OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 13, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 13, 2004 at 10:10 a.m.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 361.

Appointments:

Board of Visitors United States Naval Academy.

Board of Visitors United States Air Force Academy.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the Speaker pro tempore signed the following enrolled bills on Thursday, February 19, 2004:

H.R. 743, to amend the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional safeguards for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries with representative payees, to enhance program protections, and for other purposes;

S. 523, to make technical corrections to laws relating to Native Americans, and for other purposes.

REMEMBERING VICTIMS OF BROTHERS TO THE RESCUE SHOOTDOWN ON EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Carlos Costa, Armando Alejandre, Mario de la Pena, and Pablo Morales, who, 8 years ago today, were murdered by the terrorist regime in Havana.

These four brave men, committed to the cause of freedom and democracy in Cuba, ventured out over international waters in search of those who risked it all to reach here, the United States, the land of liberty. But what they came face to face with was the evil, ruthless, and brutal nature of the Castro dictatorship in the form of MiG–29 fighter jets. Like vultures circling their prey, these MiGs closed in, and at 3:21 and 3:27 p.m. aimed their missiles and destroyed these two Brothers to the Rescue planes.

There would be no international outcry. Yet their deaths at the hands of the tyrant and his agents of terror would serve as a catalyst, a call to action, a new Grito de Baire, for Cuba's internal opposition.

I ask my colleagues to remember these fallen heroes, Carlos, Armando, Mario, and Pablo, and to pray for the enslaved people of Cuba.

ETHICAL CLOUD HANGING OVER WASHINGTON GROWS DARKER

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, the ethical cloud hanging over Republicans in Washington grows darker.

Every good lawyer and judge knows the importance of avoiding conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest. Last month, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia went hunting in Louisiana with Vice President CHENEY, on land owned by an oil executive. They flew on Air Force Two, at taxpayer expense.

Three weeks earlier, the Supreme Court agreed to decide In Re Cheney, a case brought to force Vice President CHENEY to disclose information about his secret energy task force meetings with oil executives. Justice Scalia said afterwards, ''I do not think my impartiality could reasonably be questioned.''

He is wrong. He has no business deciding a case of enormous significance to his friend and hunting companion.

To preserve the integrity of the Supreme Court and to maintain the trust of the public, Justice Scalia should recuse himself from any role in the Cheney case. And Vice President CHENEY should have been the first to ask him to do so.

IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT REGARDING MARRIAGE

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, after weeks of legal and moral confusion, from Massachusetts to California, today President George W. Bush called on this Congress to adopt a constitutional amendment defining marriage historically and culturally as it has ever been, as the union between a man and a woman. In so doing, President George W. Bush brought moral clarity to the debate by calling for this amendment banning gay marriage, in his words, preventing courts from changing that ''most enduring of human institutions.''

And so marriage is. Ordained by God, confirmed by law, marriage is the glue of the family and the safest harbor for children. Congress should heed President Bush's courageous moral leadership, pass the marriage amendment, and affirm the confidence of the American people in our ability to defend their most cherished of institutions.

A WEAPON OF MASS DISTRACTION

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

Mr. FILNER. Well, there they go again. The Commander in Chief has signalled the start of the culture wars, so they are here with their wedge politics, trying to divide us, trying to divide us as a Nation.

Three million jobs lost since this President took office, a war in Iraq that we cannot seem to win, 545 of our bravest young men and women killed, more waiting as sitting ducks; but what we are going to talk about in this House is a constitutional amendment to preserve marriage. Talk about wedge politics at its finest. Talk about something to divide the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Indiana, and I assume all those who are going to come after him, should look at the history of the United States and the Constitution, the Constitution which represents for us expanding the rights of all Americans, expanding.

We went from giving the right to citizenship to African Americans to giving the right to vote to women, always expanding what the American Dream was about, always expanding what America ought to be. But now we are going to pass an amendment that restricts rights. Now we are going to pass an amendment that says do not look at jobs, do not look at the war in Iraq, do not look at any of the things that bother the American people at their dinner table, their lack of health insurance, their lack of quality education. No, let us focus on this constitutional amendment.

Mr. Speaker, the Commander in Chief has unleashed his Weapon of Mass Distraction.

UNBORN VICTIMS AND MORAL LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will hear a lot, on the floor and off the floor, about the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, also known as Laci and Conner's Law, which acknowledges the victimhood of unborn children injured during attacks against their pregnant mothers.

Though the bill says nothing about Roe v. Wade, Casey v. Planned Parenthood, or any abortion law at any level of government in this Nation, we will hear false arguments to the contrary. We will hear the usual arguments, from the usual suspects, that any legislation that in any way recognizes the humanity of unborn children is an assault on the Constitution.

Those of us who support this legislation, who, I should add, represent a point of view shared by more than 80 percent of the American people, will be scolded and have fingers wagged at us by people telling us in ominous tones that they ''know what we are doing.''

Well, I should hope so. I hope the whole world knows what we are doing,