

Ms. NORTON. I thank the gentlewoman for her efforts to make our caucus truly bipartisan, because it certainly takes hard work. We iron out our differences and go ahead. On things we disagree, those do not become caucus issues.

On choice, for example, there are some Members, Democrat and Republican, that are not with us on choice. Therefore, we do not worry with that in the caucus. Those of who are strongly pro-choice will do it on our own or with other Members.

Mr. Speaker, let me finish by saying that the two other groundbreaking approaches the women's caucus has used this session are town meetings and women's caucus hearings. We had a town meeting on pay equity, because we have found that that is a number one issue for women and families. That was a meeting where we did not do most of the talking. We invited women from around the country to do most of the talking. Most of those women came from operations like the business and professional women's clubs of America. It was an important innovation for the women's caucus.

We have had four women's caucus hearings. I mentioned some of the team members. Those hearings have been on zero to 3, the groundbreaking work that has been done on what we all had better understand about young children and what has to be done. It is to far more adequately stimulate them and get child care for them.

I have mentioned contraceptive research. We have to move ahead on that or else we are inviting more abortion. This last year was the 25th anniversary of Title IX. We had a hearing to commemorate it and to indicate the great unsolved issues under Title IX, and of course I have mentioned the procurement hearing because while there is a 5 percent goal, a voluntary goal, for women for contracts from the Federal Government, we are only at 2 percent. The women's caucus hearing brought that out.

Mr. Speaker I appreciate the time that has been awarded to the 50 Members of Congress for this special order.

HONORING WAYNE FOWLER FOR HIS 32 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, this is a labor of love for me, because it is a privilege for me to rise this afternoon to honor my constituent, Wayne Fowler, for his 32 years of service to the House and the United States Government he has given us. Twenty-two years of that has come right here on our House floor, 6 years as an assistant enrolling clerk and 16 years as an assistant journal clerk.

During his years of service, Mr. Fowler has exhibited a deep appreciation for the value of the legislative process in its purest form, that of the parliamentary actions of the House. Mr. Fowler's devotion to the language of the House Journal, or "journalese," as he calls it, is well known. Wayne never forgot to remind his colleagues that this style of prose has been in use in the House Journal since the second Continental Congress, and that the Constitution mandates the keeping of the House Journal, which is the official record of House proceedings.

Wayne Fowler is a true renaissance man. He is a lover of art, music, and literature. He is an avid bicyclist, which keeps him in such good shape. He is also known to his co-workers as someone who believes in empowering and supporting the work of the young people who also serve this House. He could often be found explaining the procedures of the House to the House pages, something they would never forget, and many of them might go on to become Members of this House and continue to remember that.

Mr. Fowler serves as the vergers at St. Columbus Episcopal Church, where he is responsible for the order of the liturgy and for training and supervising the acolytes.

I want to congratulate Wayne. I want to offer my best wishes to him, to his wife, Anona, their two sons, Wayne and Perry, and their wives, Leslie and Amber. We miss you, Wayne, but we wish you the best in your new adventure, and we thank you for your dedicated service to our House of Representatives and to our great country. Come back and visit.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2495

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be deleted as a cosponsor of H.R. 2495.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET PLAN THREATENS TO BRING BACK HUGE FEDERAL DEFICITS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) is recognized for no more than 20 minutes.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, let me just say that this week we heard some remarkable news come out of the Congressional Budget Office. The Congressional Budget Office reported that we will see this year an \$8 billion surplus, and I think that is remarkable news for our country, and it is noteworthy to say that a lot of that progress has been made just in the last few years.

I noticed here as I looked back at the 1995 projected deficit, the 1996 projected deficit, and the 1997 projected deficit,

that as recently as 1995 the projection was that the deficit this year would be \$164 billion, in 1996 it was going to be \$107 billion, and in 1997, \$22 billion, is what it actually ended up being, and this year we actually have erased the red ink and we are operating in the black.

That is a remarkable achievement, considering from where we have come in these past few years. That is the good news. I think we ought to all reflect on the fact that that is good news. I think, again, it marks the first time in 30 years we have been able to operate in the black, and it is a tribute to the fiscal discipline that has been exercised by the Congress in the last couple of years in trying to get Federal spending under control.

The bad news, of course, is the fact that after years of hard work to eliminate these deficits, President Clinton wants to send the Federal budget back into the red. That is what is shown also in the analysis of the President's budget which was released yesterday by the Congressional Budget Office. The President's plan breaks the budget and breaks the agreement that we just reached this last year. Worst of all, it breaks faith with the American people.

It took us since 1969, when the first man walked on the Moon, to bring the Federal budget into balance. The President's plan will bring back deficits in just 2 short years. We should have expected that, because the President has proposed some 85 new initiatives costing \$150 billion over the next 5 years.

In addition, he has proposed increasing taxes to their highest level on our society since 1945. Any budget that returns us to the era of more taxes, more spending, and deficits, even for one year, is unacceptable. I think we treated the President's budget with courtesy when it was received on the Hill but declared it dead on arrival, and I think CBO's findings should certainly slam the coffin lid shut on this ill-conceived plan which threatens to wipe out all the progress we have worked so hard to make in bringing down Federal spending and eliminating Federal deficits.

There is an \$8 billion surplus in 1998, a remarkable achievement, and I think that hopefully we can continue down that track to build on surpluses in the future. The other part of the bad news, of course, in all this debate and discussion is the fact that even though we are operating in the black this year on a unified basis, budgetary basis, we still have \$5.5 trillion in debt that we have racked up over the last several years. We need, I think, again, to put a plan in place to retire that debt.

One of the things that we have looked very seriously at, and in fact I have cosponsored, is a plan that has been offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. NEUMANN) which would deal with that very issue. If we can assist and in a systematic way get the discipline that is necessary to reduce