvania, who died this morning, January 16, 2007.

Lieutenant General Medenbach turned 99 on December 31, 2006, and had been a member of the Valley Forge Military Academy & College faculty and staff since the fall of 1932. General Medenbach is a 1929 graduate of the Johns Hopkins University, where he was commissioned a secretary lieutenant, infantry (TANKS).

He also attended the University of Marburg in Germany and was a student of military government at the University of Virginia and Yale University during his active military service. He held a doctorate from Gettysburg College.

Upon the completion of his fellowship at the School of Diplomatic Service of the Austrian Foreign Office in Vienna, Austria, in 1932, he came home and joined the Valley Forge faculty as an instructor in the Foreign Language Department and as a tactical officer in

the Commandant of Cadets Department.

On leave from Valley Forge during World War II, General Medenbach served as Secretary of the General staff of the Army Air Corps Tactical Training Command and the Air Corps Training Command and later, in North Africa, Italy, France, Germany and Austria as a military government planner and officer under Field Marshal Alexander and General Eisenhower.

Following active duty, General Medenbach returned to Valley Forge and served in the Pennsylvania National Guard. His many decorations included the Legion of Merit, the European Service Ribbon with two battle stars, the American Defense Ribbon, the Meritorious Service Unit Award, and the Pennsylvania State Guard Reserve Distinguished Service Ribbon. He was also listed in Who's Who in America.

During his Valley Forge service, General Medenbach served in or assisted in the establishment of practically every department of the institution as an associate of the founder, Lieutenant General Milton G. Baker. He held the post of adjutant and chief of staff, as well as deputy superintendent, and served for more than 30 years as the commandant of cadets.

He became the president on the retirement of General Baker and retired as superintendent emeritus in 1971. More recently, he served the school as volunteer historian and archivist and as the vice president and secretary of the Chapel Foundation Board of Directors.

During the many years of his long service, General Medenbach was the driving force in establishing the high standards of character, personal discipline, drill, ceremonies, and individual fitness that have been the hallmarks of military excellence at Valley Forge.

It is with great sadness that we mourn his passing, and our thoughts and prayers go out to his family at this time, as we thank him for his service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA 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 New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York 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 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 the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE BLUE DOG COALITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, this evening, on behalf of the 44 member strong fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog coalition, I rise to spend an hour this evening talking with you and Members of this body about the Blue Dog Coalition's desire to restore fiscal discipline and common sense to our national government.

Over the next hour, we plan as members of the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog coalition to talk on this floor about the Blue Dog Coalition's 12-point plan for budget reform. We plan to discuss our accountability measures, because we believe it is time to restore accountability, fiscal discipline, and common sense to our national government.

Before I begin the formal presentation this evening, and will be joined by other members of the Blue Dog Coalition, I would like to take a moment to recognize Sergeant Marcus Wilson. Sergeant Wilson grew up in Dermott, Arkansas, in southeast Arkansas, in our congressional district back home.

This afternoon I had the honor to go to Walter Reed Army Hospital where I was able to sit down and visit with Sergeant Wilson and his wife and his son and thank him for his service to our country. He is there because of injuries suffered in Iraq.

Before that he served in Afghanistan. All of us have different ideas about what we should be doing with this post-war Iraq policy. But one of the things that I believe is absolutely critical and important is that as Members of this Congress, and as American citizens, that we remain united in support of our men and women in uniform. This evening I pay tribute to Sergeant Marcus Wilson of Dermott, Arkansas, and thank him for his service to our country and pray for him as he recovers from injuries he suffered in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I wish you could have been with me there this afternoon in conversations with Sergeant Wilson because he makes all Americans proud with his attitude, his attitude of perseverance, his attitude of service to our country as a soldier in the United States Marines. Again, I pay tribute and salute Sergeant Wilson.

Mr. Speaker, on this day my brother-in-law leaves to go to Kyrgyzstan,

which is the entry point for Afghanistan, much like Kuwait is the entry point for Iraq, for his second mission there. I hope that all of us will keep him and all our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and elsewhere across this globe in our hearts and in our prayers.

Mr. Speaker, the underlying purpose of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition is to demand a balanced budget in this country. Mr. Speaker, it was not too long ago from 1998 through 2001 that we had a President named Bill Clinton, from my native State, from my home State, who gave us a balanced budget.

One of the ways he did that was with PAYGO rules in place on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, rules that the Republican leadership threw out after they took control of the House and Senate and the White House in 2001, the beginning of the 107th Congress.

What we have witnessed over the past 6 years has been absolutely staggering, if not startling. We have seen the largest deficit year after year after year until we have accumulated the largest debt ever in our Nation's history.

As members of the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition, we are committed through our 12-point plan for budget reform and through our accountability package to restore fiscal discipline to our Nation's government.

As we begin this evening, today the U.S. national debt is \$8,701,316,295,722.43. We ran out of room. For every man, woman and child in America, their share, your share of the national debt, \$29,035.60, what we refer to as the debt tax, d-e-b-t, which is one tax that cannot be repealed, cannot be cut until we go away and get our Nation's fiscal house in order.

If this is not startling enough, what's even more alarming is the fact that our Nation is borrowing about \$1 billion a day. On top of that, we are spending about half a billion every day paying interest on the debt we have already got before it increases by another \$1 billion a day. It is important that we get our fiscal house in order, that we return to the days of a balanced budget, that we restore fiscal discipline to our national government, because it is about priorities.

Many of America's priorities, honoring our soldiers, giving them the resources they need to get the job done, honoring our veterans and providing them the services that they were promised and so desperately need, especially with this new generation of veterans coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan and other parts of the world, the priorities in education, and so many other areas that are going unmet, half a billion dollars a day is not going to those priorities, they are going to simply pay interest on the debt we already got before it increases another \$1 billion just about every single day.

We want to do something about this. We want to effect change. We are sick

and tired of all of the partisan bickering that goes on in our Nation's capital. As members of the Blue Dog Coalition we don't care whether it is a Democrat or Republican idea. We ask ourselves if it is a commonsense idea and does it make sense to the people who sent us here to be their voice.

We have pushed, for 6 years we have asked the Republican leadership to reinstitute the PAYGO rules on the floor of this House, and for 6 years they turned a deaf ear to us. We are really proud that this new leadership, the Democratic leadership, has listened to the Blue Dog Coalition. In the first 24 hours of the 110th session of Congress, we saw the new Democratic leadership on this floor institute rules that reinstated PAYGO, which is the first step in returning to a balanced budget and putting an end to deficit spending.

This evening, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be joined by a former cochair of the Blue Dog coalition, a real leader within our group from the State of California (Mr. CARDOZA). At this time I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA).

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Arkansas for his leadership on the Blue Dog Coalition. I know you are talking tonight about the Blue Dog 12-point plan for fiscal responsibility. I am just so grateful to the gentleman from Arkansas for all his work on this.

I want to report to the House and to the country and to all of my colleagues in the Blue Dog Coalition that today in the Rules Committee for the first time we dealt with some issues. Actually, the PAYGO discussion came up, since our Speaker and the House reinstated PAYGO and the Democrats took over the Congress. In fact, today, we are going to be in just a few minutes having a reportable rule that will talk about the reduction and the interest rates that Americans will be soon paying on student loans.

In that discussion, it was ironic, because in the opening session where we debated the PAYGO rules, the Republican Members of Congress, or a number of them, criticized the Democrats saying we were not doing real PAYGO. Today in the Rules Committee, when the PAYGO rules in fact capped some of what we would like to do, we will not be able to do everything we want to do for student loans right out of the chute, but we will do a significant amount; but we did it under the PAYGO rules and we are doing what we can do under the PAYGO rules.

There was criticism that we weren't doing enough, that we should have done more, and we really didn't need to pay for it. We live by the spirit and the letter of the law of the PAYGO rules that we put in place on day one. In fact, we will have a good bill tomorrow that will limit the PAYGO rules. So it is ironic on day one they were criticizing us that we were not going to do real PAYGO. Then we live by the spirit and the letter of the law and they criti-

cize us that we should have done more and not pay for it.

□ 2000

So, Mr. Speaker, I just came down here to point out that irony; to talk about how effective the PAYGO rules are that are already being put in place and how I think it is a tremendous testament to the work of all the Blue Dogs in the coalition that we have made this impact on the Congress, and we will continue to do so.

I yield back to my colleague from Arkansas, and thank him again for his work.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for joining us this evening as a member of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition to talk about the need to restore common sense and fiscal discipline and accountability to our Nation's government.

On the accountability front, Mr. Speaker, under the United States Constitution Congress has an obligation to provide Congressional oversight of the executive branch. Congressional oversight prevents waste and fraud, it ensures executive compliance with the law and evaluates executive performance.

What we saw, Mr. Speaker, for the last 6 years is a Congress that failed to uphold its constitutional duty to provide oversight of the administration. Rather, what we saw was a Congress that provided a rubber stamp.

The 110th Congress will be different. We will uphold the Constitution of the United States of America and we will provide oversight of the executive branch, as the founders of this country wrote into our Constitution. The reason we are doing that is because when Congress does not do that, it abandons its responsibility by failing to conduct meaningful investigations of allegations of serious waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement of taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for this Congress to hold this administration and the Pentagon accountable for how your tax money is being spent in Iraq. Let me be clear about it: As long as we have soldiers in harm's way, we will support our men and women in uniform. As I mentioned earlier, my brother-in-law is in the U.S. Air Force, and today is headed from Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, Washington, to Kurdistan, where he will be serving for the next few months, if not the first year. My first cousin is in the U.S. Army. His wife gave birth to their first child while he was in Iraq.

This war has impacted all of us across this country in one way or another. I have had 3,000 National Guard soldiers, brave soldiers from Arkansas, spend more than a year in Iraq. I emailed today with a soldier from my district in Iraq. Make no mistake about it, as long as we have men and women in uniform in harm's way, we will support them and ensure that they receive the resources they need to get the job done.

But that should never be confused with holding the administration, the Pentagon and the Department of Defense, accountable for how this money is being spent. We are sending some \$9 billion a month, with a B, of your tax money to Iraq. The last report I got, it was some \$57 million a day to Afghanistan. It is time that this Congress held this administration and the Department of Defense accountable for how it is spending your tax money in Iraq, Afghanistan and other parts of the world.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, it is time that we hold this new Iraqi government accountable. They must be accountable for their actions. If we are going to put soldiers in harm's way, if we are going to have soldiers dying and becoming injured and returning home without arms and legs and with other injuries that forever change their life, it is time we hold this new Iraqi government accountable for what they are doing or not doing in Iraq.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it is important, it is absolutely critical, that we stop this nonsense of passing supplemental after supplemental in funding for the Iraq war when we know that this is a long-term deal. It is time for the President to quit playing games with the American people, to stop this nonsense of passing supplements. It is my understanding he is going to ask for billions more in a supplemental just days, if not weeks, before the budget comes out for fiscal year 2008. It is time to make the cost of Iraq and Afghanistan clear to the American people, provide a level of transparency, and include it in the budget.

This is what we are talking about when we are talking about restoring accountability to our national government. Once we demand accountability we will see these deficits begin to disappear.

When I was a small child growing up, I always heard it was the Democrats that tax and spend, and yet I come to Congress and we have got for 6 years a Congress that is controlled by Republicans in the House, the Senate and the White House, a country controlled by the Republicans, and what do they give us? They gave us the largest deficit ever in our Nation's history, year after year after year, in fact, the largest deficit ever. \$413 billion in hot checks occurred in 2004; in 2003, it was \$378 billion in hot checks; in 2005, \$318 billion; in 2006, \$296 billion in hot checks.

It is time to restore fiscal discipline to our Nation's government. It is time for this government to have a balanced budget once again, because where is this money coming from? It is not only coming from taxpayers, but we are spending more than we are taking in. It is coming from foreign central banks and foreign investors. In fact, this administration has borrowed more money in 6 years from foreigners than the previous 42 Presidents combined.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be joined this evening for this discussion

by the cochair of the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition, the gentleman from Florida, Mr. BOYD.

Mr. BOYD of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend Mr. ROSS from Arkansas for leading this discussion.

Mr. Speaker, for 10 years now I have been in the Congress, and for all of those years, and specifically the last 6 years, the Blue Dogs have been taking to this very floor almost on a weekly basis to discuss this issue of deficit spending. For those last 6 years, the Blue Dogs, as Democrats, have been in the minority party and able to do little about the deficit spending in terms of the final legislation that was passed. But things have changed now, Mr. Speaker, and I am not sure that the country realizes how tough this job is going to be.

We have created a horrible fiscal mess over the last 6 years, which has been described by my friend from Arkansas, Mr. ROSS, with the deficit spending. Many of the decisions that have been made on this House floor and in the Senate in the last 6 years it seems like were without regard to the long-term economic health of the country and deficit spending.

So I think the task before us is a task that is going to be very, very difficult, and it is going to affect all aspects of what we do here in the next few months as we begin to try to develop a budget and then a spending plan, an appropriations plan, for how this country will organize itself and perform the functions that should be performed as a government.

We know what those are: National security, transportation, education, environmental protection. We have a farm bill coming up that has to be reauthorized this coming year. All of those items are going to run right head on into the red ink that has been displayed here and talked about by Mr. ROSS.

There are going to have to be some very, very tough decisions made. It is not going to be easy. There is going to be a lot of sacrifice on the part of the American people, just like we did in the nineties when we found ourselves in a similar situation. So, I just want to tell the American people, viewers, our listeners tonight, that it is going to be tough and it is not going to be easy.

The first thing we need to do, obviously, as Mr. ROSS talked about, is make sure that the dollars that we take from the American people to fund the programs that we need are spent wisely and they are accounted for and they are not wasted. He has talked a lot about that, particularly in terms of the Iraq war situation.

We have to put in place accountability standards. But we also have to put in place some tools that we can use to get us into balance in the long run. It is not going to be easy. Many of the things that we want to do, that we are interested in, such as the farm bill,

such as education spending, such as environmental protection, that we have neglected over the last 3 to 4 years and that we need to deal with are going to run directly into conflict with these issues.

So I think it behooves us to remind the American people that it is going to be a tough, tough task, but it is one that in terms of the long-term health of this country is extremely critical. It is critical that we don't spend more than we take in.

I remember when I first came here I attended a press conference with some folks who were advocating a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. A Member of this House showed up who I wouldn't have expected would have been at such a press conference, because he was what we might consider a little bit on the left side of the political spectrum. When I asked him later on why he was there, he said, "Listen, Allen; unless we get our spending, our deficit spending under control, we don't have money to spend on the priorities that I want to spend them on, education, environmental protection, health care and those issues that make America such a great country."

So I think that is important to remember and remind our listeners that we are spending a huge percentage, maybe in excess of 15 percent, of every dollar, every tax dollar that we take in, on interest to service the Federal debt that we are carrying, a debt that is approaching, as we have been shown here tonight, \$9 trillion. We have to get that number under control. We have to stop the increase in that number.

That is the first step, stop digging, stop making that number bigger. Let's figure out how to balance an annual budget. We know we can't do that in one or two years. It may take a 5-year plan, a 3-year plan or maybe even a 7-year plan. If we get our heads together and work across the aisle in a bipartisan way, and we have a divided government now, we can do that. We can work together, just like we did in 1997 when we stopped the bleeding, so-to-speak.

So, I am here to support my friend from Arkansas, Mr. ROSS, in his leading of this discussion, and thank him for his leadership on this issue, and remind my constituents back home and the American people that this is not going to be easy. This is going to come in conflict with many of the things that we feel like we need to do as a country. But it is critically important for the long-term economic health of this country that we do stop this deficit spending, and I am proud to be a part of the Blue Dog Coalition, which has advocated this for so long.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida, a real leader in the fiscally conservative movement, cochair for administration in the Blue Dog Coalition, for his insight this evening.

Mr. Speaker, if you have any comments, questions or concerns for us,

you can e-mail us at bluedog@mail.house.gov. That is bluedog@mail.house.gov.

Mr. Speaker, we are often asked how we got the name Blue Dog Coalition if we are just simply a group of fiscally conservative to moderate Democrats. Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, ironically, after the Republicans took control of Congress in 1994, we were a group, which I wasn't yet a part of, I came here in 2000, but the conservative-moderate movement in this Congress was a group of Democrats that, you have heard the phrase "yellow dog Democrat," well, the Democrats to our left were choking us blue and the Republicans to our right were choking us blue, and we found ourselves in the middle, which is where we believe America is and where we are trying to bring our country, or at least our Congress as we try to restore fiscal discipline to our national government.

But on this accountability measure, if you think with me, Mr. Speaker, no business in our country could succeed financially if it failed to fully report to its shareholders on how it is spending its money. However, that is exactly how our Federal Government has been operating for the past 6 years. This administration is not telling its shareholders, the American taxpayers, how it spends the money coming into our Nation's capital.

In 2004, \$25 billion of Federal Government spending went absolutely unaccounted for, according to the Treasury Department.

□ 2015

The Bush administration was unable to determine where the money had gone, how it was spent or what the American people got for their tax money. Even worse, the Republican-controlled Congress at the time failed to hold the executive branch accountable for this omission. Again, a rubber-stamp Congress year after year. The 107th Congress, a rubber-stamp Congress; the 108th Congress, a rubber-stamp Congress; the 109th Congress, a rubber-stamp Congress; the 110th Congress, no more rubber-stamp Congress.

You are going to see a Congress that upholds its constitutional duty given to it in the Constitution of the United States of America to provide oversight. That does not mean go on witch hunts. It means do our job that we have been elected to do in providing oversight and accountability on how the American people's tax money is spent.

In fact, in 2005, the General Accountability Office reported that 18 of 24 major Federal agencies had such bad financial systems that they do not even know the true cost of running some of their programs. Yet the Republican-controlled Congress at the time did not force these agencies to fully account for how money was being spent before doling out billions more of your tax money, Mr. Speaker, to the same programs.

Clearly, Congress year after year has failed to ask the serious questions

about the Bush administration's fiscal irresponsibility and record-high deficits 4 years in a row and have now pushed the Federal debt to nearly \$9 trillion.

The time has come to hold this administration accountable for its reckless behavior here at home, as well as in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other parts of the world. You are going to see this 110th Congress do that under the leadership of the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition.

I believe Congress must act now to renew its constitutional responsibility to serve as a check and balance for overspending, waste, fraud and financial abuse within the executive branch. Wasteful government spending has forced the national debt to its current record level; and future generations, our children and grandchildren, have to pay that bill. Future generations will have to pay back with interest the money the Federal Government is borrowing from other countries due to this administration's fiscal recklessness.

The time has come to restore commonsense and fiscal discipline to our Nation's government. As members of the Blue Dog Coalition, we have a plan to restore accountability to our government and we have a 12-point plan for budget reform.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I yield to a new Blue Puppy, if you will, a new member of the Blue Dog Coalition from Ohio (Mr. WILSON).

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to point out some of the issues why I believe I was elected by the people in Ohio to come to Congress to help with the deficit spending and the problems that we have.

How we have gone from a surplus in 6 years to a record deficit under this administration, I believe that is why we had the turnout at the polls that we had this year.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the American people are concerned. They are worried about the amount of money that is being spent on interest, on the money we owe on this deficit. They are concerned about the money that is being taken away from the education of our children. They are concerned about the money that is taken away from the health care of our families because of the interest that is paid on this debt.

It is just irresponsible; and at this point, Mr. Speaker, every man, woman, and child in this country owes \$29,000 in this deficit budget that we have, or lack of budget that we have.

There has to be a change, and I truly believe that is what the people in America said all across America when they changed the face of Congress. It is now that we need to be responsible for what is going on.

I believe that by being a member of the Blue Dogs that I have the honor of being one of the frontrunners in asking for fiscal responsibility and demanding that we know what we are buying before we go forward and we know what we are paying for and that we use

PAYGO in such a way that we do not start buying new things until we figure out how we are going to pay for them.

I believe that is one of the pledges that I and many of the new Congressmen that have come to this body made to the people that we dealt with on the campaign trail on a regular basis. We are concerned about what is going on.

It concerns me, Mr. Speaker, that people in this administration have said there is nothing to be concerned about with the deficit, that what has been spent, it will take care of itself. I believe that all of us know that that is not really how it works.

I know myself, as a small businessman, I have to be concerned that my spending does not overcome my income, and I realize the government has to live within those same means. We have to be sure that what we are doing is the right thing for the people in America, and even though it has been reckless and we find ourselves in a difficult situation, it starts with this 110th Congress, that we move forward to try to do responsible things for the people in America.

I believe that starts with thinking about what money could be directed to the education of our children. I cannot stress enough the fact of the money that is being taken away from programs that will improve people's lives in America because of the debt we have. For that reason, we feel that fiscal responsibility is a major thrust of this 110th Congress, and we believe that the Blue Dog Coalition is one of the leaders in what is going to happen in the future.

This is the difference, Mr. Speaker, that we make sure that new bills are going to fit the budget of what we have. We are not going to just be radical in spending money and not caring about what is in the future and what we need to do.

I am happy, Mr. Speaker, to be part of this Blue Dog Coalition and to be a new Member of Congress to try to bring about fiscal responsibility, and I look forward to working with the other 43 members of the Blue Dog Coalition to bring about this result.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio, and we welcome him to the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition and appreciate his commitment to restoring accountability, commonsense, and fiscal discipline to our national government.

A lot of times when people think of conservative Democrats, they think of the South; and you will find with the Blue Dog Coalition that we come from every region of the country, Arkansas, Ohio, Long Island, Burbank, Florida, California, and everywhere in between, and we share a common value, and that is, to be responsible stewards of the tax money that is sent to this capital and to ensure that we leave this country just a little bit better than we found it for our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, what brings us here this evening is, as this poster demonstrates,

the national debt, \$8,701,316,295,722 and some change. Again, you divide that number by every man, woman and child in America, everyone's share of the national debt is \$29,035. A lot of money, a number we need to pay down by going back to the days of a balanced budget, as we had in this country from 1998 through 2001.

Mr. Speaker, as you walk the Halls of Congress, it is easy to detect when you are walking by the office of a Blue Dog member because you will see this poster as a welcome mat by their door to constantly remind Members of Congress and the American people of the national debt. This number, unfortunately, not only changes daily but will go up some \$40 million during the hour that we are on the floor this evening discussing this crisis.

Mr. BOYD of Florida. Mr. Speaker, would the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROSS. I would yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. BOYD of Florida. Mr. Speaker, would the gentleman tell our viewers what that number was 6 years ago when the administration changed, when the new administration came in in 2001.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I guess a good way of putting that was the total national debt, not just 6 years ago, but the total national debt from 1789 to 2000 was \$5.67 trillion. Today, it is approaching \$9 trillion; and by 2010, it is estimated to total more than 10 and approaching \$11 trillion. Put it another way, it is doubling, a doubling of the 211-year debt in the past 6 years.

The reason the debt should matter, Mr. Speaker, is because interest payments on this debt are one of the fastest growing parts of the Federal budget, which means less money for education, less money for veterans benefits, less money for health care, less money for roads, and on and on and on.

So deficits do matter. Deficits reduce economic growth. They burden our children and grandchildren with liabilities. They increase our reliance on foreign lenders who now own a sobering 40 percent of our debt.

I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. BOYD of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and that is the point. Over the last 6 years, we have increased that national debt by over \$3 trillion. That is the tune of about a half a trillion dollars, \$500 billion per year. That is after we include all of the surpluses that we might collect in the Social Security trust fund or any other Federal employee retirement trust fund, such as our military retirees.

So we have a very serious problem that we have got to deal with. I mean, most of us who have been in business understand that you cannot continually deficit-spend year after year after year without damaging your businesses. Eventually, your banker pulls the plug on you.

The gentleman made reference to the fact that we are borrowing this money

in some nontraditional places, if you will. The bulk of this money is coming from foreign countries such as China and Japan. The bulk of that money has been borrowed from those countries over the last several years, and we think that creates a long-term national security issue.

Mr. ROSS. The gentleman makes an excellent point. In fact, I have a list here. I guess it is like David Letterman's top 10 list. It is the top 10 current lenders. These are the countries that the United States of America are borrowing money from, and for the past 6 years, we have literally gone out and borrowed money from foreign central banks, foreign investors to give folks in this country earning over \$400,000 a year a tax cut and leaving our children and grandchildren to foot the bill to pay back these foreigners, if you will.

But the top 10 current lenders are Japan, \$640 billion; China, \$321.4 billion; United Kingdom, \$179.5 billion; OPEC, imagine that one, \$98 billion. The United States of America has borrowed from OPEC to run our government. It is time we learned to live within our means again. Korea, \$72.4 billion; Taiwan, \$68.9 billion; Caribbean banking centers, \$61.7 billion; Hong Kong, \$46.6 billion; Germany, \$46.5 billion. And are you ready for this? Mexico. Mexico, our Nation has borrowed \$40.1 billion from Mexico to fund this reckless spending that we have seen in this Chamber and in this government in the past 6 years.

Mr. Speaker, I can assure you, this is every bit as critical to our national security as anything else we have got facing us today because it is a threat to our Nation. It is a threat to our Nation for us to owe this kind of money to so many foreign countries and their central banks and their investors.

I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. BOYD of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I think the point is not lost on many of us that we are the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth. We have the greatest economy on the face of the Earth. This is a country that, with 5 percent of the world's population, Mr. Speaker, that is one out of every 20 people that exist on the Earth live in the U.S., we control 25 percent of the world's wealth.

So when we have to go borrow money, certainly the countries that may have surpluses, they want to lend it to us, but when they see a country that deficit-spends year after year after year, and I suppose we have been spending in the red now for six consecutive years, at some point in time, they as lenders will begin to question the long-term health of our economy.

I am not a pessimist, Mr. Speaker. I believe that we have the greatest economic model in the world in this country, and I think the American people will make the adjustments as time goes on.

□ 2030

I think the first adjustment was made back on November 7 in which the American people said we want a divided government, we want a more accountable government. We think the way we can have that is to have both parties working side by side in Washington with equal power.

So the gentleman with his charts, I hope that the viewers will study those and understand them because they are very important charts. And if you were on the board of directors running a business whose management brought you a chart like this, it would be somewhat scary and you would know that there would have to be corrective action taken, and taken quickly.

Mr. ROSS. I thank the gentleman from Florida. As you can see, in 2000 we had a surplus, in 2001 we had a surplus, and then in 2002 you can see what happened. And the purple demonstrates that we have been in the red, deficit spending year after year after year, record deficit after record deficit.

I think it is important to note that what we are trying to do here is set the stage, explain the mess we are in, and we are not here to simply criticize the Republican leadership of the past 6 years; we are here to offer up commonsense solutions to fix this mess. I think the American people want us to fix it.

As members of the Blue Dog Coalition we have tried to spend the last half hour framing how we have gotten to where we are, because a lot of people remember when we did have a balanced budget in this country. We want to get back to those days, and the way we believe we can do it is through the Blue Dog Coalition's 12-point plan for budget reform.

Point number one is require a balanced budget. Blue Dogs support a constitutional amendment to require a balanced budget every year except in times of war or national emergency. We believe a balanced budget amendment is the only way to ensure fiscal discipline in Congress. Forty-nine States require a balanced budget. Holly Ross requires a balanced budget. And I don't believe it is asking too much and I believe the American people expect it from us to provide them a balanced budget with their tax money and how we run our government here in these United States of America.

Mr. BOYD of Florida. If the gentleman would yield. When you said 49 States require that, many of them constitutionally, I was in the State legislature in Florida and under the constitution you could not deficit spend. And I think that is the point that my friend Mr. Ross from Arkansas is making, is that we don't seem to have the will to get a balanced budget without putting in place a constitutional amendment, and that is why many of us have supported that. As a matter of fact, I know when I first came to the House after the 1996 election, we had many votes on a balanced budget amendment that we took, but those votes stopped after January 2001.

We really need to consider a balanced budget amendment, and I think it is something that you obviously have to understand that if you get a national emergency situation you have triggers to override it that can be done. But all that can be worked out constitutionally if you are willing to abide by fiscal responsibility.

There are 12 points to this plan that the Blue Dogs have adopted and advanced to the Congress for its consideration. The second item after the balanced budget requirement is don't let Congress buy on credit. Don't let Congress buy on credit. In other words, if we are going to have a new spending program, then you have got to find a place to pay for it. And the good news is that we have made great strides in the last 2 weeks since Congress reconvened after the election and put in place a PAYGO rule in the House rules package, and we have a promise from the leadership of this House of Representatives that they will consider and put up for a vote a PAYGO statute. That would be a critical part to putting us back on the road to fiscal responsibility.

Mr. ROSS. If the gentleman would yield. When we talk about PAYGO rules, that is an acronym used on the floor of Congress; but to a lot of the folks of America they probably ask, what is this PAYGO business? It means pay-as-you-go. It was the policy that was in place in this Chamber when we saw the first balanced budget in 40 years, and it went out the window with the Republican leadership of 2001 and we have seen record deficit after record deficit since then. And for 6 years we begged the Republican leadership to listen to us conservative Democrats and work with us to reinstitute this PAYGO rule, and for 6 years it fell on deaf ears. And I am very pleased that one of these 12 points for budget reform, in fact a couple of them, have now been implemented as a policy in the rules of this House under the new Democratic leadership, and I want to thank them for not only listening to us but heeding our call and doing it in the first 24 hours of the 110th Session of Congress under the Democratic leadership, which demonstrates that our message is getting out. People are identifying with our message of restoring fiscal discipline to our national government.

But many folks on the Republican side still don't get it, Mr. Speaker. I will never forget when we were down here debating the PAYGO rule, and PAYGO means pay-as-you-go; it means if you have got some new idea for a new program, you have got to show us. And I watched Member after Member on the Republican side get up and say that it is nothing more than a disguise for a tax increase, because if you are going to have new spending, you have got to have more money. They don't get it. They are the party that used to believe in cutting spending, and now they think the only way to pay for a

program is raising taxes. Not so, Mr. Speaker. We are talking about paying for programs, paying for ideas that are good for the American people by cutting other programs, cutting the waste out of government.

People say, well, there is really waste in the government? Yes, sir, Mr. Speaker. I have got \$400 million worth of waste sitting in a cow pasture at the Hope Airport in Hope, AR, in some 8,000 brand-new, fully furnished, manufactured homes that FEMA ordered for Hurricane Katrina victims that never got to those victims. They still are sitting there in a hay meadow at the airport in Hope, AR. That is just one of many examples of waste. That is a \$400 million example. It is a symbol of what is wrong with FEMA and what is wrong with this administration.

I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WILSON).

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond also to some of the things that both of these gentlemen have been saying, and that is in regard to putting a lid on the spending that is going on in our country today.

In 2001 through 2003, our spending just soared. And from that point the Blue Dogs have been saying that we need some spending caps, we need to be able to evaluate what we are spending on various programs.

The Blue Dogs feel that the purpose of holding the line on discretionary spending is where we need to go with fiscal responsibility. We feel, Mr. Speaker, that our budget needs to be held in place. And as was said earlier, 49 of our 50 States have budgets that they operate by. And I can only tell you from the State of Ohio, that we had a budget, and we even had a budget surplus, which was a savings account that we could use when there was a special need that came up in our State.

And that is the kind of plan I would like to see us do in Congress as well, is to not only stop the runaway spending, put the lids on spending, but then also create a mechanism where we would have a safety valve if a special need came up that we needed to be able to do for the people by having a type of savings account that we could use, and that would be something that I think would be very much in order.

Also, if I may, Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention about the auditing of the various programs that we have in the government. It just makes good sense to know how they are doing, and if they are not doing well we need to hold people responsible for that. That is part of the Blue Dog Coalition approach, is to how we can audit and test where we are doing well and where we are not, and certainly to limit our spending where we are not doing well. This is all part of the future and part of the fiscal responsibility that we need to be doing.

Mr. ROSS. The gentleman from Ohio is exactly right. In fact, that is point

number 4 in the Blue Dog's 12-point plan for budget reform: Require agencies to put their fiscal houses in order. Number 3 was put a lid on spending. Number 5: Make Congress tell taxpayers how much they are spending.

Mr. BOYD of Florida. I think the gentleman has ripped off the first four, and actually number 5 is have Congress tell taxpayers how much they are spending. That seems like a novel idea, that we would let the public know how much of their taxpayer dollars we are spending and when a bill comes to the floor how much it is going to cost, and that is a pretty simple thing to do. Many are the times in the years I have been here that a few bills have come sliding through the process without any debate and without any disclosure about how much they might cost, and Members are forced to vote up or down on that bill. So we think that transparency is a great tool. We think that if the sunshine can shine on something, that is the greatest purifier to have people understand what really is going on.

The sixth point of the 12-point plan by the Blue Dogs is one that Mr. WILSON already alluded to, and that is a rainy day fund, a contingency fund. Most businesses and most homes have a rainy day fund set aside so if there is some emergency like we have in this country on a regular basis, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, anything that is maybe unexpected that we might have to respond to as a nation, there should be a rainy day fund there to draw from. So that concludes the first six.

Mr. ROSS. I want to thank the gentleman from Florida for helping me go through the first 6 of our 12 points for budget reform that we believe can go a long way toward cleaning up this mess here in Washington. And next week, Mr. Speaker, we will be going through the other six points for budget reform. And the gentleman is right, a rainy day fund makes so much sense. No more of these supplementals, which is another word for skirting the budget and skirting the normal appropriations process. We are kidding ourselves if we don't believe there is going to be some kind of disaster or need for a rainy day fund in America every year. These are 6 of the 12 points that we believe can lay a foundation to return to the days of a balanced budget to restore fiscal discipline and accountability to our government.

A lot of people, Mr. Speaker, want to know, what is this Blue Dog Coalition? We are 44 members strong. But what exactly is the Blue Dog Coalition and what exactly do they stand for? And Mr. Speaker, if you have got any comments or concerns for us, you can e-mail us at BlueDog@mail.house.gov.

I am pleased to be joined this evening by a real leader of the Blue Dog Coalition from the State of Tennessee, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS, who in these closing few minutes is going to tell us exactly what the Blue Dog Coalition is all about and what we as fiscally conservative Democrats stand for.

I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. When we talk about different coalitions, obviously there are many in this particular Congress, probably some several hundred different caucuses that deal with health care, deal with many different issues. But the one caucus in this House that deals with fiscal responsibility and a strong national defense basically is the Blue Dog Coalition. And when the Blue Dogs were established, here is basically what they said:

We are dedicated to the financial stability and national security of the country, notwithstanding partisan political positions and personal fortunes and do hereby agree to organize a Coalition to serve the interests of our country;

That government has an important and constructive role to play in defining an equal opportunity society built upon principles of individual rights and freedom and dedicated to creating conditions that serve the general welfare and prosperity of the people;

That the people have entrusted the representatives of our country to transcend politics, personal careers and fortunes in order to pursue the common good;

That a government too large and intrusive stands in the way of an opportunity society;

That government must live within its allotted resources;

That the burden of the American taxpayer should be reduced whenever possible;

That government agencies are created to serve rather than to restrict, regulate, and punish the American people;

That government should encourage work over idleness, personal independence over government dependence, and a free market which is not controlled, dominated, and excessively regulated by the government;

□ 2045

That the American Tax Code should be simply structured and designed to create incentives for income earning, saving, and investments in jobs and in expanding opportunities;

That personal responsibility is essential to the preservation of freedom and that government must strictly hold accountable those who are victims of criminal and irresponsible behavior;

That government should be a force that affirms traditional American values and stands against the forces that threaten them;

That government should always be aware that it is a creature of the American public, that it answers to the public for its failures and successes and should never be so arrogant as to use its powers to diminish personal rights and freedoms guaranteed in the Constitution.

Sounds pretty ambitious, doesn't it? But in fact we hear those who serve in

this House Chamber. We hear those of different party persuasions talk about these particular ideas and how they have enacted those.

Let's talk about fiscal responsibility. I went back and did a little research. In the early 1990s, government was taking about 22.1 percent of gross domestic product in 1992 of the American worker's paycheck, of business paycheck. That is 22 percent-plus. For the next 8 years under the Clinton administration, we saw government reduce itself, or be reduced not by itself, let me correct that quickly. I have never seen government reduce itself, but we saw those in government, Democrats and Republicans, working together to reduce the spending in government to 18.5 percent of gross domestic product as of the 2001 budget area, in that 8-year period of time.

It has now climbed back up to where it is 20.8 percent, and that is gross domestic product. There has been more increase in spending in the last 6 years in the budgets of the United States than in any time in history other than the Great Society years of the Johnson administration.

The principles I just read are ashamed of that, and those of us who serve here who are Blue Dogs are ashamed to say that the code that we have established for those of us who serve as Members of Congress of the Blue Dog Coalition are ashamed of what has happened in the last 5 to 6 years. Deficits have skyrocketed. We have gone from \$5.8 trillion in national debt to where it is a little over \$8 trillion of national debt.

A lot of that has been because the 12 principles that we have and hopefully will be putting in place in this U.S. Congress in the next 2 years, had they been implemented and been in place, we would not have seen this outlandish spending, nor would we have seen the American taxpayer be obligated to the debt they have.

My chief of staff just had a newborn baby who he says cries a lot. I said, Beecher, have you explained to him, little Willis, that he just inherited \$29,035? That debt is going to be his to pay.

Mr. ROSS. I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for joining us for this Special Order as we talk about the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition's 12-point plan for meaningful budget reform, what we believe can lay a foundation to return us to the days of a balanced budget, to put an end to this reckless spending, to put an end to this deficit spending, and as we discuss our plan for accountability.

We are here to offer up commonsense solutions to many of the challenges facing this country today, Mr. Speaker. As I conclude, I would just remind you that the national debt as of today is \$8,701,316,295,722. And that debt during the past hour while we have been on the floor of this House has gone up by an estimated \$40 million. It is time to restore fiscal discipline to our national government.

TAX INCREASES PROJECTED UNDER DEMOCRATS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WILSON of Ohio). The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about and make the American people aware that we have 1,446 days counting down to the tax increase to the American people which will occur on January 1, 2011, if the new majority, the Democrats in Congress, don't act to extend the tax cuts that the Republicans put in place in 2001 and 2003.

So in 1,446 days, we will see that tax increase. The Democrats don't have to act, all they have to do is run out the clock. Run out the clock, and we will see a \$200 billion tax increase. It will be money taken out of American people's pockets between now and January 1, 2011, if they don't act.

Those tax cuts as I said were enacted in 2001 and 2003. And what we have seen is an expansion in our economy, a great expansion that continues to this day that has created over the last 4 years 7.2 million jobs. Just in the month of December, 167,000 jobs were created in this country. The unemployment rate is down to 4.6 percent. It is the lowest average we have seen in 4 decades, and that is directly attributable to the tax cuts that we passed in this Congress in 2001 and 2003.

Again, if we don't extend them, which I believe is the responsible thing to do so we see this economy continue to grow, we are going to take money right out of the pockets of the American taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, we will be debating tomorrow a tax increase. It has not taken longer than 20 days for the new Democratic majority to increase taxes. There will be a great debate here, and there are many in this country who think we should increase taxes on our oil companies. But it is the reduction in the tax on our oil companies that has allowed them to go out and look for new oil reserves to decrease our dependency. Yet the Democrats are, as I said, in less than 20 days, are going to put a bill on the floor that is going to increase taxes already on a segment of our economy. We will talk more about that later this evening.

If we don't extend those tax cuts that we put in place in 2001 and 2003, you are going to take money right out of the American taxpayers' pocket, anywhere from \$2,000 to \$4,000, right in that middle income of America. That is money that they can save to put away for their children's college. They can save to put a downpayment on a car, or buy a new washer and dryer. But the most important thing is if we take that money out of the American taxpayers' pockets, it will be some bureaucrat deciding how to spend that money, and not an American family.

We removed 10.6 million low-income Americans from paying taxes in this country all together. We need to make

sure that those people stay in that position, that they are not paying taxes when they are low income. We lowered the tax rates on small businesses and employers, the critical employers in our Nation that create the jobs.

I hope that those on the other side of the aisle, the Democrats, will take a lesson from history from one of their own. Jack Kennedy, President Kennedy decreased taxes in the 1960s. What happened, there was increased revenue to the Federal Government. President Kennedy in the 1960s did the right thing. As I said, the revenues to the United States Government increased.

Ronald Reagan did that in the 1980s, and revenue increased to the Federal Government. Once again, history repeats itself. In 2001 and 2003, we cut taxes and what has happened is the levels of revenue the government has received are at greater levels than ever before in our history. That is what happens when you cut taxes.

By raising taxes, all we will do is stifle economic growth in this country. We will take money out of our small businesses; we will take money away from the American taxpayer. Once again, this economy will stop growing. It will stop creating the jobs it has created over the last several years.

I know I am joined here tonight by one of my colleagues who is a former small business owner and a former Army Ranger.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, we both had the opportunities to pursue the American Dream, to start our own businesses and create jobs. I look back on the last time there was a large increase was in the administration that came in in 1993 that passed one of the largest tax increases in American history. What that meant to our business was less jobs, money that could have been reinvested and employed more people. The one thing we need to understand is that people know how to spend their money better than government does, to keep it in their local communities, to stimulate that local economy. And the tremendous increases in taxes just went to further Federal spending.

I think the thing that we have seen by policies that allowed people to keep more of their own money is we don't raise taxes, we create more taxpayers. One of the things that is lost in much of the political noise that has gone on over the course of the last year is that revenues from income taxes have been at the highest point in American history because the most jobs have been created by allowing people to keep more of their own money.

But in the aftermath of the last election, what most folks don't realize is that the average working-class family making between \$30,000 and \$50,000 a year has voted themselves a tax increase of over \$2,000 that will take place in 1,446 days unless Congress acts as a majority.

I invite members of the Blue Dog Coalition, those that are fiscal conservatives, to join together with us to ensure that those tax cuts stay in place.

I have my son, Geoffrey, sitting behind me tonight who is 8 years old. I ask myself what kind of a country will he have. Will he have the opportunity to pursue that American Dream, to create jobs, to create a future and pursue his desire? That is what this is all about ultimately, providing personal freedom and discretion with their income to make a difference.

We cut taxes in every walk of life. We encouraged families by eliminating the marriage penalty and we doubled the child tax credit so families with a large number of children would not be penalized, but made sure that they could make an investment in their children. We lowered tax rates for all Americans. We removed 10.6 million low-income earners from the tax rolls. To say that these tax cuts were simply for the rich was a myth because the person who benefited was the working family and small business owner who could put their dollars to work in their community to build a nest egg for themselves and ultimately to build a future.

And what did it do on average? It returned \$1,670 to the average taxpayer who took that money and spent it on personal needs or invested it, building a future for their children and their children's children.

One thing that I found interesting when the resolution on tomorrow's energy vote came in, and I think we come from areas that are strong in manufacturing in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, and Illinois. Energy security is one of the most important things that we are facing in the future of this Nation. We talk about it and we talk about initiatives that are going to create jobs coming from folks who have been in business. At the end of the day, what are we seeing, not only a tax increase in 1,446 days, but a tax increase on the American energy consumer that is coming by taxing domestic energy producers and pushing more business to Middle Eastern oil producers.

I have some comments on some legislation that we have been working on, but I yield back for your comments on this.

Mr. SHUSTER. I thank the gentleman. It is interesting to note, as we heard, that they are going to increase taxes in less than 20 days being in the majority. So it is going to be very interesting to see how many of our colleagues vote. I was interested to hear one of our new colleagues, Mr. WILSON, talk about change in America.

□ 2100

I don't disagree that the American people voted for change, but I don't believe that I heard anybody in my district that voted for me or against me, and I would be willing to wager that in Mr. WILSON's district in Ohio, a Southern conservative Ohio, that anybody there voted for a change to see our taxes go up.

I cannot wait to join with the Blue Dogs when I see what kind of budget they get an opportunity, if they get an opportunity to introduce a budget in this Congress. I know over the past 6 years that I have been in Congress the Blue Dogs have been able to introduce a budget. I voted for the Republican budget, but I think, and I hope we get an opportunity to vote for the Blue Dogs budget. If they get a chance in this new majority to offer one, I think their budget will be much more reasonable, much more fiscally responsible than the Democratic majority's budget. But once again, I don't believe the American people, at least any American I have spoken to, wants to see their taxes go up.

So once again, I would point out to those Americans that may be joining us here tonight, there are 1,446 days before there will be a \$200 billion tax increase imposed on the American people. And all that has to happen is that the Democrats have to run out the clock, and we will see many of those tax increases that my friend from Kentucky mentioned tonight, the child tax credit and those types of tax cuts we put in place that really will affect middle-class America if we don't act.

I would yield to the gentleman from Kentucky if he has a further comment.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Well, I think we need to put in real terms what is going to happen in 1,446 days, and that is a \$2,096 tax increase for every working family in America.

What does that translate into? For me, that translates into one semester of college tuition for my 21-year-old, who started student teaching this week. She is in her third year at Northern Kentucky University. And what does it hold for my son's future? What kind of opportunity is he going to have by restricting that annuity that could grow and remain strong in the future?

If we look at it in the bigger sense and talk about energy security in this tax that is coming, that is going to hit people in their bottom line, in the pocketbook and at the pump, one of the things we got to experience working together on the Armed Services Committee, we see much of the money that America sends to foreign oil producers is sent to unstable parts of the world. It is sent to areas like the Arabian Gulf that are a hotbed of extremism and instability.

We see what is happening in Venezuela right now, with a socialist dictator who has risen to power and threatening to nationalize the oil reserves and fundamentally to cut off America's gasoline supply. Fifteen percent of our gasoline comes from that part of the world.

The one thing that I want to comment on, from that standpoint, is we need to reduce our dependency on foreign oil, to keep more of our dollars here. And there are tremendous initiatives and opportunities that we have today that we could do to address this issue in many ways.

One of the things we have done in the Ohio Valley is to take advantage of the coal-to-liquid technology. It is a proven technology. South Africa produces 25 percent of their transportation fuel from coal. That is why we have introduced the Coal to Liquids Fuel Promotion Act of 2006. It is a bipartisan bill that I introduced with NICK RAHALL. He and I share the largest inland port in the United States, where the majority of America's coal is transited outward. Pennsylvania produces a tremendous amount of coal.

Think what we could do by decentralizing energy production, creating jobs here, and literally, as our floor leader, the majority leader in the Kentucky statehouse says, we could have another industrial revolution in the heartland of this country, creating millions of jobs, converting coal to liquids in an environmentally friendly manner, reducing our foreign oil dependency, stimulating jobs here, and giving our youth a future. And replicate that also with biomass, biodiesel, ethanol, and many other types of products.

And I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania to follow on.

Mr. SHUSTER. Well, that is absolutely as you mentioned. In Pennsylvania, in its coal fields, we need to unleash our companies in America, whether they are coal companies or companies developing biodiesel or ethanol or wind. And even our oil companies, we have to encourage them to go out there and to continue to look for new oil fields.

Tonight was a bit of a surprise, but very appropriate that we heard that the Rules Committee has put out a rule we will debate tomorrow for our very first tax increase under the new Democratic majority.

We are joined here tonight by Mr. CONAWAY, another colleague of ours, who happens to be not most importantly a CPA, which I think is important because he understands the language of business, understands the balance sheets and income statements which many people in this body I do not think understand, but also he comes from the gas and oil business in Texas.

So with that I would like to yield to Mr. CONAWAY.

Mr. CONAWAY. Well, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for letting me join tonight's conversation, and I wanted to speak directly to that tax rate increase vote that will happen on Thursday as a part of what I believe to be a very misguided attempt to punish a segment of our economy that quite frankly is doing a job that all of us want.

It would be curious if I could ask all of our colleagues collectively in this House how many of them walked to Washington, D.C. from their home district; actually physically walked, or rode a bicycle from their district here, or horseback, maybe came on horseback or a horse-drawn carriage. Could we get anybody to raise their hand?

Even the folks who live right across the river. Ms. NORTON, I guess, could say she walks in. But I would say that every single one of our colleagues comes to Washington, D.C. and leaves and goes back to their home districts in a car or an airplane or a train, or some mode of transportation that uses at its core fossil fuels to get us back and forth.

The bill on Thursday directly penalizes the folks who provide that resource that we all use every single day. It is hypocritical and two-faced of us to on the one hand say that, yes, we need to be independent of foreign crude oil and foreign natural gas, as our good colleague from Kentucky said, we are sending billions of dollars into the hands of countries and nations that in all likelihood are using some of that money to hurt us, to talk about getting away from that and at the same time, on the other hand, wanting to directly penalize those small producers and large producers in this country that provide the domestic crude oil and natural gas supplies.

I have seen some data which shows that the small independent producers in this country in 2005 reinvested 617 percent of their profits back in the ground. Now, think about that: Not 50 percent of what they made, not 70 or 80, but 600-plus percent of what they made back in the ground. So what this legislation will do is take dollars away from them and bring them to Washington, D.C., and albeit they are going to try to sequester those dollars to be used somewhere else, I would argue every dollar we suck out of these producers is a dollar that doesn't go back in the ground or produce domestic crude now, which we need.

I don't think anybody argues that we have a short-term problem and we have a long-term problem. The long-term problem with coal gasification and other things, nuclear, whatever they might be, those are long-term solutions. Nobody expects us to be able to put a very big dent in our energy needs in this country in the near term from anything but fossil fuels.

And for goodness sakes, why would we begin on Thursday to lay in place the groundwork to penalize those very people who are producing domestic crude oil and domestic natural gas? It is wrongheaded. Now, it makes great drama to be able to beat up on the oil companies.

In all fairness, I come from an oil and gas producing province, west Texas. I am very proud of the oil heritage and I am very proud of the supplies of oil and natural gas that those hardworking, risk-taking individuals have provided you and I in this country since Spindletop in Pennsylvania.

So it is wrong headed by our Democrat colleagues to want to tax those individuals differently than we tax other manufacturers. The specific codes section, 199, that we are going to snatch the oil and gas producers out of and in effect increase their tax rates, was put

in place in 2003 by a Congress that said we need to incent manufacturers in this country, jobs that stay in America. And we are going to do that by a combination of wages paid within the manufacturing environments in this country to affect the tax rate.

The idea was to take the corporate rate from 35 percent down to between 32 and 33 percent on manufacturing activities in the United States. And the definition was written intentionally by the Congress to include oil and gas exploration as manufacturing. It also includes timber and other kinds of things that don't normally come to mind when you talk about manufacturing.

But the incentives for 199 weren't put in place just for the oil companies. They were put in place for all manufacturers to incent people to produce in America, to produce jobs, to produce products that we can sell and export or use within this country.

And now, on Thursday, we are going to have an opportunity to flush out where everybody stands. A lot of rhetoric in October about who is going to do what to whom and all those kinds of things, but Thursday will be our first chance for all of us to decide whether we are tax increasers, or we are against domestic oil and gas production in the near term and in the long term with this specific vote on the bill, H.R. 6, that will be up on Thursday.

So I appreciate being able to pitch in on that subject, and I have some other thoughts later on in the evening, but I would yield back to either of my colleagues.

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. I just think one thing the gentleman from Texas brought up is very important for us to realize, and that is manufacturing jobs are the best benefit providing jobs we have for working families in this Nation. Eighty-four percent of manufacturing jobs provide full benefits, health care, retirement, opportunity for the future, and that sense of security.

What this tax increase is going to do by addressing domestic oil producers is not simply a strike at a mythological big oil company. The international oil producers are not going to be affected by this. They simply have to step back and let the law of supply and demand take over. Who is going to be affected? The local oil producers, the wildcaters, those small investors in Kentucky, West Virginia, Texas, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and other States throughout the heartland that create jobs.

In addition to that, dollars for research and development are going to be disincented. With a tax credit is the opportunity to reinvest that, to find new sources of oil, and more importantly develop new technologies that can bring it forward in a low-cost way and create more jobs.

But it is not just the small producers. It will be the distribution chain. Those small refiners, like our

Catlettsburg Refinery, which creates hundreds of jobs in northeast Kentucky and affects thousands of jobs in the local economy, will be adversely affected by this. It will impair their ability to grow and it will hurt the future for people there. Down the supply chain, the distributors of gasoline and petroleum products.

And, again, it is not Big Oil. It is the local convenience store owner, the person who drives that replenishment truck going to the gas stations. It is the lawn care business that might be in somebody's neighborhood or the individual who is taking parts to the manufacturing company. It is going to be the person who distributes milk and food products. It will put a cost burden on every single consumer in this country.

Not only will there be a tax increase, but there will be inflation as a direct result of this. Ultimately, it comes down to our consumers. Because if our farmers and manufacturers are all going to be burdened with this, ultimately it will pass to us. And what sounds good in reality is a big, big mistake, because it is taking money out of the economy, and it will send it elsewhere and will keep it away from incentives that will create jobs.

We need to make investments in energy, in natural gas, and in oil. Natural gas is critical for our manufacturing economy. But the Democrats in Congress overwhelmingly voted repeatedly in the 109th Congress. Congressmen CONAWAY and SHUSTER and I saw this, where in fact one Member was chased down into our Cloakroom to change his vote after Hurricane Katrina against expansion of refinery capacity.

We need to make sure that we have natural gas on the Outer Continental Shelf and we use the resources that we have here, like the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge, in an environmental friendly way to make sure that our economy, our future, is put first, so that children like the young man sitting behind me here can have a job and a future when they grow up.

But what we see is this tax increase now and the tax increase in 1,446 days, and I yield back.

Mr. SHUSTER. Well, I appreciate the gentleman's yielding back, and I don't think anybody should be surprised at what we are seeing. I put a quote up here by Representative RANGEL from New York, who is now the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. Before the election he vowed to put all of President Bush's 2001 and 2003 tax cuts on the chopping block.

Here we go, 20 days into it and this is the start of it. This is the start of what we will see over the next 2 years, which is an increase in taxes. And some of them they won't even have to enact. They will just expire.

□ 2115

But I wanted to ask a question to the gentleman from Texas who knows the oil and gas business much better than

I do. But, you know, basic economics, if you take away, if you actually disincentivize, put a disincentive to a company to go out and explore for oil, when we see that, the oil companies and the wildcatters and the small business entrepreneurs who are in the oil and gas business, not going out there and finding new sources of oil and gas, when we see the supplies go down that is going to cause prices to increase. And I wonder if the gentleman from Texas would comment on that.

Mr. CONAWAY. Let me just comment on that. Let me make one clarifying point. You said, we are 20 days into this issue. The 18th will be our 14th day. And the first tax increase will come within the first 2 weeks, on the 14th day.

Mr. SHUSTER. It is good to have a CPA on board.

Mr. CONAWAY. I only bring that up because of the emphasis on the first 100 hours. There seems to be some magic about those first 100 legislative hours. And I want to make sure that the record is straight on these numbers.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. If the gentleman would yield.

One thing I would like to point out, just having come from an entrepreneurial business background like you. The idea of working 100 hours would normally translate into about 3 days or 4 days worth of work, possibly 5 if you had really to get something done, if the product had to get out the door at the end of the month, if the system had to be implemented, if the equipment had been to be rigged and installed. And I think what we have here was somewhat misleading to the American people who expected 100 hours in the last Congress would have been accomplished in a very short period of time. But I think we are taking a more comfortable pace, doing 100 hours 2 hours at a time. Instead of having votes ending at midnight or 1 in the morning we are getting done at 3 in the afternoon now.

Mr. SHUSTER. Somebody mentioned to me that we were cramming in 2 days of work into 5 days. So if people really, if Lou Dobbs is watching tonight then he ought to be talking about our work schedule here, what we are really doing, not just the fact that he was ranting and raving about us not working on Monday because of the national championship game. Let him come down here and see what we are really doing.

Mr. CONAWAY. Let me comment on what happens, or the mechanics of the exploration business in the domestic arena. I have got some statistics here that just are almost incomprehensible in their scope. E&P is an acronym or initials for exploration and production companies. Those are the folks that take the risk. They start by trying to find rock, underground, sometimes 2 and 3 miles deep, that has the potential for bearing oil and gas. And they do this through a variety of means, through seismic and geology, and sometimes just flat out guessing. But

they do their best science at the project to try to determine where oil and gas might occur. Now it doesn't occur everywhere, unfortunately. But it does occur in certain spots. And it starts off with a geologist or a geophysicist or somebody who has an idea that this particular province or this particular area may produce oil and gas. So they spend some up front money trying to decide whether or not there is the potential for oil and gas being in place. They then will send out a land man to acquire the rights to drill in the acreage that they think is prospective. And this land man will go to the land owners and the mineral interest owners and others and he will try to lease this property, lease the mineral rights, lease the ability to drill for oil and gas from each and every one of those. And that can take a great deal of time. Again, more money invested, salaries and travel and other kinds of things trying to put the prospect together.

Once they have got the right to drill in the area, then the operator, the person putting this thing together in all likelihood generally does not have the money to risk 100 percent of the well. As an example, we have got some, Barnett Shale Wells in Texas, that it is 4 to \$6 million for dry hole costs, meaning you are going to risk 4 to \$6 million before you know whether or not there is any oil and gas in that particular horizon. A lot of money at risk.

So this operator will go to, let's keep this simple. He will go to three friends in the business and he will say I want you to take a quarter of this deal and I will take a quarter, you take a quarter and a good colleague Mr. SHUSTER will take a quarter, and let's go find somebody else to take that fourth of it. And together we will share this risk of drilling this prospect. So you put up a million and my good colleague from Kentucky takes petty cash for his million, and I squeeze my cookie jar for my kids, and I get my million together, and we go drill this well.

Now, the drilling of the well involves hiring a drilling contractor, because the operator is not going to own any drilling equipment, so he goes out to a drilling contractor to hire the rig on a day rate basis or a footage basis or a turnkey basis, all these kinds of special terms, to actually drill the hole into the ground. And you have got all kinds of service companies that go along with it, pipe and mud and logging and all kinds of equipment and services go into trying to decide whether or not there is oil and natural gas in this rock.

And then if there is you do the appropriate test, then you run pipe and you incur additional costs. The completion costs in our example, let's say that is another 2 million. So we have put up our 4 million. Now I have got to come back to you for the other \$500,000 each in order to be able to complete the well and begin the process of producing that oil. And right now, all of this is sunk

cost. There is no way to recover much of this cost. You can get a little bit of the pipe out of the ground, but most everything else is sunk. And so if we don't produce oil and gas from that well our investment is worthless. I mean, it is just flat out worthless.

Mr. SHUSTER. \$4 million gone.

Mr. CONAWAY. Gone. And much of the \$2 million we spent completing the well will also be gone and there is no way to recover that. So the folks in this business are big time risk takers.

Now, let me show you how big time they are. In the 5 years in between 1999 and 2005, I guess that will be 6 years, the smallest U.S. E&P companies reinvested 898 percent of their profits back in the ground. Now what that means is they took their profits, as well as borrowed a lot of money against the reserves that they found in the ground to reinvest in the oil business. All the way up to the super E&P companies, those are the large publicly traded companies that are in the exploration and production business. They have reinvested 247 percent of their profits back in the ground to find additional oil and natural gas reserves.

The integrated, U.S. integrated oil companies, the very largest in our country, ExxonMobil, Chevron, Phillips, all these guys, 174 percent of their profits back in the ground.

So, as we take dollars, whether in this tax increase that we are going to, however they come out of it, those are dollars that will not go back into the ground to find additional supply of domestic oil and natural gas. And each time we do that, it reduces the investment, it reduces all of the activities that are associated with that. And the bottom line is that we have a shortage of supply of crude oil and natural gas. And the law of supply and demand generally works in most businesses. It clearly works in this business. And if we have a shortage of, as we saw, as Katrina, shortages as a result of natural disasters and other things, you get a spike in prices.

Well, we have got a systemic problem with crude oil and natural gas worldwide because, in addition to the supply not going up nearly as fast as the demand is going up, with China becoming an industrialized country and India becoming an industrialized country, the demand for crude oil worldwide has outstripped our ability to produce and increase the production in crude oil.

That could be temporarily offset if we could drill in places like Iraq and Iran, where they have let their oil and gas industry languish for lack of investment and upgrading. But even then that would only be a short-term fix.

So the impact that this tax rate increase will have on Thursday, if it turns out to be a law, is that there will be less searching for domestic crude oil and natural gas. And it seems counterproductive to me to talk, on the one hand, about reducing our reliance on foreign crude oil and natural gas, and then turn around and penalize and rein

in the people who are trying to provide domestic crude oil and natural gas.

Mr. SHUSTER. And we are seeing right now, I think the latest thing I read was the price of a barrel of oil was down to \$51 a barrel of oil. Average gas prices going down. And some of that is a direct response to the supply people out there finding oil. It is also in response to some of the demand has cooled off. People are trying to use less.

Mr. CONAWAY. If the gentleman would yield. One of the things that it was a bit counterintuitive in west Texas, there was no bumper sticker. The old business has gone through a series of booms and busts that, I suspect are typical in most businesses, but they are pretty dramatic in the oil business. In 1986 there was a bust. In the early 1990s there was a bust. Late 1990s there was a bust. In the early 1990s, when the price of crude oil dropped, there was this bumper sticker that said Dear Lord, give us one more boom and we promise not to screw it up.

And then we had the real dramatic bust in 1998–1999 where the price of crude went to 10 bucks a barrel for sweet crude, and even less than that for sour crude. Things were really grim. Thousands and thousands of jobs pushed out of the oil business.

And so when the prices began to rise, in the early 2000s, and when they began to push past 40 and 50 bucks a barrel and into those ranges there was a real lag in the up tick in activity. Most folks would have said, what do you think the drilling, the number of drilling rigs working in the United States would be if the price of crude oil was 45 bucks a barrel? And when it was at that point, 2002 and 2003 and 2004, most folks would have said, the number of drilling rigs operating in the United States would have been much, much higher than it really was. And the reason for that was there was a real cautiousness on the part of these exploration and production companies as to whether or not that price would really hold, were they going to get a drop in price. So there was a real cautious re-investment in the business that was going on during that time frame because, quite frankly, the pros in the oil business weren't sure it was going to last.

Now, we have been in these prices for a lengthy time now and you are seeing the kinds of drilling rig rates and activities in the domestic production that ought to be happening when you have got prices at this level. So it is a wonderful industry. It provides great jobs. Those jobs provide benefits, and it is a wonderful experience. Most of those jobs are "living wages," is that phrase that is bandied around from time to time. And to penalize them directly on Thursday is wrongheaded and extreme.

Mr. SHUSTER. And I think we mentioned earlier, Mr. DAVIS mentioned about pushing it off to other countries

in the world. We are going to penalize our own domestic production, and those folks around the world that aren't necessarily our friends, Iran being one of them, they can bring up that crude out of Iran. And it is a scary situation what has happened. I know that the President of Iran was down in Venezuela. Iran has no refining capacity or not much to speak of, and Venezuela is one of the largest refiners. So what we are going to see, I believe, is Iran making a deal with Venezuela, that they will pump the crude in Iran, and another one of our enemies, Venezuela, will refine it for them. So this is a national security issue. It is not just about taxes. It is about making sure that our domestic producers are out there looking for oil and keeping our reliance, lowering our reliance on foreign oil sources.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. I think you bring up a good point when you talk about the national security implications before we come back to some of the domestic impact of this. Looking at the news today, we see threats. In particular, we are dealing with some very complicated situations in Iran. They are committed to developing nuclear weapons, possibly as a deterrent, possibly for an offensive capability. Sometimes they think about, people want to look with a simplistic view on what Iran might do to the world energy market by closing the Straits of Hormuz. But the Iranians are good businessmen, too. And the one thing they understand is they don't have to have a military solution to impact world oil markets. By reducing their production by 10 percent would cause a devastating disruption in Europe and Western oil commodity prices. It would ripple through all prices in America, and they would still make the same amount of money on the gross margin that they made with a greater amount of production by the impact on the market.

This tax is simply irrational that the Democratic majority is bringing forth this week for a vote. It is anti-jobs. It is anti-health care, and it is anti-education. It is anti-jobs because dollars that would be invested in job creating technologies are going to be removed. And who gets affected by this?

The view in the TV commercials supporting these types of things is the wealthy super executive on the big corporate jet. But what they forget about is the welder who depends on that, the small welding shop that does fabrication work in Ponka City, Oklahoma. They forget the seismic vibration technology manufacturer that makes the big heavy trucks with the seismic vibrators that go out and read the ground working with seismic engineers to help find where those oil reserves are.

And as my colleague from Texas pointed out, there is a tremendous amount of risk. It is not a science. Purely there is an art to this, to find those resources and then once they are

found to see how they can be pulled out of the ground economically.

In my own district we have Newport Steel, a tube and casing manufacturer that almost exclusively supports domestic oil exploration and production. They are going to be hurt by that. Those are jobs in a troubled industry right now that is fighting to compete internationally.

□ 2130

We talk about concerns over foreign competition, concerns over competition with China. Guess what the Chinese are doing? Last week or week before last, the executive vice foreign minister, the incoming foreign minister in China announced, that they are making heavy investments in alternative fuel technology to create transportation fuels, coal-to-liquid technologies, biomass. They are investing in other technologies to offset those demands that they see the rest of the world growing from demands in Middle Eastern oil.

In addition to that, let us think about the working families who needs this. There is a reason that the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers supports investing in these alternative technologies, in coal-to-liquids and biomass and ethanol to build these plants, to decentralize our energy supply and localize it so a storm like Katrina will not hurt it.

But guess what, if we raise these tax that this bill purports to do this week, the investment capital that would create those jobs, that would take those risks instead of the private citizens spending their money would be gone. Who is going to get hurt by that? The very people they say they are going to help, because not only will it eliminate jobs, those manufacturing jobs, 84 percent of which have health care benefits provided for their employees, they are going to be affected.

It is anti-education. How? The one thing that we talk about, and I talk about with teachers and educators throughout my district is the need for money, for investment in learning, to keep up, building schools, providing books, training teachers, continuing professional education for our teachers.

I have a daughter who has begun her student teaching now looking at a career in education. Where will the dollars come to pay for her future or my son's future? That comes out of the property tax; it comes out of income taxes. That means that you have to have taxpayers to do that.

The government cannot magically wave a wand and create money. It is going to be people investing in labor, adding value and creating a profit. When we see that the last refinery that was built domestically was in 1976, we have a very serious issue, considering our population has increased by over one-third since then.

I would be curious of your experience looking at manufacturing in the energy industry in Pennsylvania and your comments from that perspective.

Mr. SHUSTER. You are absolutely right. This tax increase that is going to occur is going to have a ripple effect throughout the economy. There are those on the other side that think they are going to punish the oil companies. They are not. Plain and simple, it is going to punish manufacturing, it is going to punish people that are employed in this country, people that are paying taxes in this country.

But once again, we should not be surprised. Nobody in America should be surprised when we see, I was corrected, 14 days into this Democratic majority, when you have the new chairman of the Ways and Means, Mr. RANGEL from New York, who said back in an interview before the election, back last spring, actually, that the tax cuts that President Bush put in place were beyond irresponsible, and he also said he cannot think of one of those tax cuts in the first term of President Bush that deserves merit.

Does that mean the R&D tax credit, which I think we successfully extended, does that mean that they will repeal that and repeal some of those R&D tax credits for alternative fuels? When you think, I see Geoffrey here, you told me he is 8 years old. If a family of four has their taxes increased, that is going to be about \$2,100 a month.

Well, if you had that \$2,100 a month, which you do today, and you took the \$2,100 and invested it every year in the banks, so that Geoffrey, 8 years old, 10 years from now to go to college, he would have \$30,000 in the bank. That's a great nest egg for your children to help put them through school so when they get out of school they don't have debt. You know, we talk about all these government programs, when, in reality, let the American people keep more of their hard-earned dollars so they can save that money for 8-year-old kids like Geoffrey so that he can go to college in the future.

Mr. CONAWAY. Looking at the tax cuts for 2001 and 2003, it might be helpful to get into the RECORD what one of the impacts has been from those, from that tax policy being in place. I may be the only guy in Congress who drags this out once a month, but once a month the Treasury Department publishes a statement of the cash receipts and cash disbursements for the United States Government.

It makes for some interesting reading. For the first quarter of fiscal 2007, which was last year's, October, November, December of 2006, the Federal Government's deficit for those 3 months was \$119 billion. That is a lot of money.

For the equivalent period this year, for the first 3 months, fiscal year 2007, which we have just finished in December, the deficit is \$80 billion, so a \$40 billion improvement over last year. Why is that?

Mostly because tax receipts and government receipts are significantly higher again this year for that quarter than they were last year. Last year was a double-digit increase. The year before

that was a double-digit increase in tax receipts.

This year we have collected year-to-date from income taxes from individuals, \$251 billion, versus \$230 billion last year. This year, corporate income taxes are up the first quarter, almost \$99 billion versus \$81 billion. That has happened because this economy continues to grow.

More people are working now than have ever worked. When those folks worked, they paid taxes. That doesn't count the Social Security taxes and all the other excise taxes that come into this Federal Government, but the truth of the matter is this economy is working and working well.

Let me brag real quickly on taxes, which might surprise you that I would brag on taxes. In 2003 when our legislature, which meets every other year, came into session, they were facing a \$10 billion deficit. The comptroller was projecting the State revenues over the next 2 years, 2003–2004, would be \$10 billion short of what the spending was going to be. The Texas legislature dealt with that and that legislature, the senate and the house and the Governor did a great job with it. The legislature that went into session a week ago today in Texas, for this year's biennial, is facing a \$15 billion surplus, pretty dramatic turnaround in 4 years.

The reason for that is this economy is continuing to jet along and to boom, no matter what the naysayers are talking about. All the angst that is in the American public, when you look at facts, every criterion you look at, this economy is better that it used to be, better than it was this time last year. So the change that was talked about that happened on November 7, I don't think the change, as you said earlier, was to change this economy, to drive people out of work, to reduce homeownership, to increase tax rates on those who do have jobs.

I didn't sense anybody campaigning for that. I certainly didn't have any folks in my district come up to me and tell me that is what they wanted to have happen as a result of this change on November 7. I appreciate the gentleman letting me get those facts into the record.

Mr. SHUSTER. I agree with you the American people didn't vote for a change of this economy. They didn't vote for a change to increase taxes. We are in deficit not because we tax too much; it is because we spend too much.

You know, our colleagues from the Blue Dog Democrats side, they are right when they talk about fiscal responsibility. They are right about controlling spending. I think their number one of their 12 points is to have a balanced budget except in time of war or in a time of recession. Well, that is what we had in early 2001, 2002. We are still at war. We are not in recession any more. But the way to solve this problem is to control spending.

As I said earlier, I am eager to see what the leadership of the Democrats

allows the Blue Dogs to propose. I know that over the last 12 years, I think the Blue Dogs, every year, produced a budget that was voted on here on the House floor.

Once again, I am eager to see what the Democratic leadership allows the Blue Dogs to do, because I think they will propose a responsible budget more so than I think the Democratic leadership will. Again, we are going to wait and see what happens.

Once again, I don't believe that the American people want to see us increase taxes. If we don't act, if the Democrats don't act in the next 4 years, we are going to see a slow expiration and an increase in the taxes the American people pay to the tune of \$200 billion by the first of 2011.

Mr. CONAWAY. If you look at those numbers, we have had tax receipt increases here, but they have come in the right way. They have come in the way where you have had more people paying and all those kinds of things. I am hopeful that the budget that does come forward understands that we have got a spending problem and not a revenue problem.

If you are in business, as you did in the car business, and my good friend did in his small businesses, and you are looking at deficits, you rarely have the option of raising revenues when you are in business. Yes, you have got to put more emphasis in sales; you have to do all those kinds of things. But the way you are most assured of being able to deal with your deficit is to cut your expenditures.

That is where most responsible businessmen go at first when they are in circumstances where they need to eliminate a deficit. There is more emphasis on the cutting of spending and trimming back on expenditures and then try to do what you can with revenues. It is only in this arena where revenues can magically appear by the signing of a pen without a great deal of hard work to go in and do that.

Mr. SHUSTER. It is the equivalent, it is one thing if you own a business to have more sales; but what we do, you raise the price, and when you are in business and in trouble and in deficit, you can't just go out and say, oh, I am going to raise the price of the car, raise the cost of the washer or dryer. That usually doesn't work. Usually what happens when you raise the price, the market, the demand is not great enough, it will drive down your revenues.

What we are doing here is raising the price. It will drive down revenues, as it always does. As we said earlier, whether it is President Kennedy in 1960 or Ronald Reagan in 1980 or President Bush in the early 2000s, when you cut taxes it spurs the economy, and it creates more revenues.

Mr. CONAWAY. One thing that does happen to you, when you raise the prices of your goods, your competitor across the street, who may not be in the same financial circumstances,

keeps his or her price the same. Wouldn't it be interesting if we had some alternative to government, where the folks said, which one of you folks can do the government the best and raising prices in that arena would be much more difficult than we have today, where all it takes is 218 of us on this side and 51 on the other side to make that happen as opposed to hard work and sweat and labor that is usually required for folks to make money in the private sector.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. I think the gentleman from Texas brings up a good point. I come back to what made this country great, and it was entrepreneurial spirit where an individual could take a small amount of assets, invest it, start a small business.

In the smallest vein, these policies, my son, who was running around here a moment ago, and his brother, Daniel, and sister, Miriam, decided they were going to start a lemonade stand because they wanted to create economic opportunity for themselves. They pooled their allowances, they went to the store, they bought their resources, and they began to sell it.

Mr. CONAWAY. Did they pay rent on the front steps of the shop?

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. I did a long-term note for them for room and board. We will work that out with the family tax man over time.

But the good news is, I think all young people, when you see kids in this country have that natural desire to create opportunity, and what do we do with Big Government? Big Government stifles that opportunity.

We stifle it by creating excessive regulations. We stifle it by tax. What might sound good, again, I come back to the politics of class warfare where they say, oh, we have got to just stop these profits from going to companies. It is not fair for somebody who is working 100 hours a week in reality to be more successful than you. But it is those people who are creating the jobs for others. They are fueling the economy for research. They are fueling the education and research and development programs in our universities.

I look at another time in history where there was a government attempt to control energy prices, when OPEC began to assert itself in 1973 and 1974. There was an attempt to control prices. What did we end up with? I remember when I was in high school.

Mr. CONAWAY. That is your Gas Policy Act in 1978 under Carter is what you ended up with.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. There you go, what did we have? We had rationing; we had gas prices skyrocketing.

Mr. SHUSTER. We had lines.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. The next aspect of this was the markets for investment to create jobs in the private sector began to drop. When I graduated from college, I was glad I enlisted in the Army because there were no manufacturing jobs left in western Pennsylvania when I was 17 years old.

The next thing that we saw was inflation at the highest rate it had been in anybody's memory. When I graduated from college, I think the prime rate was under 17 or 18 percent. It was impossible for a working family to afford a mortgage or to buy a house. It was driving the very people these Big Government tax solutions were designed to help, actually were hurting more than anything else, which concerns me with this vote 14 days into the new Congress. We are going to raise taxes on the fundamental bedrock economy that drives the entire economy, the energy that fuels it all, literally, and in 1,446 days every working family in this country, unless we stop that, will have a \$2,096 tax increase.

□ 2145

Mr. SHUSTER. Does the gentleman have closing remarks?

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman sponsoring this hour again tonight. We tend to spend a lot of time trying to scare each other into actions one way or another. I am as guilty as everybody else. It is almost as if whoever of us can scare us the most wins the argument.

The truth of the matter is, the policies in place now are helping the economy. We don't have this great economy because of the policy; we have this great economy because we have great men and women throughout the country willing to take risks and work hard, get up every morning to go to work and provide for their families and build this country. That is why it is there.

What these policies have done is make their job less difficult. It is not easy. It is hard to make money. In the real world, it is a very difficult prospect to make money. So low tax rates and a consistent tax policy that people can count on help pave the way for that. It makes it less difficult for the hard-working men and women of this country to do what is being done, and that is to grow this economy, and by growing the economy, the tax receipts into this government have increased double digits for the last 2 years, and in all likelihood we may have a double digit increase again this year for a record collection. So that is doing it the right way.

As this Congress begins to try to lead toward a different direction, toward a different policy that says bigger government, higher tax rates on these folks, it is my opinion that it will make it much more difficult for the entrepreneurs in this country to continue to do what they do.

They will continue to do it in the face of an insurmountable odds, that is just their nature, but by this 1,446 days away, if that does happen the way we think it will, then the tasks of growing this economy, continuing to provide greater opportunities for most Americans, will be much, much more difficult than currently today.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank both of you gentleman for joining me,

Mr. DAVIS and Mr. CONAWAY, for your thoughts tonight. You pointed out rightfully so that the government doesn't create jobs, the government doesn't create wealth, it is people out in America, working hard, day in and day out, saving their money, investing their money, sweating at a job, and it is just wrong for us here in Congress to take more of their money than we should.

I put up 1,446 days to remind the American people that they are going to receive a tax increase unless we act, and that is a little less than 4 years. I am so grateful that the gentleman from Texas is a CPA and got my numbers right, that it is not 20 days into this new Congress, it is only 14 days, and we are already starting to hear about the first tax increase that the American people will see coming out of this Congress.

Mr. CONAWAY. This is on top of the unfunded mandate on small businesses that the minimum wage increase that was done last week will be.

Mr. SHUSTER. Absolutely. Except for the Marianas Islands.

Mr. CONAWAY. American Samoa, which the average rate there is \$3.15 an hour. So apparently StarKist wants tuna that pack cheaply instead of good taste.

Mr. SHUSTER. I thank both of you gentleman for joining me tonight.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5, COLLEGE STUDENT RELIEF ACT OF 2007

Mr. CARDOZA (during the Special Order of Mr. SHUSTER), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-1) on the resolution (H. Res. 65) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reduce interest rates for student borrowers, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6, CLEAN ENERGY ACT OF 2007

Mr. CARDOZA (during the Special Order of Mr. SHUSTER), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-2) on the resolution (H. Res. 66) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6) to reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy alternatives, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

CELEBRATING AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WILSON of Ohio). The gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the Speaker very much. Might I say I thank the Speaker for his leadership and certainly his patience this evening.

We have spent the last 4 days in many of our Congressional districts celebrating and commemorating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, and as many of us have participated for almost 3 days as we went home for the weekend, these commemorations have become more than celebrations and the kinds of actions that take place when a holiday allows one to commemorate.

As I listened to my good friends across the aisle, one would wonder if I am now going to again recount the great legacy of Dr. King, as my good friend and colleague, JOHN LEWIS, who has an enormous history with the movement and is certainly our conscience, passed a suspension bill on the floor today, one that he authored, in tribute to Dr. King and in recognition of his 78th birthday.

But in this time, I wish to suggest that Dr. King's legacy is really a living document and a living legacy, so I want to weave the message that Dr. King left for America and the world throughout the changes that I believe are key to where we are today.

As I listened to my friends speak about the advancing bill that will deal with energy reform, let me just say that coming from Houston, I happen to be the Congressperson that represents one of the largest areas, we call it the energy capital of the world. I practiced oil and gas law for 15-plus years before coming to the United States Congress, and I have in many instances supported and will continue to support the growth, the positive growth and the continued development of a very important industry in this country.

In fact, it should be known that as I got elected to Congress one of the first acts that I worked on with former President Clinton was to assess the issue of royalty relief for the industry, at that time of course suffering from low development, low prices, and which needed an economic engine, if you will. So rather than look at the next step that the Democratic leadership wants us to take as undermining the industry, we should look at it as an opportunity for expanding on the term "energy."

One would say, how does this weave into the life and legacy of Martin King? Martin King was a dreamer and also an activist, and he wanted for Americans, all of us, of all races, of all religions, of all beliefs, a better quality of life. So I believe that tomorrow and Thursday when we have an opportunity to present this bill on the floor of the House, it will be an opportunity to

look at alternative fuels, renewable fuels, new ideas, but at the same time it will give many of us an opportunity to plant seeds of friendship and relationships with this energy industry that all of us want to become an independent industry and an independent America.

So, I look forward to the debate on the floor of the House in the tradition of Dr. King, who dreams for a better quality of life. Let us look at a new direction as we look to the opportunities for energy investment in the Gulf, which many of us supported in the last Congress. Let us give this initiative a chance of reforming or looking to an investment in alternatives and renewables. Might I say to my friends who are in the regions of oil and gas exploration, believe me, there is much room for your technology and expertise in renewables and alternatives.

I wanted to just comment on my good friends, as I begin to discuss where we are in Martin Luther King's dream. We all need dreamers. In fact, I would consider President John F. Kennedy the main Camelot of America. I would consider Americans wanting his dream to come true, his dream of a new and vibrant America, his dream of a youthful America, his dream of going to space, his dream of a peaceful America. So there are many dreamers.

But the question is, do we take the dreams and the message that those dreamers give us and now provide the activism that would cause America to have a better quality of life?

I think of our Constitution. In essence, as the Founding Fathers begin to deliberate on what kind of nation they wanted America to be, they were dreamers, because in fact they didn't know an America of the 21st century. They didn't know America as richly diverse as we have today.

But when they organized in the Constitutional Convention this document that now provides a very effective road map of democracy, they started out as follows: "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

This is the very Constitution that Dr. King vested himself in, the 13th and 14th and 15th amendments. So he answered the call of Rosa Parks in the mid-1950s, because he had an idea that our Constitution was not working. Was there actually equality or due process as the 14th amendment would suggest? Were we as colored people, Negroes, truly free, as the 13th amendment might suggest?

I think Dr. King in his theological wisdom and his intellect probably recognized that this was not a free nation. So he accepted the call of Rosa Parks to question why free people could not sit anywhere they wanted in public

modes of transportation. Many people consider the Montgomery bus boycott, and they used the terminology "bus" because it was a bus. But it was symbolic of the dividing line of color in America.

So Dr. King was very eloquent in his words, that he wanted to make sure that the dream of freedom, the more perfect union, was one that we could accept as a reality.

I want to acknowledge the King family. His children, Yolanda, and Martin, III, Dexter, Bernice; his wonderful, wonderful wife, of which I had the privilege of having a beautiful friendship, relationship, as she befriended women across America. This strong, regal woman, who after the death of her husband, a widow with four children, she was not going to let his dream die, and then organized the Martin Luther King Center in Atlanta, the memorial, the tribute to his works. The King family, Dr. King's family, Daddy King, and his mother. And the Ebenezer Baptist Church that still stands and has the legacy of the King family, and the tragic loss of his mother, doing what she loves best, playing in the church.

No one pays attention to the comprehensiveness of the life of the King family and their commitment to public service and the tragedies that have befallen them, but this weekend and this past day, in remembering what they stood for, should catapult us, propel America, into doing better.

That is why I am so proud that Democrats have weaved into their message of a new direction the understanding of the values of Martin King, Thomas Jefferson, John Quincy Adams, Benjamin Franklin, individuals who would not have known where we would be in this 21st century, but would have hoped for a wonderful and valiant America.

Alexander Hamilton, for example, charged us with the responsibility of not letting our democracy age as the paper upon which it was written, but he reminded us in 1775 that "the sacred rights of mankind are not to be rummaged for among old parchments or musty records. They are written as with a sunbeam in the whole volume of human nature by the hand of divinity itself, and can never be erased or obscured by mortal power."

As I talk about Dr. King, I must reflect on Guantanamo Bay or Abu Ghraib or where we are today in the Iraq war. You see, we are not isolated to view Dr. King simply as a holiday, a Federal holiday, or "that civil rights leader," or the man who had this wonderful oratory and spoke eloquently in August of 1963, in the March on Washington. That is not all that his legacy should leave us. In fact, he too has provided a road map of which I am most saddened that we seemingly have left its pathway.

As I started to say, I am grateful in this new election when America spoke volumes of what changes they wanted

to see. We have the kind of leadership that is not turning a deaf ear to the voice of America. And Americans, if I might speak that you might hear, do not count your vote as your final word and say. You, too, are America.

□ 2200

As we proceed in this very new and exciting time of listening to you, so much so that we committed ourselves to the first 100 hours, and in that 100 hours, you can now look to see that we have reformed the lobbying debacle that we experienced in the last couple of Congresses, we now realize that we must reform ourselves. We passed that legislation limiting the intrusion of lobbyists and recognizing that there should be restraints that close the door to special interests but open the doors to America. That was the dream of Martin King.

Then, of course, we moved on to ensure that as we all fell to our knees during 9/11, as we saw the throngs of so many die, and made a commitment as we sang "God Bless America" on the very steps of this United States Capitol, Democrats and Republicans, we made a commitment to the fallen. We made a commitment to those mourning families. We made a commitment after the 9/11 Commission had finished its work to finish the job on homeland security.

But for Congress after Congress, we could not pass simple tasks such as inspections of airline cargo and a number of other funding needs for our first responders, our firefighters and our police persons, and we are still working on interoperability and looking to do better things with rail security and highway security.

We could not get it done; but in this new Congress, that took the dream of a dream of a better quality of life of Dr. King, we made his message a reality, passing the 9/11 Commission report.

We moved on to something that in all actuality, Mr. Speaker, really brought tears to my eyes. I have been here 12 years, and I have never served in the majority, frustration of the Medicare prescription drug benefit vote, and the vote on the war, and the vote on over and over again of rejecting hate crime legislation. Nothing extraordinary, Mr. Speaker, just legislation that would indicate that simply we would not tolerate hateful acts against people because of their difference. I sat in painful hearings listening to people denigrate hate crimes legislation, just a simple addition, having come from the State that saw a man decapitated just a few years ago in Jasper, Texas, because of the color of his skin.

I felt that pain of not getting legislation passed, and yet I believe it was last Wednesday we cast a vote for the minimum wage, an overwhelming vote, and I applaud my colleagues from both sides of the aisle.

Tears came to my eyes because I have to go back to a restaurant where a waitress stopped me. Well, sometimes

we do not give America much credit for all the knowledge that they have. I enjoy being out listening to my constituents. They are so instructive, and this waitress just stopped me while she was putting the food there on the steam table. Those of you know we get good Southern food at the steam table. And so she stopped me and said are we going to get an increase in the minimum wage. That vote last week, reflective of the message of Dr. King, acting on his dream, gave us that opportunity.

We moved on, of course, to cast a number of other votes that would see improvement in the lives of Americans.

This week we have the opportunity as well to address the piercing interest rates on our college students. We have always prided ourselves on believing in equality of education. It was an equalizer for immigrants in the early 1900s, as it is today, certainly for minorities, women, African Americans who started off as second-class citizens. You always had their parents telling you, get an education, but yet these spiraling interest rates, and we are getting ready to cut it in half. What an inspiration to be able to focus on that.

So I want to acknowledge our vice-chair, JOHN LARSON, who many people do not know is a lover of history but also a protector of history and helped to introduce the Amistad slave ship to the rest of America. These are the new direction leaders.

RAHM EMANUEL who economically is one who helped guide the Clinton administration but helped to frame our debate on Medicare, and we know his sensitivity to these issues.

JIM CLYBURN, who always provides a steady compass of morality, who recognizes we were a divided America, and now is in a position to be a healer with his words and his actions.

Of course, our majority leader who has an early history in civil rights and is certainly someone who is grounded in the leadership direction that we should be taking in this Congress.

And of course, our Speaker, NANCY PELOSI, symbolically and in reality exudes Dr. King's dream for I know that he would be comforted in his 78th year that maybe America has listened.

This is the leadership team that I think will carry forth this dream, and as I participated in events over the weekend, the silent march organized by councilmember Ada Edwards that saw almost 5,000 people marching silently, the mayor of Houston and others who were there, an overwhelming experience, and then, of course, to commemorate and celebrate with our working men and women. The AFL-CIO national organization was in Houston celebrating the weekend with many, many union heads, including Richard Trumka and Richard Womack and Clayola Brown, locally John Bland and Richard Shaw and Claude Cummings and many others, along with President Little of the Transit Workers Union, and they were out and about serving,

commemorating Dr. King's dreams, serving. We worshipped together with Reverend Sharpton on Sunday morning, and then we reflected in a breakfast on Monday morning, reflections of the past and dreams of the future by the North Houston Frontiers Club.

I am sure these kinds of events were in our communities all over. And why did we have them? Why do people do this? Why is that it on that day we try to find people that do not look like us and embrace them? Why is it a day that we speak of love and unity and harmony? What is it about this man called King?

Certainly during his lifetime he agitated quite a few, so much so that we can find him in any number of compromising positions. I hold this up. We can see law enforcement, with his hands shackled behind his back, and of course, again, being taken off to jail. This is the predicament that Dr. King would find himself in quite often. He even got sent to jail and wanted to insist that no one let him out, but they would bond him out anonymously so they could get him out of town; but Dr. King knew that if he did not suffer with those who likewise displayed a nonviolent protest, his message could not prevail.

Dr. King saw the likes of dogs and hoses going after American citizens who simply wanted to have a sense of equality.

He was found in many places, and I think that is why people stop on that day, and even as we sing over and over again, we shall overcome, tears come to the eyes of white clergy, young Hispanic men and women, Muslims, Protestants, those of the Jewish faith who were very much part of this ongoing movement, the labor movement, African Americans, religious beliefs of all kinds. They stopped for a moment, those who are sincere and believe in this great message.

So this picture that reflects the marchers who would not stop going past the sign that reads "Citizens Council, States Rights, Racial Integrity," which was a sign of a racial purity group of those who believed that there was inequality, in fact, superiority of one group over another.

□ 2210

That is not the New Direction Congress, and so frankly I believe that more than ever Dr. King's dream brings about a reality.

Now, let me tell you why I think we can use some of his writings for where we need to go next. As we all know, we are continuing the 100 hours with a cut in the student interest rates. Just last week, as I indicated, we did a number of reform measures, including fixing the Medicare Prescription part D. And, Mr. Speaker, you haven't lived until you live through a 6-hour vote when the clock stays open for 6 hours, not during the day but starting from 12 a.m. until 6 in the morning. You haven't lived until you are sort of circling this august place trying to talk,

if you will, sense in Members about who will you be hurting if you deny us the right to negotiate a lower price, who will you be hurting if you put a doughnut hole? Just the concept of it. You are going along and everybody knows these, if you will, holes in the streets, whether they are cavities that fall in because the street is not built right or either these utility areas here, everybody has had or not had, but imagine the unpleasant experience of your car going down a sink hole. You usually can't get out on your own. It is usually unexpected. To think that in that Medicare part D vote we voted not to negotiate cheaper prices and to allow our seniors to go into a sink hole. But with Dr. King's message and the New Direction Congress, we voted on Friday to reform that, at least to allow the negotiating of lower prices. And, of course, there were all kinds of naysayers; the veterans would suffer and others. And, Mr. Speaker, you know we know better. We know how strong we have been on veterans, and, frankly, we know that we will have vehicles in which that we will make sure that it is a fair and balanced initiative.

Let me tell you why I think that we have utilized the map that Dr. King left, and I take first of all to cite that point is his letter from a Birmingham jail. And I want everyone who has thought for a moment, "I can't press the envelope on this." It may be that you are in a place of employment, that you have got a better way to do something and you just can't move to get to the boss' door, you are just a little intimidated. Or your fellow workers are saying, "You know, you had better not go there. You know how they are." It takes a sense of courage to go against the tide when you know that some ill can befall you. So to America, we need some Dr. Kings. We need people who are willing nonviolently or with a word or pen to go against the grain. America needs that kind of inspiration again.

And I just want to remind you, it is hard when you are a man of the cloth. Your friends are the clergy. They are rabbis, they are priests, they are Protestant ministers, they are deacons and deaconesses. These are your contemporaries and your friends. Dr. King got into the Birmingham jail. And it is lonely enough in jail. I can certainly tell you and know that people who have protested nonviolently and wind up in jail, it is a lonely place. You may have an idea that you are going to get out, but you begin to think of all kinds of loneliness, and are you sure they are going to let you out? Are you sure they are going to come and get you? Dr. King found himself in a Birmingham jail at the hands of Bull Connor; but, more importantly, the clergy of America thought it was important to just address him, or I would say dress him down. They thought it was important to tell him that, you know, you are a clergy and we are a little sensitive that you are getting out of hand. You are an outside agitator. You are disrupting

things. The business community in Birmingham, they don't want you here. There is nothing more devastating or impacting than your colleagues, your clergy, those you hang out with giving no comfort to what you are doing or telling you to just go away. And that is what they did with a signed letter in the New York Times and in the papers across America, that you are really being a trouble maker.

And you know how we are with our human emotions. The normal response would have been a harsh letter and more to come: How dare you write to me sitting in a jail in Birmingham that was probably one of the longer stays that Dr. King had?

But he took time to introduce himself to America by saying: You may not know, but I am President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in the letter that he wrote. You may not be aware that we have 85 affiliated organizations across the South, and one of them is the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights. And, by the way, they invited me here to Alabama.

He mentioned that he came because his staff asked him to come. But then he got into the source of his inspiration, and he used it from a biblical perspective. So allow me just to say these words from his letter. He answered the clergy with their own scriptures. How many times do we do that? We are more apt to be able to write that insulting letter. It is hard for us to write an educating letter, a letter that is calming and peaceful. And Dr. King said:

But, more basically, I am in Birmingham because injustice is here. Just as the prophets of the eighth century B.C. left their villages and carried their thus saith the Lord far beyond the boundaries of their hometowns, and just as Apostle Paul left the village of Tarsus and carried the gospel of Jesus Christ to the far corners of the Greco-Roman world, so am I compelled to carry the gospel of freedom beyond my own hometown. Like Paul, I must constantly respond to the Macedonian call for aid.

Now, I am not reading a Christian interpretation for those who may be Muslim or other faiths or agnostic. What I am reading is a secular usage of his response to the clergy who said you need get out of there. You are an outside agitator. What he said is, is that I have got to go and help to bring freedom where there is a need for me to bring help.

So my challenge to my colleagues as Dr. King's birthday passes on for another year and we go on about our normal duties, are we going to be the kind of Congress that renders aid and solves problems as we move into the formulation and the reform of Leave No Child Behind? I don't believe there is one Member who cannot recount a story where their schools are crying for relief, whether it is to give teachers more freedom in teaching, whether it is to

give low performing schools the right kind of funding. We couldn't do that in the last Congress. We passed Leave No Child Behind. We had good intentions. But there were no dollars going to the schools to help them be fixed. So, for example, in Houston, TX our school boards felt obligated to close schools. And I hope that we will put school boards in a position that they will choose courageously to render aid to schools.

There are many school districts who can be proud of their records. I believe that we have a number of proud moments in the Houston independent school districts at All Dean Klein, Cypress Springs, North Forest Independent School District. Of course we have proud moments. But there are moments when we should be ashamed of what we are doing to our children; poor equipment, boxing them in so their educational desires are stifled, overtesting them.

So I hope that this Congress will answer the Macedonian call, listen to our teachers. I hope we will bring them in in throngs. Let us listen to school children, let us listen to parents, the PTAs, the PTAs, how do we get a better educational system in America that balances out the excellence that we believe we derive from charter schools and private schools? Because I believe a Nation that dooms its public schools dooms its heritage and its legacy.

□ 2220

Dr. King asked us to render aid, and that is important as we look to the many needs that we have.

If we are to do a better job, then it is clear that we must develop a country that provides employment for all Americans, and weave into that, we have to address the question of keeping jobs here in America. Let me remind you that Dr. King lost his life in Memphis, Tennessee on April 4, 1968. And if your history is a little rusty, he wasn't there for providing opportunities to sit in the front of the bus or sleep in a hotel, he was there about jobs. He was there about the dignity of jobs. He was there because a labor union was organizing the garage workers, and they were not sanitation workers, they were garbage workers, treated like garbage. He went there for full employment so working people could have the dignity of their work.

We as Members of Congress must invest in America, whether it be her technology, science, math, so that we can be at the cutting edge of job creation in this century. What does that mean? Some would say, Did Dr. King speak about research and innovativeness? Well, I think he laid out a road map. Remember, I said he was a dreamer.

We have to start putting more dollars into basic science and research and math. We need to be developing in our Nation more mathematicians and inventors. Where is the massive investment we failed to get out of this administration into research and science?

Where are our Ph.D.s, our physicists, our chemists, our biologists? Where are the quality laboratories in our universities? Where are the partnerships between universities and the Federal Government?

Let us be reminded that it is well known that the Defense Department was probably at the cutting edge of the Internet 30 or so years ago. And so what are we doing by draining this Nation of all of its resources and not putting back into it so that 10–20 years from now, we can look to the new physicists to challenge the creativities of the last century, the Alexander Bells and others, who put us on the then-technological map with the telephone.

Dr. King dreamed of an equal and free and just America, but he wanted to make sure that as we created that opportunity, the creative juices of America would certainly run free. Dr. King cannot be isolated in a box of civil rights. We as Members of Congress can use that dream to implement a better quality of life; and in basic research and science and technology, we have failed. We are flat-leveled. We have got to do a better job of finding those young mathematicians.

That's why I hope in the reform of Leave No Child Behind, you can have a mathematical genius, they score high on the math test, but that little one may have trouble spelling. It is just the way we are. We are all different. We have to find a way to reform the educational system that has the opportunity for that young mathematician to block and work with the spelling so they are not held back. We have to address the question of 10th graders and 11th graders failing tests or having grades of Bs or C-minuses so they can graduate, but that last test, as a senior they leave and they don't come back so they don't get even a GED.

We have to find a way to make an educational system that is accountable, but it must be as Martin's dream has offered to us and as Martin's words on April 3, 1968 offered to us, he had seen the promised land and he really believed America had the ability to get to the promised land for all Americans. So when we look at the reform or the reauthorization of Leave No Child Behind, let us be reminded that Dr. King gave us a road map. He gave us the "I Have a Dream" speech, and I always like to remind everyone of that thrilling experience, 250,000, the largest march ever in our history at that time in Washington, D.C., and what I found most thrilling as a little girl was the array of diversity. We talk about diversity now. That is our new lingo. But 1963. And the pride of the people who were there. I am from California, I am from Illinois, I am from Texas, I'm from Georgia. Everybody had on their State hats or State insignia. Young people, people in wheelchairs, veterans. What an experience. What an experience.

And then to be between the Lincoln Monument, the Washington Monu-

ment, to be able to be on the steps of the Lincoln Monument, what a magnificent statement to America that we should never forget.

I don't want to sound unrealistic. I know how holidays are given to us and they are one day. But I thought I would come to the floor tonight so that if anyone gleaned anything from what I am saying, it is that holidays are given for purposes, for lives, for reason. We commemorate President's Day because we are grateful to George Washington and Abraham Lincoln for the historic role that they played in America. George Washington, who guided us through the Revolutionary War and said we will stand. And Abraham Lincoln, for whatever his reasons as we have analyzed and critiqued about whether he was freeing the slaves or unifying the Union, he understood the death of soldiers and brother against brother. So we honor him because whatever happened, we stayed unified as a Union. That's why we have these holidays, so we can live again and again the value of our history.

That's why we advocated and pushed and JOHN CONYERS offered the legislation on Martin Luther King Holiday, not for the fact that he was good then but so people could recycle what he stood for.

I think now we have really, Mr. Speaker, lost our way. We have clearly not been able to capture all of the dream of Dr. King. So I would like to bring us almost full circle in terms of where we are today in the 21st century.

This war in Iraq goes against all that Dr. King tried to convince us of in his commitment to nonviolence. Of course when I begin to speak of this issue of nonviolence, I know what I will get from most Americans and many of my colleagues, and certainly my friends on the other side of the aisle, particularly as I try to segue into this discussion on Iraq. They will tell me this is a post-9/11 world. Mr. Speaker, I understand that. You can be assured that every single American understands that, and they want us to secure America. I don't reject that responsibility.

But what I do say is we can take some of the teachings of Dr. King and maybe we would be better off as we look for a new direction to craft a legislative response, a courageous legislative response, that would begin to reemploy our troops and to find a better way. Remember now, we are not isolated in our leadership. We are viewed as the most powerful Nation in the world. What does that mean? Conflicts around the world will look to us for relief: Sudan, South and North Korea, the changes in South America. They will look to this Nation for its guidance, and a Nation that is bogged down in an unceasing conflict where any one of us could account for you that we have had measuring sticks of success.

I did not vote for the war, but I am not going to take away from that that, one, we invaded Iraq. Saddam is not there. We can debate that question. I

would be happy to debate it. There was a democratic election. I will not take away from those benchmarks.

□ 2230

But what I will say, as I would expect my good friend and colleague in the Senate, the other body, who served in the Reagan administration and who understands these issues, as many of my colleagues do firsthand, Senator WEBB, I know that we are not denigrating things that have occurred. We won't deny that. But what we are saying is, is there not a better way? Is there not now time to turn the corner?

Are we advancing any progress for Iraq or this Nation or the world with the mounting death, now 3,000-plus Americans, moving up from 25,000 maimed? And might I say, Mr. Speaker, we have returning Iraqi vets that don't have jobs who are in our communities and asking what happened to the work.

By the way, I hope we will quickly pass the new GI Bill of Rights. I have had these people stop me in my community; and as mothers typically do, which I am, though I certainly act congressional, but tears well up in me that I have to have a veteran ask me what about a job or what about going to college. We are not prepared for these veterans. We say we are. We are making more of them, many of them maimed and needing to be retrained, and we are saying we are not ready. We are saying some of our hospitals don't have enough beds.

Dr. King, in his Birmingham speech, again, talked to the clergy about why you may well ask why direct action. Because, as you well know, there was protest and petitions. Why sit-ins, marches and so forth? Isn't negotiation a better path? You are quite right in calling for negotiation. Indeed, this is the very purpose of direct action. Non-violent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and foster such attention that a community which has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue it seeks so to dramatize the issue that it can no longer be ignored.

Now, why am I citing this? Because of course I would imagine you would not think I am talking about direct action in Iraq, but what I am saying is that there are many ways to get factions to the table other than the bloody violence and the presence of our soldiers on the soil of Iraq, at least as they are now being used. Is this misdirected, Mr. Speaker? We are not bringing anyone to the table of negotiation, not with the constant violence, the constant maiming of our soldiers, and the constant fueling the fire of sectarian violence.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I need tell no one of the enormous tragedy that we experienced today. I can't cite for you the numbers, but the U.N. now says that 34,000 Iraqis have died. The headline: "Suicide Bombings Go on as U.N. Says 2006 Dead in Iraq Top 34,000." The

United Nations said 34,452 Iraqi civilians had been killed in sectarian violence in 2006.

This is not insurgents or al Qaeda coming across the border. These are Iraqi civilians caught up in sectarian violence. We have not been able to stop it. This is a terrible day today. We have over 100 today that have died. Over 100.

So when we begin to try and resolve this question of Iraq, can we not put in place serious diplomatic negotiations? Can we not work in a bipartisan manner? Can we not suggest that we have done enough to warrant the Prime Minister at the table along with Sunni leaders? Can we ask the Prime Minister not to be so singular in his viewpoints? Do you expect, with his relationship with the cleric, that he would in any way provide the kind of necessary commitment that we have been told by this administration will be required for the Baghdad policy to work, dividing Baghdad into nine districts, forcing our soldiers, 20,000-plus, into neighborhoods, dragging people out of their neighborhoods when the bombing that occurred today occurred at the end of al Sadr, the city? The largest and one of the most egregious horrific bombings and we are to expect that our soldiers will be able to be in the midst?

Oh, yes, I have the greatest faith in our young men and women. And I do believe they are well trained. I take nothing away from them, and I thank them for being willing warriors. They are called and they go, and we should never diminish them. They are our defenders. And when the Commander in Chief calls them, they respond.

And, yes, Mr. Speaker, in the times I have gone every year since we invaded Iraq, I have gone along to Afghanistan, I have been in Mazul and Tikrit, and I have spoken to soldiers, and I probably left some behind who lost their lives. And every one of them would give you a stiff upper lip. They are there. As I got to go more recently, unfortunately I would see those who are there on their second and third redeployment, and those who will go back will be on the second and third redeployment.

So Dr. King's dream is being extinguished in the bloodiness, in the misdirectedness of an ongoing war, longer than World War II, with no solution. We leave Dr. King's dream of non-violence, of ways of using nonviolence, extinguished and stomped under our feet.

So I say to the American people, Dr. King's birthday is past, it was yesterday, and we had a weekend of activities, I'm sure, in many, many cities. You won't remember it again until next year this time, but I believe we are commanded by icons like Dr. King and our own Founding Fathers who indicated first that we organize this Nation to form a more perfect Union. It is right here in the Constitution, the very document that provides for us the right kind of way to declare war, which we never did.

Then, of course, Alexander Hamilton wanted to make sure we didn't leave our democracy, our freedom, our ability to speak just on some parchment paper they had written on. He said it has to be living, and we are not living the dream or living freedom here in America today. And, America, is what I am saying to my colleagues, you voted in November, I know, but it is time to break the silence. That is what Martin King said on April 4, 1967, a year before his death. Beyond Vietnam, a time to break the silence.

That was a stepping away from Dr. King's whole legacy at that time. And, believe me, he received enormous criticism. But he said a time comes when silence is betrayal, and that time has come for us in relation to Vietnam. He even went on to say, when pressed by the demands of inner truth, men do not easily assume the task of opposing their government's policy, especially in times of war. Nor does the human spirit move without great difficulty against all the apathy of conforming thought within one's own bosom and in the surrounding world.

He said, again, it is time to break the silence. Tonight, as he spoke to the congregation in this speech, he said: However, I wish not to speak with Hanoi and the National Liberation Front, then of course our proposed enemies during Vietnam, but rather to my fellow Americans, who with me bear the greatest responsibility in ending a conflict that has exacted a heavy price on both continents.

So this is what I leave with my friends. It is the responsibility of America. It is our responsibility to end the conflict that has exacted a heavy price on both continents.

□ 2240

And so I ask Americans to push forward. Let us hear from you on the cutting off of funds because, as we have heard over the weekend, the administration refuses to listen to the voices of the American people. And I was told the Vice President indicated that we have enough money, and so the Congress is not needed.

But I remain committed and inspired by Martin King's dream. And he had a wonderful dream for a better America. He wanted to see all of us of all hues and religion, little black boys and girls and white boys and girls and brown boys and girls, and all races and creeds of his era, now translated to today sitting down at the table of peace and harmony.

It may sound dated, but it is relevant today, and the New Direction Congress has grabbed hold, if you will, of the idea of making America great.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot make America great unless, of course, we bring, in dignity, the end to the Iraq conflict. 34,000 dead. And America must speak against the funding and the continued funding of this horrific, misdirected conflict.

Might I say, it has nothing to do with cutting off the resources of our valued

soldiers on the battlefield, for, as we have heard, there are monies there. But unless our voice is heard, non-violently, and comprehensively, we have a failed policy and a failed direction continued by the executive.

I close, Mr. Speaker, by citing in the Constitution the recognition that there are three branches of government, the executive, the judiciary, and the legislature. The Founding Fathers made sure, not knowing of Dr. King's dream, that they were equal and balanced.

And I respect the President as a Commander-in-Chief, but it is time now for America to breathe life into this Constitution, and to ensure, as we breathe life into this constitution, we, the people who are here to form a more perfect union, demand in debate and demand in action that we redeploy and bring our soldiers home.

And we can be successful because America has always lifted her voice of reason and brought people to the table in negotiation. And all the violence in Iraq, all of the violence in Iraq has not brought the parties together. All of the warring, all of the militia and our soldiers on the ground has not brought the parties together. That is where the administration fails in its duty to heal America and to make a solution that recognizes sectarian violence is going to require those sects to sit down and find a valid peace.

Martin King left us with good words, answer the Macedonian call to render aid, and we, as Americans, would get to the promised land some day. He might not be with us, but we have the opportunity, still, to continue our greatness and be part of the promised land.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you again for your patience this evening and having given us an opportunity to remind Americans that our history is not one that is passed, but it is living. Dr. King's dream must live within us.

THREE AMERICAN HEROES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WILSON of Ohio). The gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow morning, at 7:24 a.m., the first rays of the morning sun will illuminate the markers, the crosses and Stars of David at Arlington Cemetery. And about a half hour later they will move across the oak ridges of the Blue Ridge Mountains and down to the slow waters of the Shenandoah River and across the Midwest of this country.

And, Mr. Speaker, they will arrive, about an hour later, that great American sunrise, at the small towns in Texas, the hometowns of Audie Murphy, who fought with such great heroism in World War II, Sergeant Roy Benevides, who was a hero of the Vietnam War, and the hometown of Corporal Jason Dunham, who was given, a few days ago, the Medal of Honor by the President of the United States for his extreme valor in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, these three American heroes are tied by a common thread to each other and to the American people and to our national purpose, in that they all fought for the expansion of freedom.

Now, Audie Murphy fought in a war, World War II, which was a war that, once we had gotten into it and got past that first vote for a draft, which I think passed by one vote in this body, and realized that it was make or break time for the United States, that it was a war that would involve the full commitment of our entire country and all of our energies, a war in which there was unanimous support, that it was a war in which Audie Murphy fought with such great heroism.

The war in which Roy Benevides fought was a war that didn't support, or didn't involve that unanimous support by the American people, but, nonetheless, involved a noble cause, the cause of spreading freedom in Vietnam.

And the war that Corporal Jason Dunham gave his life in to protect his buddies in the 1st Marine Division, was a war, similarly, in which the United States has entered a long established blueprint for establishing freedom around the world, that is standing up a free government, standing up a military to protect that free government. And he was involved in the dangerous conflict in Anbar Province and gave his life for his colleagues in that struggle. So all three of these heroes were involved in the greatest American purpose, which is to spread freedom.

Mr. Speaker, we have an interest in spreading freedom, not just a humanitarian interest, but a national interest. After World War II, we stood up the free government in Japan, and we stood up a military apparatus that could protect it. And who would quarrel with the idea that we have an enormous interest in having Japan, a free nation, with considerable economic and military capability, on that end of the Pacific Ocean?

We also maintained free Germany, that is, West Germany, with the Berlin airlift, which was carried out with lots of American expenses and involvement and sacrifice. But we did that and, ultimately, that resulted in the reuniting of East and West Germany, and after the wall came down, the freeing of hundreds of millions of people as a result of America's triumph in the Cold War. And nobody would quarrel with the idea that having a free Germany in that strategic location was important to the United States.

In our own hemisphere, we maintained a shield around that fragile democracy in El Salvador as we stood up that free government and allowed them to have their first elections. And nobody would quarrel with the idea that El Salvador, which now is an ally of the United States in the operation in Iraq, is an important asset for the United States in our own hemisphere, an important ally, an important part-

ner; and that that is much preferable to the Marxist state which was where it was headed when the United States intervened.

□ 2250

Having free nations around the world in strategic locations especially is important to America. I think we all agree with that now, we have got a chance, if we succeed in Iraq, and having a country that is a friend, not an enemy of the United States, a country that will not be a state sponsor of terrorism in the future for the next 5, 10, 15, 20 years, and a country which has a modicum of freedom for its people.

Now, you know in spreading freedom around the world, incidentally, there are lots of naysayers. There are a lot of people who criticize and have criticized the American efforts.

After all, we only saved half of the Korean peninsula and none of Vietnam for freedom. People can point to the cliffs of Normandy in France and point out that the country that hosts those American gravesides for the soldiers who gave their lives for the liberation of France, that country is less than enthusiastic in supporting the United States in our efforts to expand freedom around the world.

You could probably say the same thing about the Government of Germany, seeming to have forgotten the ordeal of the Berlin airlift that the Americans endured to maintain freedom in West Germany and ultimately bring freedom to all the German people. There can be lots of criticism about the American plan. But, you know, the American plan, the idea of freedom has worked.

I want to talk just a little bit about the Baghdad plan, the plan that the President and the joint chiefs and our war fighting leadership in Iraq have put together. Now, somebody along this great tradition of critics who like to imply that somehow the road that we didn't take was a smooth road, there is lots of criticism of this plan.

This plan is not guaranteed to work because a lot of it relies on a factor that the United States doesn't control, and that is willingness, the willingness of the Iraqi military to show up with all of its units, to stand and fight, to be willing to engage in battle, and to be willing to take the burden of security that presently is carried mainly by the Americans.

But let us talk about this Baghdad plan, because the Baghdad plan could be a pattern for the handoff of the security responsibilities from the United States to the Iraqi Government.

In each of the nine sectors in Baghdad that the plan envisions, there will be an Iraqi brigade. Now, usually an Iraqi brigade will consist of two or three maneuvered battalions. A battalion can be anything from 500 to 800 people, so it consists of two or three maneuvered battalions who will be out in front. They will have some embedded American advisors and people who

can do things like call in medivacs and direct precision fire and do other things that we call combat enablers, so they will have American embedded teams helping them.

Beyond that, standing as a backup to these two or three Iraqi battalions will be an American battalion, helping to shore them up, helping to give them advice, standing behind them while the Iraqis move through the neighborhoods and through the communities in the areas that are violent in Baghdad.

Now, my recommendation has been that we take some of the 27 Iraqi battalions that have been trained and equipped that are in the quiet areas of Iraq, and nine of the 18 provinces are quiet areas. They are areas that involve less than one attack a day. That means that the 27 battalions that we have trained and equipped that are in those areas aren't undertaking substantial military operations right now.

We make sure that the Iraqi Ministry of Defense saddles up those battalions and moves them into the fight, rotates them into the battle, principally in the Baghdad area, but they could do the same thing in other areas in the Sunni triangle and even out in the al Anbar province. That does a couple of things. First, it helps get the job done. It moves trained and equipped fighting personnel into a theater of battle, and it provides people and equipment to make the necessary military operations to settle down Baghdad.

But the second thing it does is train up the Iraqi Army, because the best way to train any army is to put them in military operations. Let us put them in military operations.

Now my understanding that it is, in fact, from those nine quiet provinces we are going to have some three brigades that will involve six to nine battalions moving from the north and south, from quiet areas in Iraq, into Baghdad. We will be moving Iraqi battalions into Baghdad. Those have been committed by the Iraqi Government.

Now, there is no guarantees that all Iraqi forces are going to show up. They are going to have to prove that. In the past, they haven't always shown up. Although they have battalions that have performed very, very well in combat, they have got others that haven't performed well.

Now, we could take this pattern of having two or three Iraqi battalions with an American backup battalion, and we could use that to get combat experience and operational experience for every single Iraqi unit. Presently, there are 114 Iraqi battalions extant. That means that we have trained and equipped 114 battalions.

I am sure that they are at varying levels of end strength, that is, personnel, and probably varying levels of equipment. But you only need some basic equipment for this urban fighting. You need to have weapons, you need to have ammunition, you need to have communications gear, and you need to have transportation, and you need to have

soldiers who are willing, willing to obey the chain of command. You need to have leaders who are willing and able to lead, and you need to have a plan.

This Baghdad plan, this idea of dividing it into nine sectors, saddle up Iraqi units that heretofore have not been operating in Baghdad, moving them in, putting them out front, in front of the Americans, the Americans are backup, using that basic pattern to run through all of the 114 Iraqi battalions and give them combat experience is a good way for us to start this handoff in which we hand off the full security burden to the Iraqi forces.

Now, there is no guarantee that this can be done. There is no guarantee because one element of this plan is the commitment of Iraqi political leadership and the military leadership to carry out what they say they are going to do.

This plan can be a blueprint for the handoff of the security burden. I would hope that Members understand that the troops that we are sending to Iraq right now are, indeed, reinforcements. Some of them are already arriving. They are the reinforcements that are necessary to execute this plan. Some 4,000 of them are going to al Anbar province where the Marines have requested them, and the balance are going to the Baghdad operation and other operations, presumably in the Sunni Triangle.

This is a deployment of reinforcements, and the idea that this body or any other body would attempt to cut off American reinforcements to a military which is already engaged in combat is unacceptable. I think it is unprecedented. We have already made a vote to get into this operation. Right now we have got troops engaged in combat.

When reinforcements are required, and you have troops engaged in combat, it is incumbent upon us to make sure that our policy, and our policy is directed by the Commander in Chief, it is not directed by 435 Secretaries of State, that is all the Members of Congress becoming Secretaries of State in the House and another 100 in the other body, it is not directed by 535 self-appointed Secretaries of Defense. It is directed by the Commander in Chief who was elected by all the people to lead the militaries of this country. In consultation with our military leadership, he has done that. The troops are now moving. We need to get behind them.

That leads me to another issue, and that is I talked a little bit about that American sunrise and how it shines first on these stars of David and crosses at Arlington Cemetery, and then it moves across this country, takes about 3 hours to get to my hometown in San Diego and Fort Rosecrans Cemetery there on the edge of the Pacific Ocean.

□ 2300

Mr. Speaker, in the Midwest it flows over lots and lots of old factories and

plants that used to represent what we called the "arsenal of democracy."

When we got into World War II, our allies and our adversaries realized very quickly that America had an arsenal of democracy. We had a great industrial base. We had an industrial base in which our major auto makers were able to turn immediately to making tanks and personnel carriers and all the other equipment of war.

I know that in my own hometown in San Diego, we had an old facility you can still see if you drive down by the harbor that used to turn out a bomber aircraft every 60 minutes. That means they could have built the entire B-2 force in one day and had three hours left over.

Everywhere across this land, because we had a strong industrial base, which were able to transform that industrial base into a wartime footing, and it was with the support of that industrial base that the armies of the United States moved across Europe, that the Marine Corps and the armies moved across the Pacific, and that we brought this war to a conclusion that favored the United States of America. An arsenal of democracy is pretty important to democracies.

Today, if you want to look at a big part of the arsenal of democracy, you may have to go to some other countries. One country you may have to go to is China, because China is cheating on trade and China is acquiring hundreds of billions of American dollars, more than we are acquiring from them, and as the money piles up in China, they are using those billions of American trade dollars to buy military equipment.

That is why they are able to have some 17 submarines under production today while we have a fraction of that. That is why they are able to buy and build medium-range ballistic missiles. I predict at some point, Mr. Speaker, those ballistic missiles will have an anti-ship capability that will present a major threat to the American fleet. That is why they are able to start developing a new industrial base for the development of a modern tactical aircraft program.

So, Mr. Speaker, we see this one-way street on trade beginning to move the arsenal of democracy offshore. I can tell you in the past year on the Armed Services Committee I have looked at certain critical components of the arsenal of democracy, and I note that we only have one carbon fiber manufacturer left in the United States, and we only have, according to our research, one rocket fuel manufacturer left in the United States.

As we look at more and more of the industries that are critical to national security, we realize that in many of them we only have one or two or three businesses or companies that are left that are capable of making particular components that are critical to America's military strength.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to change and reverse this one-way street trade pol-

icy that we have acquiesced to and restore the arsenal of democracy.

It is kind of funny. When China enters a trade deal with the United States or competes against an American company, since we are all talking football at this time of the year, they start with 74 points on the scoreboard before the opening kickoff.

They give a 17 percent refund of their VAT tax, basically a 17 percent subsidy to this exporter who is sending out products to the United States. When our products arrive at China's shores, they give us a 17 percent penalty. That is now a 34 point spread. And then, just to make sure that we don't throw a Hail Mary and come from behind and win that particular competition on that particular product, they devalue their currency by 40 percent, and they increase the spread in points to 74 points.

That means that before the opening kickoff in this competition that we call world trade between the Chinese corporation and the American business and American workers, China has 74 points on the scoreboard. Then if we lose the competition, they say, what's the matter? Can't you play football?

China is cheating on trade, Mr. Speaker, and the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board made that clear in his preliminary speech which called this manipulation of currency an illegal subsidy. That word "subsidy" was subsequently removed from the speech before it was given to the Chinese leadership, but I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that that illegal subsidy and that 17 percent penalty that is given to American trade goods and the 17 percent subsidy that they give to their trade goods as they are moved for export to the United States, that 74 points on the scoreboard hurts American businesses, it hurts American workers and it erodes the arsenal of democracy.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to need the arsenal of democracy at some point in the future, and we need to have a trade policy and new trade laws that say this: We are not going to live with the 74-point disparity anymore, and you can do it the easy way or the hard way. We can all start with zero points on the scoreboard, or we will put the same taxes on your goods that you put on ours, and we will both start with 74 points on the scoreboard. But we are not going to start anymore with the score being America zero, China 74.

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope this is a year in which we pass a bill that calls the currency manipulation and devaluation by the central government of China what it is, which is an illegal subsidy.

Let me move on to another issue, Mr. Speaker, because as that American sunrise that lit up the Arlington Cemetery at 7:24 a.m. this morning moves across the United States, about 2 hours after that, it reaches the Southwest border of America. It shines on what I call the thin green line. That is the few thousand American Border Patrol men and women who defend the borders of

the United States. They have got a 2,000-mile border to defend, Mr. Speaker, all the way from San Diego, California, to Brownsville, Texas, and we owe it to them to use the best of our technology and the best of our resources to make sure that that border is defensible.

Now, we asked one of our great think tanks, the Sandia Laboratory, in fact, that is one of the laboratories that is full of scientists who design our nuclear weapons, design the warheads, we asked them once to solve a problem for us. We said, what is a good way for us to stop drugs from coming across the border from the south?

They thought about it for a while and came back and gave us a report, and the report said we are going to show you something that is not too complicated. How about a fence? In fact, how about a triple fence, which will slow down the smugglers enough so that your Border Patrolmen can catch them, which gives you a fighting chance to halt people that would come across illegally?

Now, this fence, in fact we call it the Sandia Fence because the Sandia National Laboratory designed it, is pretty simple. It consists of a steel fence. It is right on the border. Then you have a Border Patrol road that is about 50-foot wide, and then you have about a 15-foot high fence with an overhang, and then another Border Patrol fence, and then another fence that is a shorter fence. Three fences.

We built that when Republicans took control of this body in 1994 in San Diego. I can remember, because I drafted that language that went into the immigration bill that provided for that fence.

Mr. Speaker, when we built that fence, and we said it had to be built, the Clinton administration did not want to build it, and President Clinton's own INS representatives fought the fence. But they had to build it, because it was the law.

They said, do we have to build all three layers of fence? We sat down with them and said, well, we will tell you what; we will keep the three layers in the law, but let's build the first two, and if we don't need the third layer, we won't make you build it.

Mr. Speaker, we haven't needed the third layer, because that fence, the 14-mile fence in the San Diego sector, once we built the first big piece of that, we knocked down the smuggling of people and narcotics by more than 90 percent. We eliminated the drive-through drug trucks, we eliminated the 10 murders a year that were occurring on the border by the border gangs, and we eliminated the border gangs, because the border gangs needed to be able to move back and forth, north and south. If they were pursued from the north, they would go south, if they were pursued from the south, they would go north. We took away their mobility by building that fence.

Mr. Speaker, that fence works. And the new law that President Bush signed

a couple of months ago mandates the extension of that fence, the San Diego fence, 854 miles across the deserts of Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I drafted that bill, that fence provision that was in the bill that was offered by Homeland Security, and the first big section that I put in was the section between Calexico, California, and Douglas, Arizona. That is about 392 miles. That is the number one smugglers' corridor, now that we have closed the San Diego-Tijuana corridor by fencing it.

That 392-mile section is a section through which massive amounts of people and narcotics are being smuggled. The Department of Homeland Security has a mandate. In fact, when we wrote that law, I put in the word "shall." "Shall" means that this is not an option, it is not a goal, it is not something that would be nice to have if you could do it. It is a mandate to the Federal Government to build that fence.

There is available now appropriated and ready to go in the bank, so-to-speak, \$1.2 billion. That may not build the entire 854 miles of fence, but it gives you an awfully good big piece of it.

Something we found out about the San Diego fence was after we had built even a third of the San Diego fence, because we channelized the smugglers, especially the drug trucks and they had fewer places to go, we were able to concentrate our border agents in those channelized openings that were still unfenced and we caught lots of them, and our interdiction rate went way up, even before we completed the fence.

So, Mr. Speaker, there is nothing so compelling in this country as an idea that the people support which has been passed by both Houses of Congress and signed by the President and represents a law that came right from the heartland of this great country and which needs to be executed.

The Department of Homeland Security has the obligation of executing this law, and I look forward to working with my colleagues, Democrat and Republican, over the next several months and making sure that this fence gets started. We can start it concurrently in separate sections. You can have one contractor build it from mile 1 to mile 5, the next guy go from mile 5 to mile 10 and so on. We can immediately see a reduction in the amount of people and narcotics that are smuggled across this border.

Let me tell you why we have to build this border fence, Mr. Speaker: Since 9/11, it has become clear that border security is no longer primarily an immigration issue. It is a national security issue. We have to know, very simply, who is coming into our country and what they are bringing with them.

You know something else? We have got 250,000 criminal aliens right now in our Federal penitentiaries and our State and local prisons and jails, a quarter of a million criminal aliens. They cost us as much as \$50,000 apiece

to incarcerate for a year. That means that each year we spend around \$3 billion in cash money out of our Treasury to incarcerate the people that come across this unfenced section of the southern border of the United States. We would save enough money in one year on incarceration a loan to build the entire fence. Let's build it, Mr. Speaker.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ADERHOLT (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and January 17 on account of a death in the family.

Mr. BUYER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

Mr. CALVERT (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of personal reasons.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of attending a funeral in her district.

Mr. SULLIVAN (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of personal reasons.

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 Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FALOMAVAEGA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SESTAK, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today, January 17, 18, and 19.

Mrs. BACHMANN, for 5 minutes, January 18.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today, January 17, and 18.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. KUCINICH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 17, 2007, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

212. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-539, "Child Abuse and Neglect Investigation Record Access Temporary Amendment Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

213. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-540, "Department of Small and Local Business Development Subcontracting Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

214. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-541, "Office and Commission on African Affairs Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

215. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-542, "Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom Active Duty Pay Differential Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

216. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-543, "Commercial Exception Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

217. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-544, "Mayor and Chairman of the Council Transition Revised Temporary Amendment Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

218. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-545, "Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program Long-Term Ground Lease Temporary Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

219. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-537, "General Obligation Bonds and Bond Anticipation Notes for Fiscal Years 2007-2012 Authorization Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

220. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-536, "Organ and Bone Marrow Donor Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

221. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-546, "Good Samaritan Use of Automated External Defibrillators

Clarification Amendment Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

222. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-559, "Closing of Public Alleys in Square 701, S.O. 06-9889, Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

223. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-557, "Surgical Assistant Licensure Amendment Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

224. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-551, "Licensed Health Professional Criminal Background Check Amendment Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

225. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-550, "Physical Therapy Practice Amendment Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

226. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-549, "Physical Therapy Assistant Licensure Amendment Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

227. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-548, "Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Amendment Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

228. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-547, "Consumer Education on Video and Computer Games for Minors Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

229. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-558, "Closing of Public Alleys in Square 776, S.O. 06-9227, Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

230. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-552, "Metropolitan Police Department Amendment Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

231. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-553, "Personal Mobility Device Amendment Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

232. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-554, "District Department of Transportation DC Circulator Amendment Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

233. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-555, "Square 2910 Residential Development Stimulus Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

234. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 16-556, "Wisconsin Avenue Bridge Project and Noise Control Amendment Act of 2006," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

235. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Fireworks Display Over Water; Barrets Point, Williamsburg, VA [CGD05-06-026] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

236. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Cavalier 4th of July Fireworks Display, Broad Bay, Virginia Beach, VA [CGD05-06-019] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

237. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Yorktown July Fourth Fireworks Celebration, York River, Yorktown, VA [CGD05-06-030] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

238. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Fireworks on the Bay Celebration, Chesapeake Bay, Virginia Beach, VA [CGD05-06-054] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

239. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Shore Thing & Independence Day Fireworks Display, Chesapeake Bay, Norfolk, VA [CGD05-06-027] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

240. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Stars in the Sky Fireworks Celebration, James River, Newport News, VA [CGD05-06-048] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

241. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Elberta Solstice Festival Fireworks, Betsie Bay, Lake Michigan, Elberta, Michigan [CGD09-06-066] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

242. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Great Lakes Wind Fest, Lake Michigan, Grand Haven, Michigan [CGD09-06-065] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

243. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Coronado Bridge, San Diego Bay, CA [COTP San Diego 06-074] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

244. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Ardent Sentry 2006, Casco Bay & Portland Harbor, Northern New England, Captain of the Port Zone [CGD01-06-049] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

245. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Sabine-Neches Canal, Sabine River, Orange, TX [COTP Port Arthur-05-024] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

246. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Mile Marker 243, Hackberry, LA [COTP Port Arthur-06-014] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

247. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; City of Alpena Fireworks Display, Thunder Bay, Alpena, MI [CGD09-04-064] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

248. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Tennessee River, Mile Markers 255.5 to 256.5, Florence, AL [COTP Ohio Valley-06-034] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

249. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Sabine River, Port Arthur, TX [COTP Port Arthur-06-005] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

250. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Sabine River, Orange, TX [COTP Port Arthur-06-004] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

251. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Sabine River, Port Arthur, TX [COTP Port Arthur-06-003] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

252. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Illinois River Mile Marker 157.7 to Mile Marker 163.0, Peoria, IL [COTP St. Louis-06-004] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

253. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department

of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Neches River, Sabine-Neches Canal, Port Arthur, TX [COTP Port Arthur-06-008] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

254. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Kanawha River Miles 59.5 to 62.0, Charleston, West Virginia [MSU Huntington-06-002] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

255. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River Mile Marker 194.0 to Mile Marker 196.0, St. Louis, MO [COTP St. Louis-06-003] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

256. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Muskingum River Miles 0.5 to 1.5, Marietta, OH [MSU Huntington-06-001] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

257. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Cocoa 4th of July Fireworks Display — Indian River, Cocoa, FL [COTP Jacksonville 06-091] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

258. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Fernandina 4th of July Fireworks Display — Amelia River, Fernandina Beach, FL [COTP Jacksonville 06-093] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

259. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Tennessee River, Mile Marker 464.0 to 466.0, Chattanooga, TN [COTP Ohio Valley-06-042] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

260. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Cumberland River, Mile Markers 101.5 to 102.5, Cumberland City, TN [COTP Ohio Valley-06-036] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

261. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Fort McHenry Channel, Port of Baltimore, MD [CGD05-06-084] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

262. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Sail

Port Huron Tall Ships, St. Clair River, Port Huron, MI [CGD09-06-152] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

263. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Beaver Inlet, Wide Bay, Unalaska Island, AK [COTP Western Alaska-06-003] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

264. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Potomac River, Alexandria Channel, DC [CGD05-06-088] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

265. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Olympia Harbor Days Tugboat Race, Budd Inlet, Olympia, Washington [CGD13-06-043] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

266. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Captain of the Port Jacksonville Tropical Cyclone Safety Zone [COTP Jacksonville 06-180] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

267. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway MM158, Orange Beach, Alabama [COTP Mobile-05-048] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

268. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Sabine-Neches Canal, Sabine River, Orange, TX [COTP Port Arthur-05-023] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

269. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Polishfest Fireworks, Milwaukee Harbor, Wisconsin [CGD09-06-073] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

270. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Greater North Michigan Avenue Association's Gardens of the Magnificent Mile Fireworks Display, Chicago River, Chicago, IL [CGD09-06-069] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

271. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Live Fire Gun Exercise, Lake Ontario [CGD09-06-130] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

272. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Camp Rilea Offshore Small Arms Firing Range; Warrenton, Oregon [CGD 13-06-046] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

273. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Camp Rilea Offshore Small Arms Firing Range; Warrenton, Oregon [CGD 13-06-049] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

274. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Sabine Pass Channel and Port Arthur Ship Canal; Port Arthur, TX [COTP Port Arthur-05-021] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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:

Ms. MATSUI: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 65. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reduce interest rates for student borrowers (Rept. 110-1). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. MCGOVERN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 66. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6) to reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy alternatives, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-2). 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. MCKEON (for himself, Mr. KELLER, Mr. CASTLE, and Mr. BAKER):

H.R. 472. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to address the issues of college affordability and transparency; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. WOLF (for himself, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. COBLE, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mr. CULBERSON):

H.R. 473. A bill to establish a commission to develop legislation designed to reform tax policy and entitlement benefit programs and ensure a sound fiscal future for the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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 Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico (for herself, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mr. PEARCE):

H.R. 474. A bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in

Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the "Raymond G. Murphy Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

H.R. 475. A bill to revise the composition of the House of Representatives Page Board to equalize the number of members representing the majority and minority parties and to include a member representing the parents of pages and a member representing former pages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas:

H.R. 476. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to make noncreditable for Federal retirement purposes any Member service performed by an individual who is convicted of any of certain offenses committed by that individual while serving as a Member of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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 Mrs. CAPPAS (for herself and Mr. PICKERING):

H.R. 477. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to strengthen education, prevention, and treatment programs relating to stroke, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CHANDLER (for himself and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky):

H.R. 478. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 101 Barr Street in Lexington, Kentucky, as the "Scott Reed Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DOOLITTLE:

H.R. 479. A bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to revise the do-not-call telemarketing rules to permit individuals to opt out of receiving certain politically-oriented telephone calls; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DOOLITTLE:

H.R. 480. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to prohibit issuance of residential mortgages to any individual who lacks a Social Security account number; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DOOLITTLE:

H.R. 481. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require each individual who desires to vote in an election for Federal office to provide the appropriate election official with a government-issued photo identification, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. DOOLITTLE:

H.R. 482. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer ownership of the American River Pump Station Project, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DOOLITTLE:

H.R. 483. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out certain land exchanges involving small parcels of National Forest System land in the Tahoe National Forest in the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DOOLITTLE:

H.R. 484. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaigns for election for Federal office; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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. DOOLITTLE:

H.R. 485. A bill to amend the Small Tracts Act to facilitate the exchange of small tracts of land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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. GINGREY:

H.R. 486. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to place restrictions on the disposition of funds by leadership PACs; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. HERSETH:

H.R. 487. A bill 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, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 488. A bill to amend title VI of the National Security Act of 1947 to require reports to be submitted to the Attorney General and the congressional intelligence committees regarding requests for information about an officer, employee, or agent of an element of the intelligence community and to amend the definition of covert agent to include agents that have served outside the United States at any time; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 489. A bill to establish a commission to develop legislation designed to reform entitlement benefit programs and ensure a sound fiscal future for the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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. MCNULTY:

H.R. 490. A bill to provide certain requirements for hydroelectric projects on the Mohawk River in the State of New York, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MOORE of Kansas (for himself and Mr. MORAN of Kansas):

H.R. 491. A bill to provide for the mandatory revocation of passports of individuals who are more than \$5,000 in arrears in child support payments; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. ROHRABACHER:

H.R. 492. A bill to restore the Federal electoral rights of the residents of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and 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 Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Mrs.

BIGGERT, Mr. ESHOO, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BAKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. BONO, Mr.

BOUSTANY, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CALVERT, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DICKS, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. EMANUEL, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. FARR, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. GOHMERT, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. HERGER, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. KIRK, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. LUCAS, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. MICA, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. OLVER, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. PORTER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. REGULA, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. ROSKAM, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. SAXTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. STARK, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. UPTON, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WALSH of New York, Mr. WAMP, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WELLER, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WOLF, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HOLT, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. LATOURETTE, and Mr. TANCREDO):

H.R. 493. A bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means, 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. UPTON:

H.R. 494. A bill to provide for the conditional conveyance of any interest retained by the United States in St. Joseph Memorial Hall in St. Joseph, Michigan; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. WALDEN of Oregon:

H.R. 495. A bill to update the management of Oregon water resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. WALDEN of Oregon:

H.R. 496. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assist in the planning, design, and construction of the Tumalo Irrigation District Water Conservation Project in

Deschutes County, Oregon; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. SPRATT, and Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina):

H.R. 497. A bill to authorize the Marion Park Project, a 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; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. WYNN:

H.R. 498. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the oil and gas tax subsidies enacted in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Science and Technology, Oversight and Government Reform, and Energy and Commerce, 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. DEAL of Georgia (for himself, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland):

H.R. 500. A bill to provide that pay for Members of Congress be reduced following any fiscal year in which there is a Federal deficit; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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. FOXX (for herself, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. MCHENRY, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. COBLE, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. PETRI, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. JONES of North Carolina):

H.J. Res. 15. A joint resolution recognizing the contributions of the Christmas tree industry to the United States economy; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. HOLT, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FARR, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. LEE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. STARK, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. MURTHA):

H. Con. Res. 33. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the President should not initiate military action against Iran without first obtaining authorization from Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. WEINER, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas):

H. Res. 64. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Bangladesh should immediately drop all pending charges against Bangladeshi journalist Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. DOOLITTLE:

H. Res. 67. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the designation of a National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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. WOOLSEY (for herself, Mr. FARR, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. STARK):

H. Res. 68. A resolution recognizing the dangers posed by nuclear weapons and calling on the President to engage in non-proliferation strategies designed to eliminate these weapons of mass destruction from United States and worldwide arsenals; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 499. A bill for the relief of Fouad Yousef Hakim Mansour and Saheir Gamil Shaker Mansour; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. INSLEE:

H.R. 501. A bill for the relief of Valerie Flame Wilson; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 5: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.

H.R. 14: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, and Mr. MCCAUL of Texas.

H.R. 16: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 65: Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. TANNER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DICKS, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. LEE, Ms. CARSON, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. FTLNER, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 87: Mr. GERLACH, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. DENT, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. FOSSELLA, and Mr. MANZULLO.

H.R. 92: Mr. KUHL of New York.

H.R. 132: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 137: Mr. HARE, Mr. SALAZAR, and Ms. BALDWIN.

H.R. 157: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H.R. 159: Mr. COHEN and Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 171: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 180: Mr. PAYNE, Ms. CARSON, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. STARK, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 211: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H.R. 278: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.

H.R. 312: Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. CARTER, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. AKIN, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. KINGSTON, Ms. FOXX, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. COHEN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mrs. MYRICK.

H.R. 319: Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. WYNN, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. SOUDER, and Mr. POE.

H.R. 322: Mr. HERGER.
 H.R. 330: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
 H.R. 346: Mrs. MYRICK and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
 H.R. 352: Ms. CARSON, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. WYNN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. WATSON, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. TOWNS.
 H.R. 353: Mr. CONYERS.
 H.R. 369: Mr. KUCINICH.
 H.R. 373: Mr. LAMBORN.
 H.R. 374: Mr. LAMBORN.
 H.R. 379: Mr. LAMBORN.
 H.R. 381: Mr. GALLEGLY and Ms. BERKLEY.
 H.R. 390: Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. CLAY.
 H.R. 464: Mr. McNULTY, Mr. CLAY, Mr. FILLNER, and Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.

H.J. Res. 14: Mr. MURTHA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. DUNCAN.
 H. Con. Res. 5: Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. WOOLSEY.
 H. Con. Res. 7: Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. STARK, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H. Con. Res. 9: Ms. KILPATRICK, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. DELAURO.
 H. Con. Res. 19: Ms. CARSON.
 H. Con. Res. 23: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. HONDA.
 H. Con. Res. 28: Mr. LANGEVIN.
 H. Res. 24: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
 H. Res. 39: Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. KELLER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. FEENEY, and Mr. WELDON of Florida.
 H. Res. 40: Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H. Res. 41: Ms. HARMAN, Ms. WATSON, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SOLIS, and Mr. LYNCH.
 H. Res. 52: Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mr. SHERMAN.
 H. Res. 61: Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PALLONE, Mrs. TAUSCHER, and Mr. COHEN.

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.R. 6: Mr. TANNER and Mr. GONZALEZ.