a phased redeployment of U.S. troops—with a date certain, by August 2008 at the latest, for U.S. combat troops to be redeployed from Iraq. While I would have preferred a plan that brought the troops home even sooner, I believe that this compromise proposal is the best approach Congress can take at this time.

Adoption of the Democrats' plan would begin to answer the pleas of the American people—to turn away from the President's open-ended commitment to U.S. participation in this Iraqi civil war and instead provide a responsible, phased plan for requiring the Iraqis to take responsibility for their own future. Redeploying our armed forces does not mean "cutting and running." On the contrary, we suggest continued and extensive involvement in the region through renewed diplomacy and reconstruction that is free from fraud and abuse. This sensible path is the only one that can truly lead us to victory.

TRIBUTE TO WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY THEATRE ARTS

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, the Weber State University theatre arts program in the Department of Performing Arts is known regionally and nationally for providing exceptionally high quality theatre productions. Faculty and students are serious, committed to theatre, and devoted to making theatre accessible to a diverse audience. Weber State Theatre Arts area produces a full season of plays in the remodeled and state-of-the-art Val A. Browning Center for the Performing Arts.

In recognition of Weber State University's consistently outstanding theatre program, it was invited to participate in "Shakespeare in Washington," a festival featuring a vast array of events including: theatre, music and dance, as well as films and art exhibits hosted by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts from January to June 2007.

Weber State's production of "Macbeth" was performed on March 14 and 15 in the Family Theatre at the Kennedy Center. "Macbeth" is one of the world's most well known tragedies and has been interpreted in many styles and cultures. Macbeth and his wife conspire to murder their way to the throne of Scotland, but their success is spoiled by guilt, paranoia and madness.

Because of the unique presentation, the production was edited to run close to an hour in length, requiring the director, Tracy Callahan, to spend a great deal of time editing the script without losing any of its high-voltage substance. Many know the story, but thanks to the skills of the playwright, director, cast, designers and crew, nothing is lost in the abbreviated retelling.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Theatre Arts at Weber State University, those who had a part in this stellar production, those who have traveled far to support Weber State University as well as the Weber State University Alumni in the Washington, D.C. area.

THE AUSTIN FAMILY—AMERICANS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, each year, people enter the United States to pursue the American dream. The members of the Austin family were determined to live here and become citizens of our great Nation. On March 21, 2007, the community of Kingwood, Texas, will celebrate the fact that the Austin family—Tony, Cheryl, Ryan, and Laura—are now officially citizens of the United States of America.

Cheryl was born in Luanshya, a copper mining town in Zambia in 1951. Tony moved to Luanshya with his parents in 1953. The two met in 1968 at a Lions Club Gala Dance and were married in March 1970.

In 1973, they had two children, Ryan and Lauren. Tony had the opportunity to move his family to the United States because of the company he worked for in South Africa.

Tony was interested in coming to the United States because he often traveled to Houston for business and had the opportunity to spend time in the suburbs. Tony was awestruck by the freedom that American families enjoy as opposed to the situation his family encountered in South Africa with the deteriorating security system. Although they had a great house in a good area, they were imprisoned by the fear of robbery either at home or out on the streets.

The family arrived in Houston in January 1998. They all settled in and again it became clearer how much Ryan and Lauren had been affected by the security situation of South Africa. They were amazed at the freedom they had here.

The family obtained legal permanent resident status in May 2001, by which time they had decided that this was to be their permanent home. They then applied for citizenship in August 2006.

The Austin family is active in the community and each member is a valuable asset to our country. Cheryl has been with Continental Airlines since October 2000 and is now a Senior Recruiter. Tony is a Regional Sales Director with a national training software company. Ryan has his own business, GameForce, in Kingwood Town Center, and Lauren is a junior at the University of Houston Business School.

Although the family has had to make some adjustments, they know it is worth it because of everything they have gained by becoming U.S. citizens. Not only are they model citizens, they are incredibly patriotic and cherish the United States.

I commend the Austin family on their great achievement, congratulate them on being citizens of the great United States, and wish them the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, on March 14, 2007, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall No. 153, the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2007 (H.R. 985).

IN MEMORY OF STAFF SERGEANT JUSTIN M. ESTES

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Staff Sergeant Justin M. Estes of Sims, Arkansas; who died on March 5, 2007, fighting for our country in Iraq while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Staff Sergeant Justin Estes was 25 years old when he selflessly gave his life for his country during combat operations.

After graduating from Oden High School where he played basketball and baseball, Staff Sergeant Estes joined the Army where he would serve in South Korea, Germany, Iraq and Macedonia. Staff Sergeant Estes was a member of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C., where he was assigned to C Company, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq.

Staff Sergeant Justin Estes gave his life to serve our country and will forever be remembered as a hero, a son and a friend. My deepest condolences go out to his mother and stepfather, Diane and John Salyers of Sims; his father and stepmother, Don and Cathy Estes of Harrodsburg, Kentucky; his two sisters, Norma and Kelli Estes; his grandparents, John and Clazina Visser and Joe Barry; and to his aunts, uncles and cousins. He will be missed by his family, his community and all those who knew him and called him a friend. I will continue to keep Staff Sergeant Justin Estes and his family in my deepest thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK NEELY

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2007

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrick Neely. Mr. Neely, of Neely's Bar-B-Que, located in both Memphis and in Nashville, was recently named Restauranteur of the Year by the Memphis Restaurant Association. Mr. Neely and his brothers Gaelin, Tony, and Mark have turned what was once a fledgling downtown Memphis operation into one of the most successful restaurants in the entire American South. After first opening its doors in 1988, Neely's Bar-B-Que has opened doors in two new locations and been featured nationwide in magazines and on nationally televised news and cable programs.

The Neelys have continually worked hard to ensure quality in both their food and their people, and have not forgotten about their community. Giving time, money and support to a host of charitable and not-for-profit organizations, Neely's Bar-B-Que has turned itself into a profitable, charitable, and local source of pride. It is for the hard-work, determination, and ultimate successes of Mr. Neely and his entire family that I rise, Madam Speaker, to