

School, served as counsel to the late Senator Strom Thurmond, and was a colleague of mine in the South Carolina State Senate, ably representing Greenville County.

I want to thank his wife Robin and their children and spouses: Rivers and Charlotte, Jason and Amanda, Allison and Bo, and Rob and Charlotte for their years of support. We are all proud that Rob is currently serving with the 218th Brigade Combat Team of the South Carolina Army National Guard in Afghanistan.

South Carolina is grateful for Judge Stilwell's years of dedicated public service to his State and country, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

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

STOP OUTSOURCING SECURITY

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, in case there was any doubt that we need to get rid of private security contractors in Iraq, just look at yesterday's headline story in the Washington Post: "How Blackwater Sniper Fire Felled 3 Iraqi Guards. Witnesses call shooting unprovoked, but State Department cleared its security team after a brief probe."

That shooting took place February 7, and just yesterday we found out about it. Isn't it obvious that the State Department is unable or unwilling to control these armed mercenaries whose reckless behavior fans the flames of hatred against all Americans, including our young troops in harm's way? Isn't it obvious that for-profit companies like Blackwater who are being paid billions of taxpayer dollars have forfeited their right to work in Iraq? Defense Secretary Robert Gates said they are working "at cross purposes to our larger mission in Iraq."

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Stop Outsourcing Security Act, H.R. 4102, and begin now to phase out these unaccountable private security contractors before they do any more damage.

CHILD SOLDIERS IN BURMA

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to a new report by Human Rights Watch detailing the use of child soldiers in Burma, particularly by the brutal dictatorship there.

Past reports have suggested that there are approximately 70,000 child soldiers in Burma, the largest child soldier army in the world. It is difficult to know the exact number. But we do know that not only does the SPDC regime refuse to allow democracy and en-

gages in ethnic cleansing, it also deliberately, as policy, targets children for military recruitment, training, and battle.

Children are targeted simply walking down the street or waiting for a train. If they don't have their ID cards, so-called "recruiters" tell the children they will be sent to prison or they can join the army. If the children try to run away, they are severely punished.

Children are also forced by the SPDC to participate in human rights violations such as burning down villages or shooting villagers on sight, women and children included.

Mr. Speaker, the SPDC dictatorship must go. It is time for democracy in Burma.

IRAN WAR GAME

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, my concern that the President might launch a military strike against Iran is well known; but my mission here today is not rhetorical. I am here to propose that Members of Congress participate in an Iran war game.

Television could carry the event so the American people can watch it all. We know that the Pentagon has conducted war games to examine the casualties and consequences of a U.S. military strike against Iran. We should, too.

Here are some of the questions that could be answered: Could we use bunker buster bombs? Could a U.S. military strike against Iran result in a wider Middle East war? What provocation would cause the President to provoke such a strike?

A group of retired, high-level CIA agents brought this idea to me. These are patriots whom we trusted with keeping and protecting America's secrets. They and others, including a retired Air Force colonel who conducted war games in the Pentagon, would accurately produce a U.S.-Iran war game just as it is done in the Pentagon. I know because they gave me the plan.

A military strike against Iran would involve life-and-death issues. We need to understand what they would look like. I urge my colleagues and the media to join me in demanding that we publicly conduct a U.S.-Iran war game as soon as possible.

Think what we would have learned if we had done it before Iraq.

FUND OUR VETERANS

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

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, this is day 40. That is 40 days so far that our veterans have not had the use of the increased funding for their benefits and health care. That is \$18.5 million a day not able to be used.

One thing that our veterans asked for is that we pass our bill by October 1. This work has been done for months.

With Veterans Day quickly approaching, the Democratic leadership put our veterans aside to consider billions in bloated domestic spending instead of sending a clean veterans bill to the floor.

I'm standing with our veterans, and I call on all Americans to contact their Representatives to tell the Democrat leadership to send a clean veterans appropriation bill to the President now.

MAIN STREET OR WALL STREET?

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Get ready. You're going to hear a lot of fuzzy math, obfuscation and general BS here on the floor today; but there has never been a more clear choice between Main Street and Wall Street America.

On one side, tax relief for 22 million American families, 247,000 families in Oregon, 39,000 in my district, relief from the onerous alternative minimum tax.

On the other side, 50,000 millionaires and billionaires who manage private investment funds and exploit a tax loophole to pay a rate of taxes less than that paid by a teacher or a cop walking the beat. The bill would ask those 50,000 millionaire and billionaire investors to pay their fair share so that 22 million middle-income families can get relief from the alternative minimum tax, a tax originally designed to get at the millionaires and billionaires.

There will be gnashing of teeth because the millionaires and billionaires are very generous come campaign time. But you can't dodge this vote; Main Street or Wall Street?

□ 0915

HONORING TOMMY WIRES

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, America will pay tribute to tens of thousands of military veteran men and women who have bravely served their country and who have fought to protect our freedom.

I mention one resident from Pickens, South Carolina, Mr. Tommy Wires, who served this country for 9 years in the United States Marine Corps. Tommy joined the Marine Corps in 1959. He served two tours in Vietnam and, while serving with the 26th Marines on his second tour in Vietnam, was wounded.

During his service, he remained devoted to his wife and his two sons.

Tommy is a part of those brave soldiers on this coming Veterans Day who deserve recognition for his sacrifice and love for this country.

He is an American patriot, and while he served as a soldier for America, he demonstrated to his friends, his family and his country the true colors of red, white and blue.

Tommy, thank you for your service. We love you. God bless.

IMPROVE WOMEN'S ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge swift action on a measure to improve women's access to health care.

As many of my colleagues are aware, there is a provision in the Deficit Reduction Act which has unfortunately created a situation whereby student health centers and clinics that serve low-income women can no longer access contraceptives at a deeply discounted rate.

Just this week, I was proud to cosponsor a bill introduced by my colleagues JOE CROWLEY and JIM RAMSTAD to correct this inadvertent oversight.

The effects of this Deficit Reduction Act provision are already being felt by women across the country, including college students who are now forced to pay up to 10 times more for birth control pills than they did before.

Unfortunately, there are those who refuse to agree to our proposed correction. So I am standing here today to urge my colleagues to fix this discrepancy that was never intended to exist.

Let's stop the attacks on women's health. Let's guarantee women access to needed health services.

NOVEMBER 11, 1918

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, when the "War to end all Wars"—World War I—concluded on the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, it was called Armistice Day. We now refer to it as Veterans Day to honor those that went to war and those of them that returned from war to the vast American landscape.

When the American doughboys landed in Europe in World War I to a deadlocked bloody trench war where millions had already died, their relentless spirit not only stunned our enemy but it revived and surprised our allies, France and England. The American soldier landed 90 years ago this year, singing George M. Cohan's "Over There," and, as the lyrics say, "They didn't come back till it was over, over there."

America has gone to war many times since World War I, and America's youth has always answered the call to duty, honor, country.

This Sunday, on the 11th day of the 11th month, America should fly the flag, be proud of our glorious heritage

and give praise to veterans who went to places they had never seen and fought for peoples they didn't know to spread the doctrine of liberty and freedom.

And that's just the way it is.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3996, TEMPORARY TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 809 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 809

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3996) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions of the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; (2) an amendment in the nature of a substitute, if offered by Representative McCrery of Louisiana or his designee, which shall be considered as read, and shall be separately debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. During consideration of H.R. 3996 pursuant to this resolution, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to such time as may be designated by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 809 provides for consideration of H.R. 3996, the Temporary Tax Relief Act of 2007, under a structured rule. The rule provides 1 hour of debate controlled by the Committee on Ways and Means. The rule

makes in order a substitute amendment to be offered by Representative MCCRERY of Louisiana or his designee. The amendment is debatable for 1 hour.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3996, the Temporary Tax Relief Act. I want to commend the distinguished chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Congressman CHARLIE RANGEL, for his usual great work on this bill.

And I want to say a special thank you to my good friend and colleague and neighbor from Massachusetts, Congressman RICHIE NEAL, who has been a champion on the issue of the alternative minimum tax for a long, long time. RICHIE NEAL has been the canary in the coal mine, talking about the AMT when nobody else was, and he deserves an enormous amount of credit for his work.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that the alternative minimum tax was never designed to hit middle-class families, but that's exactly what will happen unless Congress acts.

In my district alone, the numbers are staggering. In 2005, 13,000 families were hit with the AMT. That number will jump to nearly 83,000 in 2007, a 517 percent increase, unless we do something about it.

These middle-class workers are struggling with enough problems, skyrocketing fuel costs, higher tuition, higher property taxes, higher child care costs. And for years, President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress passed huge tax cuts for the wealthy, while doing very little or nothing to help hardworking middle-class families. That has to stop, and we're going to stop it today.

My Republican friends on the Rules Committee often like to talk about how strong the economy is, how GDP is growing at such a rate. Well, I agree to a certain point, Mr. Speaker. Somebody is getting pretty rich in this economy, but I would point out that it usually isn't the workers, and they're the ones that make this country great. Last year, the average CEO made 364 times what the average worker did. Just 25 years ago, CEOs made only 42 times more.

So yes, the people at the top are having a blast, but we need to do more for the people in the middle and for those struggling to get into the middle.

This bill before us today not only spares these hardworking families from the AMT, but it does so in a fiscally responsible way, and that is at the heart of the argument before us today.

Some of my friends on the other side of the aisle believe that we should patch the AMT without paying for it. They believe that we should simply add the cost on to our national debt, a debt, by the way, that has now reached \$9 trillion. That's trillion with a "T."

Of course, this has been their approach for years. The Iraq War? Not paid for. The Bush tax cuts? Not paid for. The Medicare prescription drug benefit? Not paid for.