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No. 104

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Almighty and eternal God, through Your provident goodness, and guided by Your Spirit, you have brought us together for this fall session of the 108th Congress of the United States of America.

Keep us safe and healthy throughout these days. May all our thoughts, words, and actions be pleasing in Your sight and serve the lasting interests of this Nation, so that, as a people, we may become a beacon of light and a lesson in freedom to the rest of the world.

This we pray, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill and a concurrence resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 663. An act to amend title IX of the Public Health Service Act to provide for the

improvement of patient safety and to reduce the incidence of events that adversely affect patient safety, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 663), "An Act to amend title IX of the Public Health Service Act to provide for the improvement of patient safety and to reduce the incidence of events that adversely affect patient safety, and for other purposes", disagreed to by the House, agrees to the conference asked by the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. GREGG, Mr. FRIST, Mr. ENZI, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DODD, and Mr. JEFFORDS, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

H. Con. Res. 398. Concurrent resolution expressing the concern of Congress over Iran's development of the means to produce nuclear weapons.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills, a joint resolution, and concurrent resolutions of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 720. An act to amend title IX of the Public Health Service Act to provide for the improvement of patient safety and to reduce the incidence of events that adversely affect patient safety.

S. 2501. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 73 South Euclid Avenue in Montauk, New York, as the "Perry B. Duryea, Jr. Post Office".

S. 2640. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1050 North Hills Boulevard in Reno, Nevada, as the "Guardians of Freedom Memorial Post Office Building" and to authorize the installation of a plaque at such site, and for other purposes.

S. 2682. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 222 West 8th Street, Durango, Colorado, as the "Ben Nighthorse Campbell Post Office Building".

S.J. Res. 41. Joint resolution commemorating the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian.

S. Con. Res. 81. Concurrent resolution expressing the concern of Congress over Iran's

development of the means to produce nuclear weapons.

S. Con. Res. 106. Concurrent resolution urging the Government of Ukraine to ensure a democratic, transparent, and fair election process for the presidential election on October 31, 2004.

S. Con. Res. 109. Concurrent resolution commending the United States Institute of Peace on the occasion of its 20th anniversary and recognizing the Institute for its contribution to international conflict resolution.

S. Con. Res. 112. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Purple Heart Recognition Day.

S. Con. Res. 126. Concurrent resolution condemning the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 1994, and expressing the concern of the United States regarding the continuing, decade-long delay in the resolution of this issue.

S. Con. Res. 133. Concurrent resolution declaring genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

S. Con. Res. 135. Concurrent resolution authorizing the printing of a commemorative document in memory of the late President of the United States, Ronald Wilson Reagan.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 26, 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 Senate on July 23, 2004 at 4:10 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3340.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3463.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4222.

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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That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4327.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4427.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4417.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4842.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4916.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 308.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 439.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 479.

That the Senate agreed to conference report H.R. 2443.

That the Senate agreed to conference report H.R. 4613.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(c) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House, that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), the whole number of the House is adjusted to 434.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ, CHAIRMAN, DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable ROBERT MENENDEZ, Chairman, Democratic Caucus:

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 9, 2004.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to clause 5(b)(1) of Rule X, I am writing to inform you that Rep. Rodney Alexander has ceased to be a member of the House Democratic Caucus.

Sincerely,

ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

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

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 16, 2004.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is to advise you that Representative Rodney Alexander's election to the Committee on Agriculture has been automatically vacated pursuant to clause 5(b)(1) of rule X effective August 9, 2004.

Sincerely,

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

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

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 16, 2004.

Hon. DUNCAN HUNTER,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is to advise you that Representative Rodney Alexander's election to the Committee on Armed Services has been automatically vacated pursuant to clause 5(b)(1) of rule X effective August 9, 2004.

Sincerely,

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, Speaker pro tempore TOM DAVIS of Virginia signed the following enrolled bills on Wednesday, July 28, 2004:

H.R. 2443, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2005, to amend various laws administered by the Coast Guard, and for other purposes;

H.R. 3340, to redesignate the facilities of the United States Postal Service located at 7715 and 7748 S. Cottage Grove Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, as the "James E. Worsham Post Office" and the "James E. Worsham Carrier Annex Building," respectively, and for other purposes;

H.R. 3463, to amend titles III and IV of the Social Security Act to improve the administration of unemployment taxes and benefits;

H.R. 4222, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 550 Nebraska Avenue in Kansas City, Kansas, as the "Newell George Post Office Building";

H.R. 4226, to amend title 49, United States Code, to make certain conforming changes to provisions governing the registration of aircraft and the recordation of instruments in order to implement the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and the protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on matters specific to aircraft equipment, known as the "Cape Town Treaty";

H.R. 4327, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7450 Natural Bridge Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Vitalas 'Veto' Reid Post Office building";

H.R. 4417, to modify certain deadlines pertaining to machine-readable, tamper-resistant entry and exit documents;

H.R. 4427, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 73 South Euclid Avenue in Montauk, New York, as the "Perry B. Duryea, Jr., Post Office";

H.R. 4613, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fis-

cal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes;

H.R. 4842, to implement the United States-Morocco Free Trade Agreement;

H.R. 4916, to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century; and

S. 2712, to preserve the ability of the Federal Housing Administration to ensure mortgages under sections 238 and 519 of the National Housing Act.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND IN- FRRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, July 27, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House,

Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed are copies of resolutions adopted on July 21, 2004 by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Copies of the resolutions are being transmitted to the Department of the Army.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

Enclosures.

RESOLUTION, DOCKET 2729, LAKE ERIE
WATERFRONT, EUCLID, OHIO

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Ohio Shoreline of Lake Erie, Euclid to Chagrin River, published as House Document 324, 83rd Congress, 2nd Session, and other pertinent reports to determine whether modifications to the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of shoreline protection, storm damage reduction, environmental restoration and protection, recreation and other related purposes along the Lake Erie waterfront in Euclid, Ohio.

RESOLUTION, DOCKET 2730, CHERRY RIVER
BASIN, WEST VIRGINIA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Ohio river and tributaries, Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, published as House Document 306, 74th Congress, 1st Session, and other pertinent reports to determine whether modifications to the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of flood damage reduction and other related purposes in the Cherry River basin at Richwood, West Virginia and vicinity.

RESOLUTION, DOCKET 2731, MEADOW RIVER
BASIN, WEST VIRGINIA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United

States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Ohio river and tributaries, Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, published as House Document 306, 74th Congress, 1st Session, and other pertinent reports to determine whether modifications to the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of flood damage reduction and other related purposes in the Meadow River basin at Richwood, West Virginia and vicinity.

RESOLUTION, DOCKET 2732, CLINTON RIVER AND ANCHOR BAY, MICHIGAN

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers, Red Run Drain and Lower Clinton River, Michigan, Rivers and Harbor Act of 1970, published as House Document 431, 91st Congress, 2nd Session, and other pertinent reports to determine whether modifications to the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of flood protection, environmental restoration and protection, recreation and related purposes for the Clinton River and Anchor Bay watersheds within the counties of Macomb, Oakland, and St. Clair, Michigan.

RESOLUTION, DOCKET 2733, CUYAHOGA RIVER & TRIBUTARIES AT STOW, OHIO

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, is requested to review the report on the Cuyahoga River published in June 1975 entitled, "Second Interim Preliminary Feasibility Report on Cuyahoga River Flood Control Study", and other pertinent reports to determine whether modifications to the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of water quality, environmental restoration and protection, recreation, flood damage reduction and other related purposes within the City of Stow, Ohio.

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, July 21, 2004.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed please find the resolutions approved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on July 21, 2004, in accordance with 40 U.S.C. § 3307.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

Enclosures.

ALTERATION—J. EDGAR HOOVER BUILDING, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for the alteration of the J. Edgar Hoover Building located at 935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, in Washington, DC, at a design and review cost of \$689,000, an estimated construction cost of \$8,918,000, and management and inspection cost of \$635,000 for a combined estimated total project cost of \$10,242,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

ALTERATION—EISENHOWER EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for the alteration of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building located at Pennsylvania Avenue and 17th Street, NW, in Washington, DC, at a design and review cost of \$454,000, an estimated construction cost of \$4,092,000, and management and inspection cost of \$454,000 for a combined estimated total project cost of \$5,000,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

ALTERATION—FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING 6, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for the alteration of Federal Office Building 6 located at 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, in Washington, DC, at a design and review cost of \$622,000, an estimated construction cost of \$7,315,000, and management and inspection cost of \$330,000 for a combined estimated total project cost of \$8,267,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

ALTERATION—MARY E. SWITZER MEMORIAL FEDERAL BUILDING, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for the alteration of the Mary E. Switzer Memorial Federal Building located at 330 C St., SW, in Washington, DC, at an estimated construction cost of \$100,080,000 and management and inspection cost of \$7,525,000 for a combined estimated total project cost of \$116,325,000 (design and review cost of \$8,720,000 was previously authorized), a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

ALTERATION—NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for the alteration of the New Executive Office Building located at 725 17th St., NW, in Washington, DC, at a design and review cost of \$451,000, an estimated construction cost of \$5,388,000, and management and inspection cost of \$423,000 for a combined estimated total project cost of \$6,262,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

ALTERATION—THEODORE ROOSEVELT BUILDING, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40

U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for the alteration of the Theodore Roosevelt Building located at 1900 E Street, NW, in Washington, DC, at a design and review cost of \$570,000, an estimated construction cost of \$8,630,000, and management and inspection cost of \$530,000 for a combined estimated total project cost of \$9,730,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

ALTERATION—MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FEDERAL BUILDING, ATLANTA, GA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for Phase 1 of the alteration of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Building located at 77 Forsyth St., in Atlanta, Georgia, at an estimated construction cost of \$13,436,000, and management and inspection cost of \$1,364,000 for a combined estimated total project cost of \$45,712,000 (design and review cost of \$2,351,000 was previously authorized; estimated construction and management and inspection cost of \$28,561,000 for Phase 2 will be included in a future request), a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

ALTERATION—U.S. COURT OF APPEALS, ATLANTA, GA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for the alteration for adaptive reuse of historic properties adjacent to the Elbert P. Tuttle Court of Appeals Building in Atlanta, Georgia, at an estimated construction cost of \$30,773,000, and management and inspection cost of \$1,231,000 for a combined estimated total project cost of \$49,239,000 (acquisition cost of \$9,100,000, relocation cost of \$1,500,000 and design cost of \$6,725,000 were previously authorized), a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

ALTERATION—HILO FEDERAL BUILDING-POST OFFICE, HILO, HI

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for the alteration of the Federal Building and Post Office located at 154 Waiianuenu Avenue, in Hilo, Hawaii, at an estimated construction cost of \$4,528,000, and management and inspection cost of \$605,000 for a combined estimated total project cost of \$5,738,000 (design and review cost of \$605,000 was previously authorized), a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

ALTERATION—HALE BOGGS FEDERAL BUILDING AND COURTHOUSE, NEW ORLEANS, LA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for the alteration of the Hale Boggs Federal Building and Courthouse located at 501 Magazine Street and 500 Camp Street, in New Orleans, Louisiana, at an estimated construction cost of \$20,525,000, and management and inspection cost of \$2,056,000 for a combined estimated total project cost of \$24,742,000 (design and review cost of \$2,161,000 was previously authorized), a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

ALTERATION—JOHN MINOR WISDOM COURT OF APPEALS, NEW ORLEANS, LA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House

of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for the alteration of the John Minor Wisdom Court of Appeals Building located at 600 Camp Street, in New Orleans, Louisiana, at an estimated construction cost of \$6,973,000, and management and inspection cost of \$1,032,000 for a combined estimated total project cost of \$8,944,000 (design and review cost of \$939,000 was previously authorized), a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

ALTERATION—WASHINGTON NATIONAL RECORD CENTER, SUITLAND, MD

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for the alteration of the Washington National Record Center, located at the Suitland Federal Center, in Suitland, Maryland, at an estimated construction cost of \$6,840,000, design and review cost of \$698,000 and management and inspection cost of \$451,000 for a combined estimated total project cost of \$7,989,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

ALTERATION—SSA NATIONAL HEAD-QUARTERS—ALTMeyer BUILDING, WOODLAWN, MD

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for the alteration of the Altmeyer Building, located at the Social Security Administration's Headquarters Campus, in Woodlawn, Maryland, at an estimated construction cost of \$5,250,000, design and review cost of \$525,000 and management and inspection cost of \$525,000 for a combined estimated total project cost of \$12,600,000 (includes authorization for \$6,300,000 to be contributed by the Social Security Administration), a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

ALTERATION—WARREN E. BURGER FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE, ST. PAUL, MN

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for the alteration of the Warren E. Burger Federal Building and United States Courthouse, in St. Paul, Minnesota, at an estimated construction cost of \$33,745,000 and management and inspection cost of \$2,899,000 for a combined estimated total project cost of \$39,235,000 (design and review cost of \$2,591,000 was previously authorized), a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

AMENDED PROSPECTUS—ALTERATION—BANNISTER FEDERAL COMPLEX, BUILDING 2, KANSAS CITY, MO

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for the alteration of the Bannister Federal Complex, Building 2, in Kansas City, Missouri, at an additional estimated design/build cost of \$3,384,000 (estimated design/build cost of \$2,641,000 was previously authorized), additional design and review cost of \$221,000 (design and review cost of \$243,000 was previously authorized), and additional management and inspection cost of \$113,000 (management and inspection cost of \$264,000 was previously authorized) for a combined estimated total project cost of \$6,866,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in,

this resolution. This resolution amends a Committee resolution dated June 26, 2002 that authorized \$3,148,000.

ALTERATION—RICHARD BOLLING FEDERAL BUILDING, KANSAS CITY, MO

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for the alteration of the Richard Bolling Federal Building located at 601 East 12th Street, in Kansas City, Missouri, at an estimated construction cost of \$146,144,000 for Phases 2, 3, and 4, design and review cost of \$8,108,000 for Phases 3 and 4, and management and inspection cost of \$14,853,000 for Phases 2, 3, and 4 for a combined estimated total project cost of \$199,583,000 (estimated construction cost of \$24,010,000 for Phase 1, design and review cost of \$4,663,000 for Phases 1 and 2, and management and inspection cost of \$1,805,000 for Phase 1 were previously authorized), a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

ALTERATION—DANIEL P. MOYNIHAN UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE, NEW YORK, NY

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for the alteration of the Daniel P. Moynihan United States Courthouse located at 500 Pearl Street, in New York City, New York, at an estimated construction cost of \$2,338,000, design and review cost of \$94,000 and management and inspection cost of \$73,000 for a combined estimated total project cost of \$2,505,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

ALTERATION—JOSEPH P. ADDABBO FEDERAL BUILDING, JAMAICA, NY

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for the alteration of the Joseph P. Addabbo Federal Building located at One Jamaica Center Plaza, in Jamaica, New York, at an estimated construction cost of \$4,896,000, design and review cost of \$353,000 and management and inspection cost of \$206,000 for a combined estimated total project cost of \$5,455,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

ALTERATION—GEORGE H. FALLON FEDERAL BUILDING, BALTIMORE, MD

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for the alteration of the George H. Fallon Federal Building located at 31 Hopkins Street, in Baltimore, Maryland, at an estimated construction cost of \$42,473,000, additional design and review cost of \$1,079,000, and management and inspection cost of \$2,611,000 for a combined estimated total project cost of \$49,737,000 (design and review cost of \$3,574,000 was previously authorized), a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

ALTERATION—POTTER STEWART UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE, CINCINNATI, OH

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for the alteration of the Potter Stewart United States Courthouse located at 100 East Fifth Street, in Cincinnati, Ohio, at an estimated construction cost of \$32,228,000, design and re-

view cost of \$3,162,000 and management and inspection cost of \$2,585,000 for a combined estimated total project cost of \$37,975,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

ALTERATION—ANTHONY J. CELEBREZZE FEDERAL BUILDING, CLEVELAND, OH

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for the alteration of the Anthony J. Celebrezze Federal Building located at 1240 East Ninth Street, in Cleveland, Ohio, at an estimated construction cost of \$34,418,000 and management and inspection cost of \$2,957,000 for a combined estimated total project cost of \$39,649,000 (design and review cost of \$2,274,000 was previously authorized), a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

ALTERATION—WILLIAM K. NAKAMURA UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE, SEATTLE, WA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for the alteration of the William K. Nakamura United States Courthouse located at 1010 5th Avenue, in Seattle, Washington, at an estimated construction cost of \$45,879,000 and management and inspection cost of \$4,331,000 for a combined estimated total project cost of \$53,060,000 (design and review cost of \$2,850,000 was previously authorized), a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

ALTERATION—POST OFFICE-COURTHOUSE, HOT SPRINGS, AR

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for the alteration of the Post Office-Courthouse located at Broadway and Reserve Streets, in Hot Springs, Arkansas, at an estimated construction cost of \$3,545,000, design and review cost of \$180,000 and management and inspection cost of \$248,000 for a combined estimated total project cost of \$3,973,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

ALTERATION—PAGE BELCHER FEDERAL BUILDING, TULSA, OK

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for the alteration of the Page Belcher Federal Building, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at an estimated construction cost of \$3,100,000, design and review cost of \$175,000 and management and inspection cost of \$115,000 for a combined estimated total project cost of \$3,390,000; a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

DESIGN—VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for the design of projects scheduled for the Robert S. Vance Federal Building and United States Courthouse, located in Birmingham, Alabama, at a design cost of \$1,739,000; Lafayette Building, located in Washington, D.C., at a design cost of \$8,470,000; Eisenhower Executive Office Building, located in Washington, D.C., at a design cost of \$4,788,000; Everett McKinley Dirksen United States Courthouse, located in Chicago, Illinois, at a design cost of \$8,152,000; Birch Bayh Federal Building and

United States Courthouse, located in Indianapolis, Indiana, at a design cost of \$2,413,000; Peter W. Rodino Federal Building, located in Newark, New Jersey at a design cost of \$4,700,000; Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse, located in New York City, New York at a design cost of \$13,500,000; and the John W. Peck Federal Building, located in Cincinnati, Ohio, at a design cost of \$2,587,000, for a total design cost of \$46,349,000, for which a prospectus is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

LEASE—BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, 1620 L STREET, NW, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to approximately 74,698 rentable square feet of space for the Bureau of Land Management currently located in leased space at 1620 L Street, NW, in Washington, DC, at a proposed total annual cost of \$3,361,410 for a lease term of 10 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to execution of the new lease.

Provided, That the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, 555 NEW JERSEY AVENUE, SW, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to approximately 82,191 rentable square feet of space for the Department of Education currently located in leased space at 555 New Jersey Avenue, SW, in Washington, DC, at a proposed total annual cost of \$3,698,595 for a lease term of 5 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to execution of the new lease.

Provided, That the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, 425 EYE STREET, NW, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to approximately 403,847 rentable square feet of space for the Department of Homeland Security currently located in leased space at 425 Eye Street, NW, in Washington, DC, at a proposed total annual cost of \$18,173,115 for a lease term of 10 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to execution of the new lease.

Provided, That the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, 1100 L STREET, NW, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Rep-

resentatives, That pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to approximately 182,264 rentable square feet of space and 173 parking spaces for the Department of Justice currently located in leased space at 1100 L Street, NW, in Washington, DC, at a proposed total annual cost of \$8,201,880 for a lease term of 10 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to execution of the new lease.

Provided, That the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, 1400 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to approximately 163,664 rentable square feet of space and 79 parking spaces for the Department of Justice currently located in leased space at 1400 New York Avenue, NW, in Washington, DC, at a proposed total annual cost of \$7,364,880 for a lease term of 10 years a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to execution of the new lease.

Provided, That the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, VARIOUS LOCATIONS, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to approximately 496,571 rentable square feet of space for the Department of Justice currently located in various leased locations in Washington, DC, at a proposed total annual cost of \$22,345,695 for a lease term of 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to execution of the new lease.

Provided, That the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

LEASE—INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, 950 L'ENFANT PLAZA, SW, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to approximately 110,570 rentable square feet of space for the Internal Revenue Service currently located in leased space at 950 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, in Washington, DC, at a proposed total annual cost of \$4,975,650 for a lease term of 10 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to execution of the new lease.

Provided, That the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

LEASE—SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD, 1925 K STREET, NW, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to approximately 74,870 rentable square feet of space and 2 parking spaces for the Surface Transportation Board currently located in leased space at 1925 K Street, NW, in Washington, DC, at a proposed total annual cost of \$3,369,150 for a lease term of 10 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to execution of the new lease.

Provided, That the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, 111 NORTH CANAL STREET, CHICAGO, IL

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to approximately 91,141 rentable square feet of space and 8 parking spaces for the Department of Education currently located in leased space at 111 North Canal Street, in Chicago, Illinois, at a proposed total annual cost of \$3,554,499 for a lease term of 10 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to execution of the new lease.

Provided, That the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, 1931 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to approximately 372,826 rentable square feet of space for the Department of Defense currently located in leased space at 1931 Jefferson Davis Highway, in Arlington, Virginia, at a proposed total annual cost of \$12,676,084 for a lease term of 10 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to execution of the new lease.

Provided, That the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUREAU OF PRISONS, 500 1ST STREET, NW, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to approximately 112,970 rentable square feet of space and 133 parking spaces for the Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons currently located in leased space at 500 1st Street, NW, in Washington, DC, at a proposed total annual cost of \$5,383,650 for a lease term of 10 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all

tenants, if necessary, prior to execution of the new lease.

Provided, That the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

LEASE—EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF IMMIGRATION REVIEW, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, MIAMI, FL

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to approximately 127,211 rentable square feet of space and 32 parking spaces for the Executive Office of Immigration Review and Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Chief Counsel currently located in various leased locations, in Miami, Florida, at a proposed total annual cost of \$3,802,211 for a lease term of 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to execution of the new lease.

Provided, That the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

LEASE—UNITED STATES COURTS, NEW YORK CITY, NY

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to approximately 205,500 rentable square feet of space for the United States Courts currently located in government owned space, at a proposed total annual cost of \$10,994,250 for a lease term of 10 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to execution of the new lease.

Provided, That the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, FREDERICK COUNTY, VA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to approximately 155,864 rentable square feet of space and 734 parking spaces for the Department of Homeland Security, currently located in government owned space at the Mount Weather Emergency Operations Center in Clarke County, Virginia, at a proposed total annual cost of \$3,740,736 for a lease term of 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to execution of the new lease.

Provided, That the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, 2511 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY, ARLINGTON, VA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to approximately 377,882 rentable square

feet of space and 52 parking spaces for the Department of Defense, currently located in leased space at 2511 Jefferson Davis Highway, in Arlington, Virginia, at a proposed total annual cost of \$12,847,988 for a lease term of 10 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to execution of the new lease.

LEASE—BUREAU OF PUBLIC DEBT, PARKERSBURG, WV

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to approximately 182,499 rentable square feet of space for the Bureau of Public Debt currently located in leased space in Parkersburg, West Virginia, at a proposed total annual cost of \$4,927,473 for a lease term of 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to execution of the new lease.

Provided, That the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

DESIGN—FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, 1100 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, LOS ANGELES, CA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for design of a 1,357,000 gross square foot facility including secure structured parking for 1,200 vehicles, located in Los Angeles, California, at a design cost of \$14,054,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

ADDITIONAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION—UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE, LOS ANGELES, CA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations of \$364,384,000 are authorized for construction of a 1,016,300 gross square foot United States Courthouse including 150 inside parking spaces, located in Los Angeles, California, including additional design cost of \$4,340,000, management and inspection cost of \$11,936,000, and estimated construction cost of \$348,109,000, for an estimated total project cost of \$399,635,000 (site cost of \$20,600,000 and design cost of \$14,650,000 were previously authorized), a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

Provided, That any design shall, to the maximum extent possible incorporate shared or collegial space, consistent with efficient court operations that will minimize the size and cost of the building to be constructed.

Provided further, That any design shall incorporate changes in the 1997 United States Courts Design Guide, including the implementation of a policy on shared courtrooms.

Provided further, That the Committee expects the General Services Administration, in consultation with the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, to design for, and configure for maximum utilization, a courtroom sharing model for the courts in Los Angeles, California, ensuring, to the maximum extent practicable, continued use of all existing courtrooms in the Roybal Federal Building for judicial proceedings.

ADDITIONAL SITE AND DESIGN—UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE ANNEX, SAN DIEGO, CA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for additional site and additional design of a 614,394 gross square foot facility including 105 inside parking spaces, located in San Diego, California, at an additional site cost of \$2,516,000 (site cost of \$29,400,000 was previously authorized) and additional design cost of \$552,000 (design cost of \$11,441,000 was previously authorized), a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

Provided, That any design shall, to the maximum extent possible incorporate shared or collegial space, consistent with efficient court operations that will minimize the size and cost of the building to be constructed.

Provided further, That any design shall incorporate changes in the 1997 United States Courts Design Guide, including the implementation of a policy on shared courtrooms.

BUILDING PURCHASE AND SITE ACQUISITION—10 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD, CHICAGO, IL

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for acquisition of the building located at 10 West Jackson Boulevard and other proximate parcels adjacent to the Everett M. Dirksen Courthouse, located in Chicago, Illinois, at an estimated total project cost of \$53,170,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

SITE ACQUISITION AND DESIGN—UNITED STATES BORDER STATION, CALAIS, ME

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for site acquisition and design of a 95,239 gross square foot facility including 14 inside and 122 outside parking spaces, located in Calais, Maine, at a site acquisition cost of \$332,000 and design and review cost of \$2,937,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

SITE ACQUISITION AND DESIGN—UNITED STATES BORDER STATION, MADAWASKA, ME

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations are authorized for site acquisition and design of a 17,504 gross square foot facility including 4 inside and 31 outside parking spaces, located in Madawaska, Maine, at a site acquisition cost of \$500,000 and design and review cost of \$1,260,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

SITE ACQUISITION AND DESIGN—UNITED STATES BORDER STATION, WARROAD, MN

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for site acquisition and design of a 34,785 gross square foot facility including 5 inside and 37 outside parking spaces, located in Warroad, Minnesota, at a site acquisition cost of \$300,000 and design and review cost of \$1,537,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

SITE ACQUISITION AND DESIGN—UNITED STATES BORDER STATION, ALEXANDRIA BAY, NY

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307,

appropriations are authorized for site acquisition and design of a 131,520 gross square foot facility and 203 parking spaces, located in Alexandria Bay, New York, at a site acquisition cost of \$200,000 and design and review cost of \$8,684,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

AMENDED CONSTRUCTION—UNITED STATES
BORDER STATION, MASSENA, NY

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, additional appropriations are authorized for construction of a 58,950 gross square foot facility and 170 parking spaces, located in Massena, New York, at an additional site acquisition cost of \$432,000 (site acquisition cost of \$100,000 was previously authorized), additional design and review cost of \$2,832,000 (design and review cost of \$1,546,000 was previously authorized), management and inspection cost of \$5,040,000, and estimated construction cost of \$48,938,000 for an estimated total project cost of \$58,888,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution. This resolution amends a Committee resolution dated June 26, 2002.

SITE ACQUISITION AND DESIGN—UNITED
STATES BORDER STATION, DUNSEITH, ND

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for site acquisition and design of a 58,672 gross square foot facility including 4 inside and 29 outside parking spaces, located in Dunseith, North Dakota, at a site acquisition cost of \$300,000 and design and review cost of \$2,001,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

CONSTRUCTION—UNITED STATES BORDER
STATION, PORTAL, ND

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for construction of a 72,125 gross square foot facility including 22 inside and 90 outside parking spaces, located in Portal, North Dakota, at an additional site acquisition cost of \$200,000 (site acquisition cost of \$800,000 was previously authorized), additional design and review cost of \$552,000 (design and review cost of \$1,401,000 was previously authorized), management and inspection cost of \$1,575,000, and estimated construction cost of \$20,024,000 for an estimated total project cost of \$24,552,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

DESIGN—YSLETA BORDER STATION, EL PASO,
TX

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for design of the Ysleta Border Station, a 201,093 gross square foot facility and 412 outside parking spaces, located in El Paso, Texas, at a design cost of \$2,491,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

CONSTRUCTION—PASO DEL NORTE BORDER
STATION, EL PASO, TX

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for construction of the Paso Del Norte Border Station, a 148,800 gross square foot facility and 372 outside parking spaces, located in El Paso, Texas, at an additional design cost of \$660,000

(design cost of \$2,200,000 was previously authorized), management and inspection cost of \$3,019,000 and estimated construction cost of \$22,512,000 for an estimated total project cost of \$28,391,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

ADDITIONAL SITE AND DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION—UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE, EL PASO, TX

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, additional appropriations of \$7,577,000 are authorized for construction of a 239,600 gross square foot United States Courthouse including 60 inside parking spaces, located in El Paso, Texas, including additional site cost of \$1,500,000, additional design cost of \$1,214,000, additional estimated construction cost of \$379,000, and management and inspection cost of \$4,484,000, for an estimated total project cost of \$74,655,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution. This resolution is in addition to Committee resolutions that authorized \$8,473,000 for site and design of a 221,613 gross square foot Courthouse, including 60 inside parking spaces on July 26, 2000; \$2,720,000 for additional site and design of a 221,613 gross square foot Courthouse, including 60 inside parking spaces on July 18, 2001; and \$1,673,000 for additional site and design, \$4,285,000 for management and inspection, and \$49,927,000 for estimated construction cost of a 231,945 gross square foot Courthouse, including 60 inside parking spaces, on July 23, 2003.

Provided, That any design shall, to the maximum extent possible incorporate shared or collegial space, consistent with efficient court operations that will minimize the size and cost of the building to be constructed.

Provided further, That any design shall incorporate changes in the 1997 United States Courts Design Guide, including the implementation of a policy on shared courtrooms.

SITE ACQUISITION AND DESIGN—UNITED
STATES BORDER STATION, RICHFORD, VT

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for site acquisition and design of a 25,927 gross square foot facility including 5 inside and 33 outside parking spaces, located in Richford, Vermont, at a site acquisition cost of \$589,000 and design and review cost of \$956,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

SITE ACQUISITION AND DESIGN—UNITED
STATES BORDER STATION, NORTON, VT

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for site acquisition and design of a 29,925 gross square foot facility including 4 inside and 44 outside parking spaces, located in Norton, Vermont, at a site acquisition cost of \$580,000 and design and review cost of \$1,167,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

SITE ACQUISITION AND DESIGN—UNITED
STATES BORDER STATION, DERBY LINE, VT

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for site acquisition and design of a 43,809 gross square foot facility including 5 inside and 67 outside parking spaces, located in Derby Line, Vermont, at a site acquisition cost of \$1,253,000 and design and review cost of \$2,095,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

ADDITIONAL DESIGN—UNITED STATES
COURTHOUSE, CEDAR RAPIDS, IA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, additional appropriations are authorized for construction of a 300,388 gross square foot United States Courthouse including 40 inside parking spaces, located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, at an additional design cost of \$1,541,000 (design cost of \$5,167,000 was previously authorized), a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

Provided, That any design shall, to the maximum extent possible incorporate shared or collegial space, consistent with efficient court operations that will minimize the size and cost of the building to be constructed.

Provided further, That any design shall incorporate changes in the 1997 United States Courts Design Guide, including the implementation of a policy on shared courtrooms.

AMENDED PROSPECTUS—UNITED STATES
COURTHOUSE, HARRISBURG, PA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for site acquisition and design of a 262,970 gross square foot United States Courthouse including 40 inside parking spaces, located in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, within a delineated area expanded from the Central Business District of Harrisburg to the City of Harrisburg, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution. This resolution amends Committee resolutions dated July 24, 2002 and July 23, 2003 that authorized appropriations for a Courthouse located within the Central Business District.

Provided, That any design shall, to the maximum extent possible incorporate shared or collegial space, consistent with efficient court operations that will minimize the size and cost of the building to be constructed.

Provided further, That any design shall incorporate changes in the 1997 United States Courts Design Guide, including the implementation of a policy on shared courtrooms.

ADDITIONAL SITE AND DESIGN—UNITED
STATES COURTHOUSE, JACKSON, MS

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, additional appropriations are authorized for construction of a 430,293 gross square foot United States Courthouse including 79 inside parking spaces, located in Jackson, Mississippi, at an additional site cost of \$210,000 and additional design cost of \$2,216,000 (site cost of \$6,500,000 and design cost of \$6,731,000 were previously authorized), a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

Provided, That any design shall, to the maximum extent possible incorporate shared or collegial space, consistent with efficient court operations that will minimize the size and cost of the building to be constructed.

Provided further, That any design shall incorporate changes in the 1997 United States Courts Design Guide, including the implementation of a policy on shared courtrooms.

ADDITIONAL SITE AND DESIGN—UNITED
STATES COURTHOUSE, NASHVILLE, TN

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, additional appropriations are authorized for construction of a 378,307 gross square foot United States Courthouse including 55 inside parking spaces, located in Nashville, Tennessee, at an additional site cost of \$5,399,000 and additional design cost of \$1,614,000 (site

cost of \$13,601,000 and design cost of \$7,095,000 were previously authorized), a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

Provided, That any design shall, to the maximum extent possible incorporate shared or collegial space, consistent with efficient court operations that will minimize the size and cost of the building to be constructed.

Provided further, That any design shall incorporate changes in the 1997 United States Courts Design Guide, including the implementation of a policy on shared courtrooms.

ADDITIONAL SITE AND DESIGN—UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE, AUSTIN, TX

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, additional appropriations are authorized for construction of a 229,483 gross square foot United States Courthouse including 65 parking spaces, located in Austin, Texas, at an additional site cost of \$3,000,000 and additional design cost of \$759,000 (site cost of \$9,000,000 and design cost of \$4,809,000 were previously authorized), a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

Provided, That any design shall, to the maximum extent possible incorporate shared or collegial space, consistent with efficient court operations that will minimize the size and cost of the building to be constructed.

Provided further, That any design shall incorporate changes in the 1997 United States Courts Design Guide, including the implementation of a policy on shared courtrooms.

SITE—UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE, SAN ANTONIO, TX

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for site acquisition for a 377,691 gross square foot United States Courthouse including 37 inside parking spaces, located in San Antonio, Texas, at a site acquisition cost of \$18,000,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

Provided, That any design shall, to the maximum extent possible incorporate shared or collegial space, consistent with efficient court operations that will minimize the size and cost of the building to be constructed.

Provided further, That any design shall incorporate changes in the 1997 United States Courts Design Guide, including the implementation of a policy on shared courtrooms.

ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION—UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE, RICHMOND, VA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, additional appropriations of \$7,403,000 are authorized for construction of a 346,000 gross square foot United States Courthouse including 64 inside parking spaces, located in Richmond, Virginia, including additional design cost of \$516,000, additional management and inspection cost of \$295,000, and additional estimated construction cost of \$6,592,000, for an estimated total project cost of \$102,476,000 (site cost of \$13,054,000, design cost of \$5,490,000, construction cost of \$71,722,000, and management and inspection cost of \$4,807,000 were previously authorized), a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

Provided, That any design shall, to the maximum extent possible incorporate shared or collegial space, consistent with efficient court operations that will minimize the size and cost of the building to be constructed.

Provided further, That any design shall incorporate changes in the 1997 United States

Courts Design Guide, including the implementation of a policy on shared courtrooms.

There was no objection.

REPORT ON H.R. 5006, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

Mr. YOUNG of Florida, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-636) on the bill (H.R. 5006) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

THE HOME-STRETCH AGENDA

(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, as we return this week for the home stretch of the 108th Congress, it bears repeating that our focus for the remainder of this legislative session will be the same focus we have had for the last 2 years: growing our economy, defending our national security, and protecting the American family.

The first order of business will be reforming the way that we secure our homeland in the wake of the 9/11 Commission's investigation. When the commission released its report, many rushed to either condemn or rubber stamp its conclusions, but we in the majority took a very novel approach: we actually read them. Six committees held more than 20 hearings on the report's findings and are now in the process of developing a comprehensive 9/11 Commission Implementation Act.

Considering the opportunity that the 9/11 Commission has given us, Congress cannot in good conscience satisfy itself with a watered-down, politically-convenient bill that just Scotch-tapes over a few vulnerabilities.

We are the first Congress elected after 9/11, and we were elected specifically to make the difficult, but necessary, choices to protect our constituents. That is exactly what a comprehensive 9/11 Commission Implementation Act will force us to do, and I hope everyone on both sides of the aisle will rise to the occasion and support its passage.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, Congress cannot adjourn before we finish our work protecting American families from the snap-back tax hikes that many Democrats hope to foist upon our economy before they skip town. Unless Congress acts, the marriage penalty will return, the \$1,000 per child tax credit will disappear, and the expanded 10 percent

tax bracket will shrink, representing a massive tax hike targeted directly at married couples, parents and working families, just in time for the holidays; and we will not let that happen.

Over the last 2 years, the economy has rebounded from recession, corporate scandals and terrorism; 144,000 more new jobs were created just last month, 1.7 million more since last August.

□ 1415

Congress did not create this growth; the American people did. Our job now, as they build our economy to ever loftier heights, is to stay out of their way and not spend too much of their money while we are at it.

Toward that end, this week, the House will continue to work on Federal spending bills for 2005, according to the common-sense budget that the House passed this spring.

Our goals for the next several weeks are clear, and as far as our Nation has come in these last 2 years, we owe it to the American people to work as they have to protect our homeland, our economy, and our families.

HIKE IN MEDICARE PREMIUMS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, President Bush promised in his convention acceptance speech to honor America's seniors by giving them immediate help. The very next day, his administration announced the largest Medicare premium increase in the program's history.

This year most Medicare beneficiaries paid \$66 a month for physician services. Thanks to the President's action, these monthly premiums will rise more than 17 percent, forcing seniors with tight incomes to fork over about \$78 per month.

Now, President Bush tried to blame the premium hike on rising health care costs, but he ignores the fact that the Medicare bill he and Republicans fought so hard to make law is also responsible for these record increases. That is because the law gives insurers billions of dollars as an enticement to keep seniors on their rolls.

Seniors deserve better than the treatment they are receiving from President Bush and congressional Republicans. Democrats continue to support a prescription drug law that would provide meaningful assistance without forcing up Medicare premiums.

HONORING SECOND LIEUTENANT JAMES MICHAEL GOINS

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of one of America's

bravest, Second Lieutenant James Michael Goins, a Carroll County, Arkansas, native who was recently killed in action in Iraq.

Michael, a member of the Army's 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, was killed on August 15 when a militia member in Najaf attacked his tank.

By all accounts, Michael was not only a great soldier, but also a model citizen. He was high school valedictorian, captain of his high school football and basketball teams, and a recipient of the National Military Scholar Award, an honor going to only 10 percent of the ROTC cadets in the Nation.

He carried himself in a manner that earned praise and admiration from every person he touched. His ROTC professor called Michael the "finest soldier" he "has ever known" and his high school basketball coach said he "learned more about life" from Michael than he gave Michael.

Michael always wanted to be a soldier. Almost immediately upon earning his officer's commission, he selflessly put himself in harm's way in a country far away so that we could live free of terror here at home.

Mr. Speaker, Second Lieutenant James Michael Goins made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. He is a true American hero. I ask my colleagues to keep Michael's family and friends in their thoughts and prayers during these difficult times.

TERROR ATTACKS IN RUSSIA PART OF GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

(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. Mr. Speaker, last week the world watched in horror as militant terrorists murdered hundreds of Russian schoolchildren. No one can doubt that we are in a full-scale global war on terror. Since September 11, the terrorists have attacked in Tunis, Karachi, Bali, Jakarta, Casablanca, Bombay, Mombassa, Najaf, Riyadh, Baghdad, Istanbul, Madrid, and continued the campaign of terror against Israel.

As British Prime Minister Tony Blair has stated, the world was transformed on September 11. We can no longer simply grieve for the victims of these evil acts; we must join together and defeat the terrorists before they can strike again. This is why President George W. Bush has brought together allies to liberate millions from terrorist-sponsoring regimes in Afghanistan and Iraq. Together with our allies, we are making major arrests of terrorists throughout the world, cutting off their financial assets, and increasing our intelligence capabilities.

We must realize that this war cannot be won overnight. It requires perseverance and steadfastness. Yet, in the end, freedom and liberty will triumph over extremist hatred.

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

U.S. ECONOMY KEEPS ON GROWING AND CREATING NEW JOBS

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. economy keeps on growing and creating new jobs. Last month alone, 144,000 new jobs were created. But if one were to listen to Senator JOHN KERRY, one would think we were in the middle of another Great Depression.

The U.S. economy has created jobs in each of the last 12 months for a total of nearly 1.7 million new jobs. The unemployment rate has fallen to 5.4 percent, which is about the same as in 1996 when President Bill Clinton was running for reelection. And thanks to the leadership of our great President George W. Bush and the majority of the Republicans in Congress, our economy is strong and getting stronger.

Senator KERRY, while flip-flopping on a variety of issues, has been remarkably consistent on one issue, and that one issue is raising taxes. Higher taxes on hard-working Americans and job providers have never created a job or helped a family meet its needs.

My message to Senator KERRY is we have turned the corner toward a progrowth, projob, profamily economy, and we are not turning back.

WEEKLY AWARD FOR WORST EXAMPLE OF BIASED LIBERAL MEDIA REPORT

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, The New York Times has repeatedly hammered Republicans for their get-out-the-vote efforts involving churches, going so far as to suggest that their tax-exempt status should be questioned. One reporter, David D. Kilpatrick, has written four stories on this topic in the past few months, implying that Republicans' relationship with churches somehow is improper. Yet when former President Bill Clinton recently gave a politically motivated anti-Republican speech at the Riverside Church in New York City, the Times was not concerned.

As the election draws near, the liberal bias of the media continues to grow worse. The American people deserve to hear balanced and factual news.

Beginning next week and continuing until the November elections, I will announce a weekly award for the worst example of a biased liberal media report, whether print or electronic.

EMERGENCY DISASTER FUNDS NECESSARY FOR FLORIDA

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

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, when natural disasters occur around the world, or especially in the United States, we respond. But of all of these natural disasters that we have experienced, seldom has an entire State been affected. But thanks to tropical storm Bonnie, Hurricane Charley, and Hurricane Frances, every section of Florida has been affected.

President Bush, Governor Bush, Mike Brown, the Director of FEMA, and our State and local emergency responders have done an outstanding job, and the people of Florida have done an outstanding job in beginning to put their lives back together. But today FEMA, who handles our disaster funding, is running out of money, and by midnight tonight their funds will be exhausted.

I have introduced a supplemental bill, as requested by the President, and, hopefully, we can pass it here in the House this afternoon, and the Senate will be able to take it up later this evening. It is important because FEMA is out of money. It is important to make sure that everybody knows that this is not going to be the total cost. This is just emergency funding to keep the cash flowing to those disaster areas in my State of Florida.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). 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.

GUARDIANS OF FREEDOM MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4442) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1050 North Hills Boulevard in Reno, Nevada, as the "Guardians of Freedom Memorial Post Office Building" and to authorize the installation of a plaque at such site, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4442

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF GUARDIANS OF FREEDOM MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1050 North Hills Boulevard in Reno, Nevada, shall be known and designated as the "Guardians of Freedom Memorial Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Guardians of Freedom Memorial Post Office Building”.

SEC. 2. INSTALLATION OF PLAQUE.

(a) AGREEMENT.—The Postmaster General may enter into an agreement with the Office of Veterans’ Services of the State of Nevada under which the Office of Veterans’ Services of the State of Nevada agrees—

(1) to install a plaque to be displayed at the Guardians of Freedom Memorial Post Office Building referred to in section 1(a); and

(2) to maintain and update such plaque, as appropriate and in accordance with subsections (b) and (c).

(b) INSCRIPTIONS.—

(1) DEDICATION.—The plaque installed pursuant to subsection (a) shall bear the following inscription: “This post office building is dedicated in the memory of those men and women of the State of Nevada who have lost their lives while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States in the Global War on Terrorism and in Operation Iraqi Freedom.”.

(2) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—The plaque installed pursuant to subsection (a) shall also include with respect to the men and women of the Armed Forces referred to in paragraph (1) inscriptions containing the names, ranks, branches of service, hometowns, and dates of death of such men and women.

(c) EXPENDITURE OF COSTS.—The agreement referred to in subsection (a) shall provide that the Office of Veterans’ Services of the State of Nevada shall have sole responsibility for the expenditure of all costs associated with the installation, maintenance, and updating of the plaque.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4442, introduced by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS), designates the Post Office in Reno, Nevada, as the “Guardians of Freedom Memorial Post Office Building.” This post office intends to serve as a memorial to our fellow Americans whom we have lost in the war against terror. Therefore, I strongly thank the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) for offering this legislation. I am going to urge its passage and ask all of my colleagues to do the same.

Since the attacks on New York and Washington on September 11, 2001, our Nation has been locked in a war on terror that we did not choose to enter. But thanks to the work of our brave

U.S. Armed Forces, this conflict is one that we will win. Our loyal troops toil and struggle every day in Afghanistan, in Iraq, and other locations across the globe defending America from terrorism, hate, and extremism. We must never forget their sacrifices.

Mr. Speaker, as President Bush made clear during his Presidential nomination acceptance speech last week, we have fought the terrorists across the Earth not for pride, not for power, but because the lives of our citizens are at stake. During the war on terror, our military men and women have extended the fight with terrorists to where they live and plot, thus making Americans safer here at home.

American troops continue to fight terrorism in Iraq and in Afghanistan during their critical efforts to stabilize these two young nations. They are succeeding, and history will fondly remember their efforts to liberate millions of people. We think about our soldiers each and every day, we pray for them, and we owe them the thanks of a grateful Nation. This Post Office is one small token of our boundless appreciation.

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

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

As a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 4442, legislation naming a postal facility in Reno, Nevada, after “Guardians of Freedom.” This measure, which was introduced by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) on May 20, 2004, and unanimously reported by our committee on July 8, 2004, enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the Nevada delegation.

The name, “Guardians of Freedom,” was chosen by the Nevada North Valley High School Air Force Junior ROTC cadets. The cadets chose the name to honor Nevada men and women who have fought and continue to fight the war on terrorism, particularly those Nevadans who have lost their lives to protect our freedoms.

I commend my colleague for sponsoring this bill, and I urge its quick passage.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER).

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4442, legislation introduced by my fellow Nevadan, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS), to designate the United States postal facility at 1050 North Hills Boulevard in Reno, Nevada, as the “Guardians of Freedom Memorial Post Office Building.”

I am proud to join with the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) in honoring the brave men and women of our Nation’s Armed Forces with the dedication of this Post Office. It is im-

portant for all of us to pause and remember those who have selflessly stood in harm’s way as the guardians of our most fundamental freedoms: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Remembering those who have served our country with the Guardians of Freedom Memorial Post Office Building helps to preserve in the hearts and lives of our citizens the spirit of patriotism, the love of country, and the willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

This legislation recognizes not just members of the military, but all men and women and children who are committed to guarding the freedoms we hold so dearly.

Recently our Nation has been faced with threats from enemies who desire to oppress rather than to liberate, who advocate tyranny over democracy, and who prefer terrorism to freedom. The attacks of September 11, 2001, are fresh in our memories, but we are reminded that this is not the first time in the history of our great Nation that we have been faced with intimidation and threats to our freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, while the names of those who threaten us may be new, the honor and courage with which our Nation faces them is not.

□ 1430

All of those who have worked to guard our freedoms, our police and fire departments, first responders and all Americans who believe our country is the greatest Nation in the world because of the freedoms we enjoy are honored with this postal facility in Reno, Nevada.

I would also like to take a moment to thank the gentleman from Nevada (Congressman GIBBONS) for his personal dedication to our Nation. As many of you know, prior to coming to Congress, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) served our Nation as a combat pilot and is a decorated veteran of both the Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars. Throughout his military service, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) received 19 service medals including the Legion of Merit and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He continues protecting the freedom of Nevadans and all Americans through his service in Congress where he has distinguished himself as a leader in homeland security and intelligence issues.

Again, I urge all Members of the House to support H.R. 4442 and pass this legislation honoring those who serve as guardians of our freedom.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4442, the Guardians of Freedom Memorial Post Office Building Designation Act.

It is my great honor and privilege to bring before you this bill, which attempts to honor Nevada’s military personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice during the Global War on Terror, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Nevada’s families have lost precious loved ones during these conflicts, and many members of Nevada’s communities have come to

me requesting some form of recognition for these noble men and women.

This bill helps provide such recognition by establishing the Guardians of Freedom Memorial Post Office Building, in Reno, NV—a consecration of ground forever preserving the memories of these valiant individuals.

To my knowledge, no other post office in the United States serves with the distinction of being the single location for recognizing and honoring all those of a community who have fallen in defense of our Nation's liberty.

Upon passage of this bill into law, a plaque will be placed at this site.

The plaque will bear the names of those Nevadans who have given the ultimate sacrifice in fighting terrorism; the names of those who have died defending America's liberty. The names, Mr. Speaker, of those Nevadans who have fallen while liberating their brothers and sisters in humanity from the barbarism of a different age.

The names of these Nevadans will be permanently etched into this plaque and will serve as an enduring reminder to future generations that freedom is never free, and those who defend liberty will never be forgotten.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting my fellow Nevadans who have lost loved ones, by voting in favor of this special bill, H.R. 4442.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 4442, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4442.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HARVEY AND BERNICE JONES POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4381) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2811 Springdale Avenue in Springdale, Arkansas, as the "Harvey and Bernice Jones Post Office Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4381

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

SECTION 1. HARVEY AND BERNICE JONES POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2811 Springdale Avenue in Springdale, Arkansas, shall be known and designated as the "Harvey and Bernice Jones Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Harvey and Bernice Jones Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 4381. The Congress names post offices after numerous Americans, some famous, some anonymous, who devote inordinate time, energy, and resources to constructive causes, to their communities, or to the greater public. And today, through the consideration of H.R. 4381, we recognize a couple that is among the most deserving to be honored by Congress with a local post office.

Mr. Speaker, Harvey and Bernice Jones dedicated literally a lifetime of service to the people of Arkansas. The Joneses gave away literally millions of dollars to schools, to hospitals, to charities, most of them in northwest Arkansas, through the Harvey and Bernice Jones Charitable Trust.

After Harvey died in 1989, Bernice established the Harvey and Bernice Jones Eye Institute at the University of Arkansas Medical Center in Little Rock in 1994. The next year Bernice opened the Harvey and Bernice Jones Center for Families and Children in Springdale. The center, which features a swimming pool and ice skating rink, continues to positively mentor youths. President Clinton took notice of Mrs. Jones's work in his home State and awarded Bernice the Presidential Citizens Medal for her benevolence to humanity on February 22, 1996.

Bernice Jones passed away September 10, 2003. And I thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Congressman BOOZMAN) for advancing this legislation on behalf of Harvey and Bernice Jones. This beloved couple deserves to be remembered by the people of Springdale forever. This post office should serve as a wonderful memorial to their compassion.

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join with my colleagues in the consideration of H.R.

4381, legislation naming a postal facility in Springdale, Arkansas, after Harvey and Bernice Jones. This measure, which was introduced by the gentleman from Arkansas (Representative BOOZMAN) on May 18, 2004, and unanimously reported by our committee on July 8, 2004, enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the Arkansas delegation.

As my colleagues have heard, the late Harvey and Bernice Jones were founders of a nonprofit organization, the Jones Center for Families. The mission of the center is to "serve families, strengthen community, and glorify God." The organization, which provided a host of needed community services including health, education, and recreational facilities, was founded to improve the lives of those in need of assistance and guidance.

In 1996 President William Clinton awarded Mrs. Bernice Young Jones the Presidential Citizen Medal. Throughout her life, Mrs. Jones donated millions of dollars to assist individuals and families.

Mr. Harvey Jones, who built one of the largest trucking companies in the country, was also a generous contributor to charitable organizations. Sadly, he passed in 1989, and Mrs. Jones passed away last year.

I commend my colleagues for sponsoring this bill, and I urge its quick passage.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), my distinguished colleague.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to introduce legislation to my fellow colleagues to name the post office at 2811 Springdale Avenue in Springdale, Arkansas, after Harvey and Bernice Jones. Harvey and Bernice Jones are known throughout Arkansas for their amazing generosity and compassion for their community. Harvey Jones first started the Springdale Transportation Company in 1919 and soon changed the name to Jones Truck Lines, Incorporated, which later became one of the largest privately owned trucking companies in the United States. In 1938 the couple married and together used their success to further the improvement of their community and their home State of Arkansas.

The Joneses were instrumental in the development of Springdale's first hospital, and in 1992 Bernice Jones continued their support for the hospital by pledging \$25 million to the Northwest Medical Center of Washington County. Furthermore, the couple provided a wing of the hospital for family members who want to stay close to their loved ones.

Harvey Jones was chairman of the Springdale Memorial Hospital Board,

president of the Springdale School Board, president of the Springdale Chamber of Commerce, and chairman of the board of the First National Bank of Springdale.

After her husband's death in 1989, Bernice Jones continued the couple's philanthropic interests. She paid for the computers and Internet access for the entire Springdale School System and was a lead supporter for the children's library fund. As an eye doctor in Arkansas, I was gratified by her donation of \$11.5 million for the 56,000 square foot Harvey and Bernice Jones Eye Institute at the University of Arkansas for the Medical Sciences in Little Rock.

I could go on and on with the extensive list of their contributions and achievements, but probably their most memorable gift to the community is the Harvey and Bernice Jones Center for Families in Springdale, Arkansas. Established by Mrs. Jones in 1995, the Jones Center is a 235,000 square foot facility dedicated to the intellectual, cultural, and spiritual enhancement of families throughout the community.

The center offers ice skating, swimming, and numerous other sports activities. There is a beautiful chapel for services and weddings. An ever-widening array of family classes are offered, including a senior center, a teen arts program, CPR, cancer screening, and many, many more. All of this is free for the community use as long as they behave like ladies and gentlemen. This was Bernice's only rule for the center. The Joneses are still honored extensively throughout the State for their accomplishments. We can continue to honor them by naming the Springdale Post Office after the Joneses. They selflessly rose to answer the call of their community time and time again and will continue to be an inspiration for Arkansas for years to come.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4381.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. 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 motion will be postponed.

ANTHONY I. LOMBARDI MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4618) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10 West Prospect Street in Nanuet, New York, as the "Anthony I. Lombardi Memorial Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4618

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

SECTION 1. ANTHONY I. LOMBARDI MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10 West Prospect Street in Nanuet, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Anthony I. Lombardi Memorial Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Anthony I. Lombardi Memorial Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4618, introduced by the gentleman from New York (Congressman ENGEL) designates this postal facility in Nanuet, New York, as the "Anthony I. Lombardi Memorial Post Office Building." All 29 Members of the New York State delegation have co-sponsored this bill.

Mr. Speaker, Anthony Lombardi spent his entire adult life as a respected postal letter carrier in his hometown of Nanuet, New York. In addition, he taught Sunday school and worked as a custodial supervisor at Nanuet High School. He was a fearless Army sergeant, who served our Nation during World War II, landing on Normandy during D-Day. He was twice honored with the Bronze Star for bravery. Interestingly, one of his Bronze Stars was for rescuing a wounded soldier in the battlefield, a man who safely returned home and became the father to Gary Hart, who grew up to be a United States Senator.

Mr. Speaker, this is a fitting tribute to a lifelong postal employee, a man who was beloved by his community,

Anthony Lombardi. I certainly support H.R. 4618. I would urge all my colleagues to do the same. I thank the gentleman from New York for his compassionate work on this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 4618, legislation naming a postal facility in Nanuet, New York, after Anthony Lombardi. This measure was introduced by the gentleman from New York (Representative ENGEL) on June 18, 2004, and unanimously reported by our committee on July 21, 2004; and it enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the New York delegation.

A native of Nanuet, New York, Anthony Lombardi served in the U.S. Army. A dedicated serviceman, Anthony participated in the ground force that stormed Normandy in 1944. He was later wounded in another battle. For his valiant efforts, Anthony was awarded two Bronze Stars.

After the many battles, Anthony returned home, taught Sunday school at St. Joseph's of Spring Valley, and began a 30-year career with the U.S. Postal Service.

As a letter carrier, Anthony Lombardi walked over 100,000 miles delivering mail. His neighbors and friends remembered him as a carrier who did his job with a smile and a hug.

I commend my colleague for honoring the memory of the late Anthony Lombardi, and I urge the swift adaptation of H.R. 4618.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4618. Mr. Lombardi was a dedicated postal employee, and exemplary New Yorker, and it is my honor to dedicate the U.S. Post Office of Nanuet, New York, in the name of the late Anthony Lombardi, retired Army Sergeant, 4th Infantry.

Anthony Lombardi, known to those close to him as "Tony," grew up in St. Agatha's Orphanage in Nanuet. When Tony enlisted in the Army, the United States was embroiled in the European battles of World War II. Tony served in the ground force that stormed Normandy in 1944 and was later awarded the first of his two Bronze Stars for his part in the battle's success. Sixteen days after D-Day, Tony volunteered for a mission in the hills of a German stronghold near Bretteville, France, where he delivered food, ammunition, and water under hostile conditions to the needy frontline troops. During the difficult Battle of Hurtgen Forest, Tony's company commander was wounded by enemy fire. Tony came to his commander's aid and brought him to safety.

Tony Lombardi could easily be honored on his military record alone but

few in Nanuet had any knowledge that he even served in the war until after his death in 1987. His work in the community made Tony a household name in Nanuet. He dedicated much of his time to teaching Sunday school at St. Joseph's of Spring Valley. In 1978, the students of Nanuet High School honored him for his dedication to the school and its pupils in his efforts as head night custodian for over 22 years.

Tony Lombardi is loved and remembered most in Nanuet as a friendly and caring mailman. During his 30-year career, Lombardi estimated that he had walked over 100,000 miles delivering mail. He always greeted everyone with a smile, a handshake and a hug and left a life-long impression on all those who came in contact with him.

The Nanuet Post Office will serve as daily reminder to the community of Mr. Lombardi's contributions to Nanuet.

□ 1445

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4618.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL WILLIAM CAREY LEE POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4556) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1115 South Clinton Avenue in Dunn, North Carolina, as the "General William Carey Lee Post Office Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4556

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

SECTION 1. GENERAL WILLIAM CAREY LEE POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1115 South Clinton Avenue in Dunn, North Carolina, shall be known and designated as the "General William Carey Lee Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the General William Carey Lee Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4556, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 4556. This bill designates the U.S. Postal Service facility at 1115 South Clinton Avenue, in Dunn, North Carolina, as the General William Carey Lee Post Office Building.

General William Lee, also known as the Father of the Airborne, was the founder and original Commander of the 101st Airborne Division. This elite paratrooper company was hailed for its incredibly heroic efforts during the D-Day invasion of the Second World War. The 101st Airborne Division is famously portrayed in the television series Band of Brothers.

General Lee enlisted in the Army in 1917 and served during both World War I and World War II. His combat honors include the Distinguished Service Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, and the World War I and World War II Victory Medals. He remains one of America's most decorated military leaders, and since he passed away in 1948, this honor for such an authentic American hero is long overdue. Therefore, I would urge all Members to support the swift passage of this post office designation.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) for his work on H.R. 4556.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 4556, legislation naming a postal facility in Dunn, North Carolina, after General William Carey Lee. This measure, which was introduced by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) on June 14, 2004, and unanimously reported out by our committee on July 21, 2004, enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the North Carolina delegation.

William Carey Lee was a native of Dunn, North Carolina. He left college to join the United States Army and fought in World War I. He returned home from the war and graduated from North Carolina State University.

After a distinguished Army career, William Carey Lee became Commander of the Provisional Parachute Group and the 502nd and 503rd Parachute Battalions at Fort Benning. His enormous enthusiasm for parachute and glider

troops led him to develop and command the 101st Airborne Division, an elite paratrooper company hailed for its heroic participation in the D-Day invasion.

Although his health would not allow him to be there for the invasion, his men respected and admired him so much that as they jumped from their planes into battle, they yelled his name.

General Lee died in 1948, but he remains a legend. Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague for seeking to honor the legacy of General Lee by sponsoring this bill, and I urge its quick passage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE), the sponsor of H.R. 4556.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for yielding me the time, and let me thank the committee for reporting out favorably and unanimously this important piece of legislation that, as has been noted, was introduced and has been agreed to by our delegation unanimously. And I urge my colleagues to support this legislation as we name the main post office in Dunn, North Carolina, in honor of General William Carey Lee, as has been noted today, who has been, and it has been said is, the father of the United States Airborne, and that is absolutely correct.

William Carey Lee, as has been noted, was born in Dunn, North Carolina, on March 12, 1895. So he is a native of a previous century. He attended Wake Forest and NC State Universities, but left the latter, NC State, to enroll as a second lieutenant in the United States Army.

After serving 18 months in Europe during the First World War and earning the rank of captain, he returned stateside where he graduated from NC State University and was so enthralled and felt so much for the military services that he went on to United States Officers Candidate School 2 years later, and his enthusiasm led him to make a career out of the military.

His enthusiasm for parachutists and glider troops that he had seen in Germany during World War I led him to develop the Parachute Test Platoon, and he had been doing a lot of work on it. Finally, in 1942, the President, President Roosevelt, assigned as the Provisional Paratroop Group, only a year old, that was then to be led by Lieutenant Colonel Lee, and it was reconstituted as the Airborne Command. Within the year, three parachute regiments were added to the Army's Airborne forces, and the Airborne Command headquarters were relocated to what was then called Camp Fort Bragg, as we know today Fort Bragg, with Brigadier General Lee in command, who had moved up very quickly in the ranks of the military.

In August of 1942, the 82nd and the 101st Airborne Divisions were formed. Major General Lee was put in command of the new 101st Airborne, and

they, of course, at that point were stationed at Fort Bragg. After a year of rigorous training, General Lee and his men departed for England.

In 1944, General Lee suffered a heart attack that forced him to step down as the commanding officer of the 101st Airborne Division, just as that division was making its final preparations for the invasion in Normandy, of which the General had been a major planner with General Eisenhower and others. As a tribute to their former commander, each of the men, as my colleagues heard this evening, of the 101st Airborne Division yelled "Bill Lee" as they jumped from the plane into the dark into combat.

The men of the 101st who had been under General Lee's command have since been immortalized in a best-selling book by the historian Stephen Ambrose and in the miniseries Band of Brothers. They were an elite rifle company that parachuted into France on D-Day, that fought in the Battle of the Bulge. They captured Hitler's Eagle's Nest, and they were also a unit that suffered 150 percent casualties and whose lives have become legendary. One could say how could a company, how could a division suffer 150 percent casualties? Easy. As one was lost, others joined the group.

Mr. Speaker, as the Nation pauses this year to honor the World War II veterans and to mark the 60th anniversary of D-Day, it is appropriate that we honor General Lee, a Dunn, North Carolina, native and the father of the United States Airborne. This General from a small town was a big-time leader. He represented the can-do attitudes and the patriotism embodied by the people of Dunn and Harnett County in North Carolina and America.

Today, in Dunn, there is a museum of his homeplace. The effort to turn that home into a museum was led by a member of his staff, Hoover Adams, who was a captain who served under General Lee. That museum is now open to the public and had a lot of memorabilia from World War II and other Airborne divisions around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and today to honor a true American hero, General William Carey Lee.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would urge all Members to support H.R. 4556, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4556.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. 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 motion will be postponed.

TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4654) to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4654

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

SECTION 1. REDUCTION OF DEBT UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961 AND TITLE I OF THE AGRICULTURAL TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1954.

Section 806(d) of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431d(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(4) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2005.

"(5) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2006.

"(6) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2007."

SEC. 2. USE OF FUNDS TO CONDUCT PROGRAM AUDITS AND EVALUATIONS.

Section 806 of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431d) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(e) USE OF FUNDS TO CONDUCT PROGRAM AUDITS AND EVALUATIONS.—Of the amounts made available to carry out this part for a fiscal year, \$200,000 is authorized to be made available to carry out audits and evaluations of programs under this part, including personnel costs associated with such audits and evaluations."

SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO ALLOW FOR PAYMENTS OF INTEREST AND PRINCIPAL IN LOCAL CURRENCIES.

(a) AUTHORITY UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.—Section 806(c) of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431d(c)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "The following" and inserting "(1) The following";

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) In addition to the application of the provisions relating to repayment of principal under section 705 of this Act to the reduction of debt under subsection (a)(1) (in accordance with paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection), repayment of principal on a new obligation established under subsection (b) may be made in the local currency of the beneficiary country and deposited in the Tropical Forest Fund of the country in the same manner as the provisions relating to payment of interest on new obligations under section 706 of this Act."

(b) AUTHORITY UNDER TITLE I OF THE AGRICULTURAL TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1954.—Section 807(c) of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431e(c)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "The following" and inserting "(1) The following";

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) In addition to the application of the provisions relating to repayment of principal under section 605 of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 to the reduction of debt under subsection (a)(1) (in accordance with paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection), repayment of principal on a new obligation established under subsection (b) may be made in the local currency of the beneficiary country and deposited in the Tropical Forest Fund of the country in the same manner as the provisions relating to payment of interest on new obligations under section 606 of such Act."

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 810(a) of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431h(a)) is amended by inserting "and principal" after "interest".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4654, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bill reauthorizes the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998, TFCA, through fiscal year 2007. The current authorization for this important program expires at the end of fiscal year 2004. H.R. 4654 authorizes appropriations for debt reduction for eligible countries through fiscal year 2007 at \$20 million in fiscal year 2005, the President's budget request; at \$25 million in fiscal year 2006; and \$30 million in fiscal year 2007.

The bill adds a new section to the underlying statute which authorizes the use of funds for audits and evaluations of this program. In addition, the bill allows for TFCA debt reduction agreements to redirect reduced principal payments for forest conservation activities. Current law allows only the redirection of reduced interest payment into forest conservation funds.

Ensuring fiscal and programmatic accountability requires the ability to contract for independent audits. While it is the intent of H.R. 4654 to maximize the amount of funds going to new TFCA agreements, a modest authorization level is provided as a good management procedure to ensure that some audits be undertaken each year.

□ 1500

The \$200,000 authorized by the bill to be made available to carry out audits and evaluations of programs is not intended as a limit on expenditures for these important functions.

The bill would allow principal on debt incurred before January 1, 1998, to be eligible for treatment under the straight debt reduction option. Currently, only interest can be treated. The benefit of also treating principal in this matter is that the U.S. Government can generate more funds for forest conservation.

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of this legislation.

This legislation continues a vitally important environmental initiative started in the Clinton administration. With the extension of this program, millions of acres of endangered tropical forests around the world will be saved, and the biological diversity of our world will be further preserved.

I would first like to recognize the efforts of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), who worked closely with our former colleague and former chair of the Committee on International Relations, the Honorable Lee Hamilton, in crafting this innovative measure in 1998.

Mr. Speaker, the Tropical Forest Conservation Act has become one of the most effective foreign policy tools designed to encourage developing nations to protect and preserve tropical forests. Already the U.S. has entered into bilateral agreements with seven countries: Bangladesh, Belize, El Salvador, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, and Colombia.

This innovative program has been a tremendous success. It has given the people of developing countries the opportunity to protect and invest in their local ecosystems, thus preserving our global environment while at the same time paying down interest on debt owed to the United States.

The current bilateral agreements under the Tropical Forest Conservation Act will generate \$70 million for tropical forest preservation. The most recent agreement has produced a pledge by Colombia to invest \$10 million over 12 years to protect the nearly 11 million acres of this tropical forest.

Among the areas that will be preserved in Colombia as a result is the Tuparo National Park. This unique forest contains a rich diversity of species, including jaguars, river dolphins, and the endangered giant armadillo. This also includes a threatened crocodile, which is found only in this part of South America. This area is also being protected because it serves as a base for migrating birds from North America.

The bill before us would expand the Tropical Forest Conservation Act by allowing developing countries not only to service their debt by making payments to forest conservation funds, but also to pay down the principal on these debts. Right now, there are several debtor countries that are potentially eligible for the program but cannot

participate because of the way in which the language was originally written. This new authority in this reauthorization would remedy this situation and increase the number of countries eligible to participate in the program.

Mr. Speaker, the Tropical Forest Conservation Act is a shining example of good policy mixed with strong environmental protections. It is my hope that in the future we will be able to promote and support additional measures that balance economic stability and environmental sustainability both for these countries.

Again, I strongly support the passage of this legislation to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act, and I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the prime sponsor and the author of this bill.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), who is chair of the Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia of the Committee on International Relations. I want to thank her for her good work in the committee, and particularly her help with regard to this legislation and her willingness to be one of the original cosponsors and to help to promote this.

I also want to thank my colleague from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM). I thought that statement was eloquent, and I think she well stated what we are trying to do with this reauthorization, which is to continue a good program and also to expand it so that more countries can be eligible.

I rise today in very strong support of this legislation. It was introduced, along with my colleague and ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), of the Committee on International Relations, by 32 of our colleagues to reauthorize this Tropical Forest Conservation Act through fiscal year 2007. This is a bipartisan and market-based conservation incentive program which helps to protect the world's most valuable tropical forests using the so-called debt-for-nature mechanisms.

H.R. 4654 was developed with the Bush administration, with the Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund, Conservation International, and the Wildlife Conservation Society. The administration and these highly respected environmental organizations are to be commended for their good work on the Tropical Forest Conservation Act and on this legislation before us today.

This legislation comes out of a couple of Congresses ago, the 105th Congress, when I, along with my colleagues Lee Hamilton, mentioned earlier, and John Kasich, introduced legislation that established the Tropical Forest Conservation Act, or TFCA. It was

overwhelmingly approved by the House, the Senate, and enacted in 1998. It was then reauthorized in 2001, until the end of this current year.

The TFCA is based on the previous Bush administration's Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, also known as EAI. That initiative allowed the President to restructure debt in exchange for certain conservation efforts in Latin America. We took that basic philosophy, broadened it, we expanded on it, and we now allow protection of threatened tropical forests worldwide.

A conservative estimate is that, because of the agreements that have been signed to date, 41 million acres of tropical forests are being protected. The United States has a significant national interest in this. Tropical forests provide a wide range of benefits. They harbor 50 to 90 percent of the Earth's terrestrial biodiversity. They act as "carbon sinks," absorbing massive quantities of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, thereby reducing so-called greenhouse gases. Therefore, the quality of the air we breathe here in this country is affected by the health of these dense forests.

They also regulate rainfall on which agriculture and coastal resources depend, and they are of great importance to regional and global climate. Furthermore, tropical forests are breeding grounds for new medicines. Twenty-five percent of prescription drugs come from tropical forests. The United States National Cancer Institute has identified over 3,000 plants that they believe are active against cancer. Seventy percent of them can be found in these tropical rain forests.

Regrettably, tropical forests are rapidly disappearing. It is now estimated that 30 million acres, an area larger than the State of Pennsylvania, or my State of Ohio, are now being lost each year. The heavy debt burden of many of these countries in the tropics is a contributing factor because they have to resort to exploitation of their natural resources, particularly the extraction of timber, oil, and precious metals, to be able to generate revenue to service their external debt. At the same time, these poorer governments tend to have fewer resources available to set aside and protect tropical forests.

The TFCA, which is part of the current Bush administration's global climate change policy, addresses these economic pressures by authorizing the President to allow eligible countries to engage in debt swaps, in buybacks, and in reduction and restructuring of debt in exchange for protecting threatened tropical forests on a sustained basis. So the program gets at some of the underlying causes for the disappearing tropical forests because it gets at some of the economic reasons some of the countries must exploit this resource.

The debt-for-nature mechanism in the TFCA has proven to be an effective market-oriented means to leverage scarce funds available for international

conservation. The host country places local currency in its tropical forest fund that typically exceeds the cost to the U.S. Government of the debt reduction agreement. So we are leveraging funds.

Furthermore, because these tropical forest funds have integrity, are broadly supported within the host country, we have found that conservation organizations are interested in placing their own money in these tropical forest funds, which of course produce additional leverage of the Federal conservation dollars that we are providing.

There have been eight TFCA agreements included to date: Bangladesh, El Salvador, Belize, Peru, the Philippines, Colombia, and actually two now with Panama. \$49.3 million in Federal contributions have gone into these agreements and \$6.3 million in private contributions from these conservation NGOs under these eight agreements. Through this we have generated \$81.4 million in long-term income commitments for tropical forest conservation, so the leverage is out there and is working.

The second Panama deal actually was just signed last month. Under this agreement, the U.S. Government contributed \$6.5 million to reduce debt, and the Nature Conservancy contributed \$1.3 million in a second round of agreements now that will generate nearly \$11 million for tropical conservation over the next 12 years.

This agreement with Panama, along with the previous one, now provides over \$21 million in total funds available for conservation purposes. This is a great agreement that helps protect the biologically rich forest of Darien National Park.

Active deals are also being negotiated with Jamaica and Sri Lanka. Other countries that have expressed interest in the program and who have eligible debt include Guatemala, Ecuador, Paraguay, St. Vincent, Botswana, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, India, Indonesia, Brazil, and Kenya.

H.R. 4654 will improve and refine the Tropical Forest Conservation Act, as was discussed earlier, by better funding audits to ensure the program is operating as expected and as intended and by broadening the governments that can participate by allowing principal, not just interest, to be reduced and to be redirected into these conservation funds.

The bill does have an authorization here of \$20 million in fiscal year 2005, which is included in the President's budget request.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment, if I could, to just thank all those who have gotten us to this point and worked so hard on this reauthorization bill. I want to thank those people like Bill Millan and Steve McCormick of the Nature Conservancy; Randy Snodgrass, Melissa Moye and Estrelitta Fitzhugh of the World Wildlife Fund; Kelly Keenan Aylward with the Wildlife Conservation Society; and

Nicholas Lapham with Conservation International.

From the administration, I want to thank the Council on Environmental Quality; also Joel Kaplan and Robin Cleveland of OMB; Bill Schuerch and Katie Berg of the Treasury Department; Claudia McMurray, Stephanie Caswell and Teresa Hobgood of the State Department; Jim Hester with USAID; Scott Lampman and others.

In Congress, I want to be sure and thank Kristen Gilley and David Killon of the Committee on International Relations, minority and majority staff; and Mark Synnes of the House Legislative Counsel for helping us to draft the bill; and at CRS we got some great help from Pervaze Sheikh. For his excellent analysis of the program, I want to thank him. And, finally, I want to thank Tim Miller of my staff and Justin Louchheim, who have taken a personal interest in this and their commitment to it over the years.

Again, this is a good program, it is working well, and worthy of reauthorization. I urge all Members to support strongly this market-based approach that is working to conserve the world's most threatened tropical forest.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the legislation before the House continues a vitally important environmental initiative begun during the Clinton Administration. The Tropical Forest Conservation Act has already resulted in the funding of programs to conserve over 40 million acres of endangered tropical forests around the globe. These preservation efforts are critical to long-term U.S. interests as the tropical forest being saved are estimated to contain 50–90 percent of the earth's terrestrial biodiversity.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had the opportunity to co-sponsor this reauthorization with Congressman ROB PORTMAN. Congressman PORTMAN deserves credit for having the foresight to initiate this program with the original authorization he crafted in partnership with the former chairman of the International Relations Committee, Mr. Lee Hamilton, in 1998.

Mr. Speaker, the Tropical Forest Conservation Act has been a tremendous success. It has allowed the governments of developing countries to get the benefit of improving their local ecosystem when paying down interest owed on debt to the United States. It is supported by a broad spectrum of environmental advocacy organizations led by the Nature Conservancy and the World Wildlife Fund.

This program inspires more prompt debt servicing and gives foreign governments a greater sense of responsibility for preserving the global environment.

Already the U.S. has entered into binding bilateral agreements with seven countries: Bangladesh, Belize, El Salvador, Panama, Peru, the Philippines and Colombia. These agreements will generate \$70 million for tropical forest preservation.

The most recent agreement has produced a pledge by Colombia to invest \$10 million over 12 years to protect nearly 11 million acres of its tropical forest.

Among the areas that will be preserved in Colombia as a result is the Tuparo National Park. This unique forest contains a rich diversity of species including jaguars, river dol-

phins, the endangered giant armadillo and the critically threatened Orinoco crocodile, which is found only in this part of South America. The area is also a major winter base for migrating bird species from the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the rapid disappearance of tropical forests is a threat to our national security. We need these forests to regulate the global environment. They act as critical "carbon sinks", absorbing massive quantities of carbon dioxide that otherwise would contribute to global warming. They also regulate rainfall, which is critical to maintaining sustainable agricultural production across the globe. In addition, their diverse plants provide a large percentage of life-saving medicines. Therefore, as the forests disappear, some of our opportunities to cure debilitating illnesses also vanish.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support passage of this legislation, and urge my colleagues to do so as well.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests at this time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I also have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4654.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 13 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. KLINE) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 700, DIRECTING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO TRANSMIT DOCUMENTS IN THE POSSESSION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL RELATING TO TREATMENT OF PRISONERS AND DETAINEES IN IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, AND GUANTANAMO BAY

Mr. SENSENBRENNER, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-658) on the resolution (H. Res. 700) directing the Attorney General to transmit to the House of Representatives documents in the possession of the Attorney General relating to the treatment

of prisoners and detainees in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Guantanamo Bay, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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.R. 4381, by the yeas and nays; and
 - H.R. 4556, by the yeas and nays.
- Both will be 15-minute votes.

HARVEY AND BERNICE JONES POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 4381.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4381, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 382, nays 0, answered “present” 1, not voting 50, as follows:

[Roll No. 422]
YEAS—382

Abercrombie	Calvert	Doggett
Ackerman	Camp	Dooley (CA)
Aderholt	Cantor	Doolittle
Akin	Capito	Doyle
Alexander	Capps	Dreier
Allen	Capuano	Duncan
Andrews	Cardin	Dunn
Baca	Cardoza	Ehlers
Bachus	Carter	Emanuel
Baird	Case	Emerson
Baldwin	Castle	English
Barrett (SC)	Chabot	Eshoo
Bartlett (MD)	Chandler	Etheridge
Barton (TX)	Chocola	Evans
Bass	Clay	Everett
Beauprez	Clyburn	Farr
Becerra	Coble	Fattah
Bell	Cole	Feeney
Berkley	Collins	Ferguson
Berman	Conyers	Filner
Berry	Cooper	Foley
Biggert	Costello	Forbes
Bishop (GA)	Cox	Ford
Bishop (NY)	Cramer	Fossella
Bishop (UT)	Crane	Frank (MA)
Blackburn	Crenshaw	Frelinghuysen
Blumenauer	Crowley	Garrett (NJ)
Blunt	Cubin	Gerlach
Boehlert	Culberson	Gibbons
Boehner	Cummings	Gilchrest
Bonilla	Cunningham	Gillmor
Bonner	Davis (AL)	Gingrey
Bono	Davis (CA)	Gonzalez
Boozman	Davis (IL)	Goode
Boswell	Davis (TN)	Goodlatte
Boucher	Davis, Jo Ann	Gordon
Boyd	Davis, Tom	Goss
Bradley (NH)	Deal (GA)	Granger
Brady (PA)	DeFazio	Graves
Brown (OH)	DeGette	Green (TX)
Brown (SC)	Delahunt	Green (WI)
Brown, Corrine	DeLauro	Greenwood
Brown-Waite,	DeLay	Gutknecht
Ginny	DeMint	Hall
Burgess	Deutsch	Harman
Burns	Diaz-Balart, L.	Harris
Burton (IN)	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hart
Butterfield	Dicks	Hastings (FL)
Buyer	Dingell	Hastings (WA)

Hayes	McDermott	Ryun (KS)
Hayworth	McGovern	Sabo
Hefley	McHugh	Sánchez, Linda
Hensarling	McIntyre	T.
Hergert	McKeon	Sanchez, Loretta
Herseth	McNulty	Sanders
Hill	Meehan	Sandlin
Hinchey	Meek (FL)	Saxton
Hinojosa	Meeks (NY)	Schakowsky
Hobson	Menendez	Schiff
Hoekstra	Mica	Scott (GA)
Holden	Michaud	Scott (VA)
Holt	Millender-McDonald	Sensenbrenner
Honda	Miller (FL)	Serrano
Hooley (OR)	Miller (MI)	Shadegg
Hostettler	Miller (NC)	Shaw
Houghton	Miller, Gary	Shays
Hoyer	Miller, George	Sherman
Hunter	Moore	Sherwood
Hyde	Moran (KS)	Shimkus
Inslee	Moran (VA)	Shuster
Isakson	Murphy	Simmons
Israel	Musgrave	Skelton
Issa	Myrick	Slaughter
Istook	Nadler	Smith (MI)
Jackson (IL)	Napolitano	Smith (NJ)
Jackson-Lee (TX)	Neal (MA)	Smith (TX)
Jefferson	Neugebauer	Smith (WA)
Jenkins	Ney	Snyder
Johnson (CT)	Northup	Solis
Johnson (IL)	Norwood	Souder
Johnson, E. B.	Nussle	Spratt
Johnson, Sam	Obey	Stearns
Jones (NC)	Oliver	Stenholm
Kanjorski	Ortiz	Strickland
Kaptur	Osborne	Stupak
Keller	Ose	Sullivan
Kelly	Otter	Sweeney
Kennedy (MN)	Oxley	Tancredo
Kennedy (RI)	Pallone	Tanner
Kildee	Pascarella	Tauscher
Kilpatrick	Pastor	Taylor (MS)
Kind	Paul	Taylor (NC)
King (IA)	Payne	Terry
King (NY)	Pearce	Thomas
Kingston	Pelosi	Thompson (CA)
Kirk	Pence	Thompson (MS)
Kleczka	Peterson (MN)	Thornberry
Kline	Peterson (PA)	Tiahrt
Knollenberg	Petri	Tiberi
Kucinich	Pickering	Tierney
LaHood	Pitts	Toomey
Langevin	Platts	Turner (OH)
Lantos	Pombo	Turner (TX)
Larsen (WA)	Pomeroy	Udall (CO)
Larson (CT)	Porter	Udall (NM)
LaTourette	Portman	Upton
Leach	Price (NC)	Van Hollen
Lee	Pryce (OH)	Velázquez
Levin	Quinn	Visclosky
Lewis (CA)	Radanovich	Vitter
Lewis (GA)	Rahall	Walden (OR)
Lewis (KY)	Ramstad	Walsh
Linder	Rangel	Wamp
LoBiondo	Rehberg	Waters
Lowey	Reyes	Watson
Lucas (KY)	Reynolds	Waxman
Lynch	Rodriguez	Weiner
Maloney	Rogers (AL)	Weldon (PA)
Manzullo	Rogers (KY)	Weller
Markey	Rogers (MI)	Whitfield
Marshall	Rohrabacher	Wicker
Matheson	Ros-Lehtinen	Wilson (NM)
Matsui	Ross	Wilson (SC)
McCarthy (MO)	Rothman	Wolf
McCarty (NY)	Roybal-Allard	Woolsey
McCotter	Royce	Wu
McCrery	Ruppersberger	Wynn
	Ryan (WI)	Young (FL)

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

McCollum
NOT VOTING—50

Baker	Galleghy	McInnis
Ballenger	Gephardt	Mollohan
Bilirakis	Grijalva	Murtha
Brady (TX)	Gutierrez	Nethercutt
Burr	Hoeffel	Nunes
Cannon	Hulshof	Oberstar
Carson (IN)	John	Owens
Carson (OK)	Jones (OH)	Putnam
Davis (FL)	Kolbe	Regula
Edwards	Lampson	Renzi
Engel	Latham	Rush
Flake	Lipinski	Ryan (OH)
Franks (AZ)	Lucas (OK)	Schrock
Frost	Majette	Sessions

Simpson	Towns	Wexler
Stark	Watt	Young (AK)
Tauzin	Weldon (FL)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE) (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1856

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL WILLIAM CAREY LEE POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 4556.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4556, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 380, nays 0, answered “present” 1, not voting 52, as follows:

[Roll No. 423]
YEAS—380

Abercrombie	Camp	Doyle
Ackerman	Cantor	Dreier
Aderholt	Capito	Duncan
Akin	Capps	Dunn
Alexander	Capuano	Edwards
Allen	Cardin	Ehlers
Andrews	Cardoza	Emanuel
Baca	Carter	Emerson
Bachus	Case	English
Baird	Castle	Eshoo
Baldwin	Chabot	Etheridge
Barrett (SC)	Chandler	Evans
Bartlett (MD)	Chocola	Everett
Barton (TX)	Clay	Farr
Bass	Coble	Fattah
Beauprez	Cole	Feeney
Becerra	Collins	Ferguson
Bell	Conyers	Filner
Berkley	Cooper	Foley
Berman	Costello	Forbes
Berry	Cox	Ford
Biggert	Cramer	Fossella
Bishop (GA)	Crane	Frank (MA)
Bishop (NY)	Crenshaw	Frelinghuysen
Bishop (UT)	Crowley	Garrett (NJ)
Blackburn	Cubin	Gerlach
Blumenauer	Culberson	Gibbons
Blunt	Cummings	Gilchrest
Boehlert	Cunningham	Gillmor
Boehner	Davis (AL)	Gingrey
Bonilla	Davis (CA)	Gonzalez
Bonner	Davis (IL)	Goode
Bono	Davis (TN)	Goodlatte
Boozman	Davis, Jo Ann	Gordon
Boswell	Davis, Tom	Goss
Boucher	Deal (GA)	Granger
Boyd	DeFazio	Graves
Bradley (NH)	DeGette	Green (TX)
Brady (PA)	Delahunt	Green (WI)
Brown (OH)	DeLauro	Greenwood
Brown (SC)	DeLay	Gutknecht
Brown, Corrine	DeMint	Hall
Brown-Waite,	Deutsch	Harman
Ginny	Diaz-Balart, L.	Harris
Burgess	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hart
Burns	Dicks	Hastings (FL)
Burton (IN)	Dingell	Hastings (WA)
Butterfield	Doggett	Hayes
Buyer	Dooley (CA)	Hayworth
Calvert	Doolittle	Hefley

Hensarling	McGovern	Sabo	Tauzin	Watt	Wexler
Herger	McHugh	Sánchez, Linda	Towns	Weldon (FL)	Young (AK)
Herseht	McIntyre	T.	ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE		
Hill	McKeon	Sanchez, Loretta	The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr.		
Hinchey	McNulty	Sanders	KLINE) (during the vote). There are 2		
Hinojosa	Meehan	Sandlin	minutes remaining in this vote.		
Hobson	Meek (FL)	Saxton	□ 1913		
Hoekstra	Meeks (NY)	Schakowsky	So (two-thirds having voted in favor		
Holden	Menendez	Schiff	thereof) the rules were suspended and		
Holt	Mica	Scott (GA)	the bill was passed.		
Honda	Michaud	Scott (VA)	The result of the vote was announced		
Hooley (OR)	Millender-	Sensenbrenner	as above recorded.		
Hostettler	McDonald	Serrano	A motion to reconsider was laid on		
Houghton	Miller (FL)	Shadegg	the table.		
Hoyer	Miller (MI)	Shaw			
Hunter	Miller (NC)	Shays			
Hyde	Miller, Gary	Sherman			
Inslee	Miller, George	Sherwood			
Isakson	Moore	Shimkus			
Israel	Moran (KS)	Shuster			
Issa	Murphy	Simmons			
Istook	Musgrave	Skelton			
Jackson (IL)	Myrick	Slaughter			
Jackson-Lee	Nadler	Smith (MI)			
(TX)	Napolitano	Smith (NJ)			
Jefferson	Neal (MA)	Smith (TX)			
Jenkins	Neugebauer	Smith (WA)			
Johnson (CT)	Ney	Snyder			
Johnson (IL)	Northup	Solis			
Johnson, E. B.	Norwood	Souder			
Johnson, Sam	Nussle	Spratt			
Jones (NC)	Obey	Stearns			
Kanjorski	Olver	Stenholm			
Kaptur	Ortiz	Strickland			
Keller	Osborne	Stupak			
Kelly	Ose	Sullivan			
Kennedy (MN)	Otter	Sweeney			
Kennedy (RI)	Oxley	Tancredo			
Kildee	Pallone	Tanner			
Kilpatrick	Pascrell	Tauscher			
Kind	Pastor	Taylor (MS)			
King (IA)	Paul	Taylor (NC)			
King (NY)	Payne	Terry			
Kingston	Pearce	Thomas			
Kirk	Pelosi	Thompson (CA)			
Kleczka	Pence	Thompson (MS)			
Kline	Peterson (MN)	Thornberry			
Knollenberg	Peterson (PA)	Tiahrt			
Kucinich	Petri	Tiberi			
LaHood	Pickering	Tierney			
Langevin	Pitts	Toomey			
Lantos	Platts	Turner (OH)			
Larsen (WA)	Pombo	Turner (TX)			
Larson (CT)	Pomeroy	Udall (CO)			
LaTourette	Porter	Udall (NM)			
Leach	Portman	Upton			
Lee	Price (NC)	Van Hollen			
Levin	Pryce (OH)	Velázquez			
Lewis (CA)	Quinn	Visclosky			
Lewis (GA)	Radanovich	Vitter			
Lewis (KY)	Rahall	Walden (OR)			
Linder	Ramstad	Walsh			
LoBiondo	Rehberg	Wamp			
Lofgren	Reyes	Waters			
Lowey	Reynolds	Watson			
Lucas (KY)	Rodriguez	Waxman			
Lynch	Rogers (AL)	Weiner			
Maloney	Rogers (KY)	Weldon (PA)			
Manzullo	Rogers (MI)	Weller			
Markey	Rohrabacher	Whitfield			
Marshall	Ros-Lehtinen	Wicker			
Matheson	Ross	Wilson (NM)			
Matsui	Rothman	Wilson (SC)			
McCarthy (MO)	Roybal-Allard	Wolf			
McCarthy (NY)	Royce	Woolsey			
McCotter	Ruppersberger	Wu			
McCrery	Ryan (WI)	Wynn			
McDermott	Ryun (KS)	Young (FL)			

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

McCollum

NOT VOTING—52

Baker	Grijalva	Nethercutt
Ballenger	Gutierrez	Nunes
Bilirakis	Hoefel	Oberstar
Brady (TX)	Hulshof	Owens
Burr	John	Putnam
Cannon	Jones (OH)	Rangel
Carson (IN)	Kolbe	Regula
Carson (OK)	Lampson	Renzi
Clyburn	Latham	Rush
Davis (FL)	Lipinski	Ryan (OH)
Engel	Lucas (OK)	Schrock
Flake	Majette	Sessions
Franks (AZ)	McInnis	Simpson
Frost	Mollohan	Stark
Gallegly	Moran (VA)	
Gephardt	Murtha	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1913

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday September 7, 2004, I was attending a funeral and missed the day's votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

(1) On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4381—Harvey and Bernice Jones Post Office Building Designation Act, I would have voted "yea."

(2) On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4556—General William Carey Lee Post Office Building Designation Act, I would have voted "yea."

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1308, TAX RELIEF, SIMPLIFICATION, AND EQUITY ACT OF 2003

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule XXII, clause 7(c), I hereby announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct on H.R. 1308, Tax Relief, Simplification, and Equity Act of 2003.

The form of this motion is as follows:

I move that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 1308 be instructed to agree, to the maximum extent possible within the scope of conference, to a conference report that

(1) extends the tax relief provisions which expire at the end of 2004; and

(2) does not increase the Federal budget deficit.

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 any additional 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.

Any record vote will be taken tomorrow.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR DISASTER RELIEF ACT, 2004

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5005) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the

fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, for additional disaster assistance.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5005

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, to provide emergency supplemental appropriations for additional disaster assistance, namely:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
DISASTER RELIEF

For an additional amount for "Disaster Relief", \$2,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which up to \$30,000,000 may be transferred to "Small Business Administration—Salaries and Expenses", for administrative expenses to carry out the disaster loans program authorized by section 7(b) of the Small Business Act: *Provided*, That the amounts provided herein are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of S. Con. Res. 95 (108th Congress), as made applicable to the House of Representatives by H. Res. 649 (108th Congress) and applicable to the Senate by section 14007 of Public Law 108-287.

This Act may be cited as the "Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2004".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 20 minutes.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to yield 5 minutes of my time to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG).

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) is recognized and will control 25 minutes of the debate.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill H.R. 5005, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, for additional disaster assistance.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, first I want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) for yielding me the additional time because, as you might expect, many Members of the Florida delegation would like to be heard on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has responded many, many times to natural disasters in different parts of the country; but I cannot remember any time when an entire State, and I mean everybody in the State, was actually affected by a series

of natural disasters in one way or another. Unfortunately, thanks to Tropical Storm Bonnie and Hurricane Charley and Hurricane Frances, that is exactly what has happened to Florida in the last couple of weeks, and we are still feeling the effects.

As a matter of fact, our sister States to the north, Georgia and the Carolinas, and probably Virginia, sometime tonight are all going to feel some of the effects of Hurricane Frances.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to compliment the President of the United States, the Governor of Florida, the director of FEMA, and the State and local emergency disaster responders for the tremendous way they have all worked together to help the people of Florida recover.

□ 1915

Mr. Speaker, the damage has been severe. If Members have watched the television screens, they know what I am talking about. It has been total disaster in some parts of our State.

This supplemental bill is a bill for \$2 billion. It is an emergency declaration. The reason we have tried to move this bill as quickly as we can, FEMA, which is handling basically the Federal response, runs out of money probably by midnight tonight. Rather than interrupt the cash flow to the emergency workers in Florida, we are trying to move this bill. Hopefully our brothers and sisters in the other body will move it quickly tonight, and it will be on the President's desk so there is no interruption in the cash flow to the people who need it in Florida.

This is not going to cover all of the costs of the natural disasters that we are dealing with and have been dealing with, but we will take that up at a later date. This is an emergency measure to keep the cash flow moving into Florida and FEMA.

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2½ minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident we will find overwhelming support in the House for this measure. I am certain it will be bipartisan to a very great degree. I certainly expect to be voting for it.

I would simply make one observation in the process, however. We should not be surprised that FEMA is at this point running out of money, because in the conference on the legislative appropriation bill last year when additional supplemental funding for FEMA was being attached, a number of us on this side of the aisle warned at that time, I know the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) did, I know I did, we warned at that time that because we were appropriating \$800 million less than the historical average of the last 5 years, we would not have enough money without additional funding. And now because of that shortfall, it is obvious we have no choice but to move tonight.

I would simply say I hope in the future any administration, regardless of party, will request the amount that represents their full expectations of national need in terms of dealing with disasters.

I would also hope in the long run we can come up with a better way to finance national disasters, because it seems to me that there ought to be some kind of a self-insurance fund established between the States, backed up and guaranteed by the Federal Government so we do not have to keep funding this on a horseback basis every time there is another problem. We ought to be able to fund this program much the way we fund worker's compensation, with an insurance fund into which States buy on an experience-rated basis. That would be much more fiscally responsible than the way we go about it these days.

Having said that, I urge support on both sides of the aisle for this request. I know the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) is most concerned about it. These storms have affected his district significantly. I have been to his district, and it is a beautiful place. As soon as we can get this money down to those folks who need it, the better.

There are a lot of my neighbors in Wisconsin who spend their winters in areas of Florida hit by these two storms, and we fully expect yet another storm to be hitting the Southeastern region of the country within a very short period of time. I think we have no choice tonight but to act on this measure.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW), and just note the last time we spoke was on the telephone as Hurricane Frances was coming ashore right over his house.

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) for yielding me this time, and I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the ranking member.

When a disaster happens in America, we are not Democrats and Republicans, we are Americans, and we care about each other. We suffer with each other, we cry with each other, and we pray with each other.

I was taken by a photograph which was in this morning's Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel of a woman who had just lost her entire home, and she was on her way to get in line for some ice and water. This tells us how quickly we can lose everything in this world, and how important it is that we as a Nation pull together and come forward with some relief which is so badly needed.

Up in the central part of the State, we had Hurricane Frances following Charley, which was described on television as big as the State of Texas. It covered the entire State of Florida, as the chairman correctly pointed out.

I also want to be sure that we give proper credit to the gentleman from

Florida (Mr. YOUNG), the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, who started putting together this appropriation bill even as the hurricane was still coming ashore, and maybe before that because of Hurricane Charley and the losses we sustained. I know my daughter in DeLand, Florida, ancient, gorgeous oak trees in her back lawn, gone. My son in Orlando, a huge oak tree fell on his house. These things can change lives in no time.

I think it is remarkable when we see the expedited process that has been used here, and this has been done because we have got good cooperation on both sides of the aisle. The Speaker has been great to bring this up. Over in the Senate, we will pass this very clean bill in record time, and it will go to the President. This bill will become signed into law before Hurricane Frances has even left the continental United States. In fact, we may be feeling the winds of this storm right here in Washington, D.C., while the President is signing the bill which will give us a bridge to the relief we need.

On behalf of all of the people of Florida and the Florida delegation, I thank this House, I thank the Senate and the President of the United States for this expedited procedure. This is remarkable, and it does show that we as Americans deeply care.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS).

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) for yielding me this time. I thank he and the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG) for their steadfast support for the victims of Charley and Frances. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) has put in immeasurable time and work, as have others of us who have been directly impacted.

I rise tonight in strong support of this emergency supplemental appropriations measure. I also echo the words of the chairman when he stated earlier today that this bill must merely be a down payment of disaster assistance to Florida's hurricane victims. I know that all of our colleagues join me in expressing sympathy and understanding to those who lost their homes, their belongings, and in some cases their loved ones who were either killed or injured to Charley and Frances. We stand united in our efforts to help those who have lost so much.

In the district that I am privileged to represent, the wrath and strength of Frances is clear and evident. Hundreds of homes have literally been destroyed and all but scraps of wood remain. Our citrus, sugar and tomato fields are flooded, and more than 2 million homes remain without electricity days after the storm has passed and for some days to come. For the millions who have been affected, life has come to a standstill.

As a fifth-generation Floridian, I know firsthand that hurricanes and

tropical storms are part of life in south Florida. But if Andrew, and most recently Charley and Frances, taught us anything, it is that the resilience of our community to recover and rebuild is stronger than anything Mother Nature will ever throw our way. With time and the necessary resources, I am confident we will recover.

I am deeply grateful to the full leadership of both sides in this instance, and our hearts go out to those that have lost so much. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW), all of us in Florida really have a lot of work to do in the future. Like the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) spoke about establishing an appropriate relief fund, it is something long overdue in this Congress, and this may be a good first step for us to be reminded that it is time for us to have a disaster fund in Congress.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR), who had floods of 6 to 7 feet in Virginia streets from Tropical Storm Gaston.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the ranking member, for bringing this bill forward in such an expedited fashion.

As the chairman suggested, many States in this country, especially in the Southeast, have felt the effects of devastating hurricanes and tropical storms. On August 30, which was Tuesday of last week, Tropical Storm Gaston unleashed 10 to 14 inches of rain on Richmond, Virginia, over the span of only 4 hours. This massive rainfall was responsible for the loss of eight lives, heavy flooding, and millions of dollars of property damage.

As Richmonders began the long clean-up, the costs are beginning to mount. The storm caused 20 blocks in Richmond to be condemned as uninhabitable and did what is expected to be \$60 million to \$80 million of damage. Business owners and residents in Richmond lost their homes, companies and cars because of the rapid flooding. One of the hardest-hit areas, Shockoe Bottom, is a busy commercial area of Richmond, and its destruction will dramatically affect the area's economy.

Last week I wrote the President to ask that Virginians affected by Tropical Storm Gaston be given immediate Federal assistance. Friday, President Bush responded swiftly by declaring these hard-hit areas of central Virginia Federal disaster areas, allowing them to be eligible for loans and grants through FEMA and the Small Business Administration.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I am here in support of the chairman's bill for the supplemental funding for FEMA and SBA to respond to the storm. Disaster relief and emergency aid that FEMA and SBA are providing in Richmond is one of the best and most appropriate functions of government, and one in which Congress should fully invest.

These additional grants will allow these individuals, homeowners, business owners and local governments, who are, again, as the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) has said, now as we speak, are facing the damaging and flooding rains of Hurricane Frances, to quickly get back on their feet. That is why I am here to support its swift passage.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK), a member of the committee.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be on the floor not only with the gentleman from Wisconsin, but also with the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is very important not only for Members of Congress, but the rest of the United States to understand that Florida has gone through quite a bit, and there are other States that are affected as relates to the flooding and some of the aftermath of the hurricanes.

□ 1930

But I also want to add, and I want the Members and I know it is not in this bill, I know we have \$2 billion that is going to FEMA. We have, I believe, \$30 million going to the Small Business Administration. But I think it is important to remember that the VA was also hit in this storm. In Palm Beach, I know some of the Members can attest to it, that it is important that we have emergency funding in a bill, not in this particular bill, but in another supplemental coming up for the losses that the Department of Veterans Affairs was not included in this bill.

The VA in West Palm Beach and in the middle of this storm, clinics in Brevard and also Port Charlotte received lesser damage than their main facility in West Palm Beach. In the middle of the storm, it was flooded. They had to move people to the second floor. That is something that we definitely need to think about, and I know it is something we will include, hopefully, in the future for these patriots that have laid it down for the very democracy that we celebrate today.

But I am excited about the fact that not only Floridians but also others can count on the Congress responding in the way that we are, because we are spending their tax dollars. It is not like we are giving them something. This is something that they have invested in our government, rightfully so; and we are responding to them in their time of need.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage, like I know that Members will, when they open the board up to allow an opportunity to vote on this emergency supplemental, I am pretty sure that every Member of this Congress will be in support of that. I would like to commend the local governments and their response to our recent natural disasters and their continued support and commitment. Also to those Floridians that have lost time

and wages from their jobs and small businesses. This is very timely. I want to thank the ranking member for allowing me to have time, but let us also remember our veterans and VA hospitals.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds. I want to assure my very distinguished friend and colleague from Florida that we understand that there are many expenses that will need to be covered, but we do not know exactly what they are yet; so this is really a stopgap to keep the cash flowing to Florida today. But we will revisit this and the President has acknowledged that he would be asking for an additional supplemental once those figures are available to us. We are going to move quickly. I appreciate the gentleman's comments.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I know a wise man such as himself is fully aware of what I just shared with the other Members. I want to thank the gentleman for sharing that with the rest of us.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY), who experienced not only Frances but Charley as well.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to thank the wonderful hardworking and dedicated employees of the emergency operating centers of Charlotte County, Highlands, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Glades, and Hendry. I would like to thank Mike Brown and his capable staff at FEMA. I would like to thank President Bush for visiting our citizens in the storm-ravaged communities of Punta Gorda and, tomorrow, Fort Pierce. I would like to thank Governor Bush for his tireless commitment to our State's fragile citizens, the United Way, and the Red Cross.

It is amazing to me how beautiful this Nation is when our fellow citizens have been found wanting and hurting. You have all heard the plea from Florida's citizens for help, and you have answered that plea today, not just with money but with prayers, not just with prayers but with help, and not just with help but with hope. We will rebuild. We will be stronger and better than ever. I ask my citizens in Florida to be patient. I know you are under great stress, but help is on the way. This bill will provide it. This Congress will respond. And our President is doing all he can with the help of FEMA to make certain this misery and pain is short-lived.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH).

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, there is an expression those of us in Florida occasionally use that there are two types of Americans, those that live in Florida and those that want to live in Florida. And if people live long enough, generally that might be where they end up.

I remember the first year I came to this Chamber, and I see many of my

colleagues who joined me that first year, Congressman DIAZ-BALART, Congressman HASTINGS, and others. Right after Hurricane Andrew was the last time our State experienced something of the magnitude of what we are experiencing today. My colleague from West Palm Beach just used the words that were the catch words after Hurricane Andrew: we will rebuild. In fact, we rebuilt and we rebuilt stronger and we rebuilt more significantly and a better community after the disaster of Hurricane Andrew. I am confident that we will do the same after Frances and Charley.

One of the advantages and disadvantages of literally living in paradise is that we actually are a location on the planet Earth where hurricanes find their way on a pretty regular basis. I am proud of the response of the people of Florida during this last disaster. I look forward to the continued effort and prayers and specific things of everyone in this country. The President is planning on coming back to Florida tomorrow, an unexpected visit sooner than after the Charley disaster. Unfortunately, at this point I do not expect to be able to join him because I hope to be on this floor passing this, as has been mentioned, hopefully unanimously, the \$2 billion.

In the 12 years since Andrew, we have had many supplementals of disasters that have faced this country. I think it is really part of the greatness and the really shining moments of this Congress when we acknowledge our debt and our relationship to every other citizen of the United States as we pass this supplemental tomorrow. I urge its adoption.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the very distinguished gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in Florida we have lived through Charley and Frances, and my area has been hard hit by both storms. All eight of my counties have sustained damage, both from wind and from storm surge. Myself, my own property has sustained some damage due to it. We have had the hopes of many Floridians dashed. Businesses have been harmed, agriculture, homes. Yet the spirit of the average citizen living in Florida is upbeat. They know that they will rebuild and that Florida will again be a great, healthy, and vibrant State. Neighbors have been helping neighbors, and that is the good news.

There are groups out there such as the Christian Contractors Association who have been helping people, seniors without a lot of funds repair their homes, take down trees, et cetera. Certainly the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and FEMA, along with a myriad of other agencies, are out there assisting people. Florida will survive Charley and Frances; and for all of the citizens out there, they need to be in touch with FEMA. That is what this emergency funding is all about.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN).

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I stand here before you in support of this bill. My district has been devastated by the record number of storms that have made landfall this hurricane season. Many people in my district are still without power. I want to thank Chairman YOUNG and the ranking member.

In 1992, FEMA was in shambles. Tonight I want to send a special thanks to President Clinton and to Director Witt whose leadership was instrumental in getting this organization working and back on track. And I want to thank all of the volunteers who worked together to bring relief to the victims of Bonnie, Charley, and now Hurricane Frances. Working side by side and neighborhood to neighborhood, they have helped all of us weather the storms. We are truly blessed that no further lives were taken during this latest storm.

We need a dedicated method of funding, not piecemeal dollars here and there, to adequately meet the needs of Florida and any other disaster that occurs in this country. I hope that we will have a clean bill, one that is not loaded or loved to death with amendments that do not pertain to the support and help of people who truly need the relief these funds promise. Thanks again for the support.

I also want to mention all of the organizations, FEMA, but under that the Army Corps have worked extremely hard and many community organizations and groups, the Red Cross. They are too numerous to name, so I want to make sure I revise and extend my remarks so I can thank all of these people that have come together, the fire departments, the mayors, local governments, the Federal agencies. Senator NELSON has been on the ground from day one. I want to thank everybody and all of the Florida delegation and all of the people that worked together to make things better for the people of Florida.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the very distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS), former chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, this funding is real money that will bring real relief to the people in Florida who have been devastated by Hurricanes Charley and Frances and who need help. As Governor Bush said to us, we have developed a case, perhaps, of "hurricane amnesia" in recent years in Florida. We certainly no longer have that. In my district alone, Charley severely damaged homes, four hospitals, cut a barrier island in two, left thousands without power, left thousands without employment, changing life forever for some people.

Just 3 weeks later, another massive hurricane slammed many of the same areas that had already been wrecked by Charley. Charlotte Harbor was hit twice hard. As I took stock of the devastation one day after Hurricane Charley hit, I found remarkable the terrible damage, the scale of destruction, and how people's lives were affected. But I was more impressed by the response, local, State and Federal, all working together; and it was hot, and it was miserable. It was amazing to see how well they were doing.

And they are still there. This ordeal has consumed the entire State of Florida, and Governor Bush has been steadfast in these times of crisis and we thank him. I commend and thank him especially for his strong leadership not once but twice; and I pray not for a third time, and hope Ivan will go elsewhere. Our Senators BOB GRAHAM and BILL NELSON also have done a fabulous job. They have met the challenges directly on the ground and, working as legislators, they have served our State and our country with great distinction.

Hurricanes are a part of life in Florida. It comes with the territory. But the past 4 weeks have been extraordinary. Not since 1950 have two powerful hurricanes hit Florida in the same year, let alone the same month. FEMA's relief funds need to be replenished now, and this funding will do just that. Appropriations Chairman BILL YOUNG, a great Floridian, has given us the leadership response that has been effective and instantaneous. Delegation Chairman CLAY SHAW has organized us to work together. We are grateful. I urge support for the bill.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the very distinguished gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to be part of this Florida delegation. We are working in unison and in a very strong bipartisan manner through the good times and the bad times. After Hurricane Andrew hit my district so strongly 12 years ago, we learned valuable lessons about emergency preparedness and responses to devastation such as that. After that, building codes were strengthened so that structures could withstand these winds that were so devastating. So we learned our lesson in Hurricane Andrew. But Floridians are resilient people. We have to keep learning new lessons as every hurricane season rolls around, and we are going to come back stronger than ever. We have faith in each other. We have faith as a people, as a community; and we know that no hurricane can knock Floridians off our feet for very long.

We thank individuals like Chairman YOUNG and Congressman SHAW, the dean of our delegation. With their leadership, they have made sure that this appropriations will be spent in a wise way and will be given to FEMA for this

disaster emergency. And we want to thank Governor Jeb Bush who has been coordinating this emergency response and President Bush who is going to be touring in the Miami National Hurricane Center. FEMA and the Red Cross volunteers, Salvation Army, faith-based organizations, all Floridians have come together in this moment of crisis.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. HARRIS).

(Ms. HARRIS asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, during the last month, the worst circumstances have summoned the best of humanity. Having endured the unrelenting fury of two major hurricanes, Floridians from all walks of life have linked arms in their determined effort to rescue, recover, and rebuild. Moreover, the generous and compassionate soul of America has once again become manifest through the hearts and hands of the volunteers who have traveled hundreds, sometimes thousands, of miles to assist our local first responders.

Even before the storms hit, Governor Bush had marshaled the resources necessary to provide victims with rapid assistance. During the grueling aftermath, his reassuring presence throughout the State has served as an essential source of comfort and hope.

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President Bush and FEMA have likewise delivered a quick and effective response from the Federal level. I particularly wish to commend U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman for her swift approval of disaster relief for our farmers and growers.

Finally, I wish to thank the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW), our delegation Chair, for their leadership in requesting the President's \$2 billion for additional disaster relief funding and look forward to working with our entire State delegation to provide our constituents with the help they so desperately need and deserve.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW), a member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me this time, and I thank the chairman for his leadership in this area.

This is money, Mr. Speaker, that will go to help people who are hurting right now, and, believe me, there are a lot of people in Florida who are hurting. Even in my area in northeast Florida where we did not suffer any direct brunt of the hurricane, thousands of people are without electricity. Their homes have been damaged. And while State, local, and Federal officials did a great job of doing everything they

could to prepare for this disaster, one can only do so much.

So I urge my colleagues to support this so that we can once again get the money to the people that are hurting now and come back and help those at a later time. I urge the adoption of this bill.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, would the Speaker be kind enough to inform me how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) has 4½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) has 11 minutes remaining.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I at this point have no further requests for time. There may be one other Member coming. So if the gentleman from Florida needs more time, I would be happy to yield him 2½ additional minutes.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's generosity, and that may be the case. We will deal with our speakers and then see where we stand. I thank him for yielding me the time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART).

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations and the ranking member for bringing forth this legislation so quickly to make certain that there is no interruption in the assistance that FEMA and the Small Business Administration are providing to the victims of the two hurricanes that have caused so much damage in Florida in recent weeks.

I have been very proud of, just like today, the response that we see from the Congress. Obviously the Speaker and the leadership have demonstrated tremendous solidarity with the people of Florida today. I have also been very pleased to see the promptness and the seriousness and the leadership of the President and the Governor, who, even before the first hurricane, Charley, hit Florida, there had been a major disaster area declared by the President pursuant to the request of the Governor.

So everything that can be done is being done. It is important for the people to know that we will continue to do everything that we can to alleviate their need in this very difficult moment. I thank again the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) for bringing this forward with such promptness.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART).

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to thank the chairman for the quickness of this measure, this important measure.

As we have heard before, when tough things happen, when the American people are suffering, is when the country

truly shines. And we are seeing another example. We are seeing unity. We are seeing how the ranking member has been so generous with his time and also working with the chairman to make sure that this is a reality. The people who deserve and need the help get it as soon as possible.

But I have to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to thank a number of people. President Bush, who from day one has been incredibly supportive and has led the relief effort. Governor Bush and his cabinet have done an incredible job. They have been on the field. The people from FEMA have been amazing. We run into them all over in Florida. I was with a group of them in Miami recently where the Governor was there as well. The Small Business Administration, the first responders, Mr. Speaker, police officers, firefighters, everybody who has come together to make sure that the suffering is minimized as much as possible, and I just want to thank everybody. And, of course, our guardian angel always, the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations from our great State of Florida, who is always there leading every single fight for the people of Florida.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the very distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I want to spend a second and also echo my appreciation to the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG), to both sides of the aisle, for bringing forward this legislation; to the leadership of President Bush and his administration, who have acted, in advance of both this latest storm and the previous storm we had; for the leadership, the fantastic assistance provided Governor Bush. He has just been on the job working day and night. And I would be remiss if I did not mention all of the local officials. I represent some six counties, and many of those people have been through two disasters now, and they have worked nonstop. So, again, my congratulations.

This money that we are sending from Washington is part of the great strength of our Nation, part of the strength of a Federal system, and it is the people's money, the taxpayers' money. And when we have a need, it is appropriate that we do provide assistance from the country to an area that is hard hit, whether it is Florida; Richmond, Virginia; or other parts of the Nation. So it is one of the great strengths of our Nation and our people.

Finally, I want to say that Florida is open for business. I chair the Aviation Subcommittee. All of our major airports are open. I want to thank Marion Blakey, the head of FAA, she worked nonstop, and Woody Woodward, our national airports administrator, to make certain that Florida, which depends on travel and aviation, is open for business.

But we are open for business. There are some pockets in the southwest and

some in the southeast, but our major attractions are open. All of our interstates and our roads, I have reports back as a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, are open. And we want people to do us a favor by not canceling their plans to visit Florida. We will dust ourselves off. We will clean up a bit. But people can help Florida by not canceling their plans, but coming to Florida. We are open for business, and we will prevail.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

First let me say that I am so proud to be a part of this Florida delegation that has come together so strongly as we do when matters affect our State. All of our Members on both sides of the aisle have just been dynamic in supporting each other in the problems that we might experience in our districts because of this one tropical storm and two hurricanes.

I want to especially thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) for working with me as we moved ahead with this bill to decide how we are going to do it, what the bill was going to look like, and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) was very supportive, and I have to say I just really appreciate the support that he gave us.

After Hurricane Charley, I went to south Florida with President Bush, where he announced that he would be asking for this supplemental to make sure that the cash flow continued, and I was there to assure him that we would move this bill as expeditiously as we could. The House convened at 2 o'clock today after the summer district work period, and at 2 o'clock I introduced this supplemental appropriations bill. And thanks to the support of the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), our majority leader, and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), our majority whip, everyone came together to help us move this legislation that is so important.

I want to thank the President of the United States for recognizing the needs of Florida. I want to thank Governor Bush, who has done really a dynamic job in helping to manage not only as we led up to the hurricanes, but during the hurricanes and following the hurricanes for recovery. He has just been an amazing manager, and he has worked with everyone at the State and local level just to do the very best we could to help the people of our State that were hurt so bad.

FEMA, we have talked about FEMA this afternoon, and FEMA has done an outstanding job. There are numerous other Federal agencies that have also been involved, and they have all just really turned to and helped our State as we recover from these disasters. The Florida National Guard, I talked to General Burnett early as Charley was approaching, and General Burnett had mobilized the Guard, ready to move in

to protect property, to protect lives, to do whatever was necessary; and they just deserve a tremendous vote of confidence and vote of gratitude from Florida.

All in all, as one of my colleagues from Florida said, this has been a great experience of coming together when people need help. As I said earlier in my remarks, all of Florida was affected one way or another, which was very unusual. We have an earthquake or a fire or a flood or whatever that might be, we respond quickly, and usually it is in a part of a State or a community, but in this case the entire State of Florida was affected. So as chairman of this committee and as the introducer of this bill, I appreciate the way that the House is moving to move this bill over to the Senate, which I believe will deem it passed tonight and get it to the President.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this emergency supplemental appropriations bill to provide \$2 billion to FEMA to help the citizens of Florida recover from Hurricanes Charley and Frances.

I am sensitive to the fact that these two hurricanes have had a devastating impact on the lives of several hundred thousand Central Floridians. My own mom, Lora Keller, completely lost her home in Hurricane Charley.

Despite these temporary heartaches, I am optimistic about Florida's future. Congress, especially those of us from Florida, will work very closely with President Bush and Governor Bush over the next few days to help rebuild Florida quickly, and even stronger than before.

This \$2 billion will be able to help Central Florida families with things like temporary lodging, food and water supplies, medical care and will allow roofs to be repaired.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important legislation.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5005.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5006, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio (during consideration of H.R. 5005) from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-66) on the resolution (H. Res. 754) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5006) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and

for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

SAUDI ARABIA AND TERRORISM: THE PAINFUL TRUTH

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. Mr. Speaker, a tragedy occurred in Russia this past week. Thirty Chechen rebels took control of a schoolhouse on the first day of school, and they killed at least 338 people, half of them children who were going to school for their first day. According to the reports, 10 of those people who were terrorists were Arabs; and we believe that they were probably from Saudi Arabia.

One of the problems that we have had in the past is a lot of the terrorist activity has been emanating and originating from Saudi Arabia, ostensibly friends of the United States of America. Osama bin Laden is a Saudi. Fifteen of the 19 terrorists that flew the planes into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and the plane that went down in Pennsylvania were Saudi Arabians.

The Saudis have been funding for many, many years madrassas where Wahhabism is taught. Wahhabism is a radical fundamentalist Muslim religion that is being taught in the schools that teaches the children to hate Christians and Jews and teaches them to perpetrate violent acts.

Well, the Saudis today said that they are going to try to change the educational system over there so no radical fundamentalism can be taught that would lead to this kind of terrorist activity.

I would just like to say tonight, Mr. Speaker, that it is high time, high time, that the Saudis, whom we have been supporting with our dollars, buying our oil from them, for many, many years, it is high time that they stopped this terrorist activity which has been originating in their country.

The Saudi royal family has been giving money to radical organizations. They have been giving money to families of people whose children blew themselves up while killing people in Israel and the West Bank and in what is called Palestine. The Saudi Government has been giving money to al-Qaeda in the past.

Mr. Speaker, all I can say tonight is that the Saudis continue to tell us that they are our friends. They tell us they

want to stop terrorism. Yet, time after time after time, we see terrorist activity taking place, and who has been involved? It is the Saudi people, and it is people who have been taught in the madrassas, who have been taught that radical fundamentalism that is called Wahhabism.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to my colleagues tonight that this government, the Government of the United States through the State Department, must continue to tell the Saudis that they must take these people on, they have to stop this terrorist activity emanating and originating in their country, and they have to stop this type of teaching of the children. They have been allowing this teaching to go on for 25 to 30 years now.

It is high time that this stopped, because the children who are growing up today are going to be the terrorists of tomorrow; and if they continue to let that happen in their schools, we are going to have to face this not only now, but our children and our grandchildren are going to be facing this kind of terrorist activity down the road.

Osama bin Laden, al-Qaeda, the Taliban, all of them have to be defeated. We are in a world war against terrorism, and we need every government of the world that believes in freedom and democracy and the things we believe in to be on our side. That includes the Saudis. They are going to have to take a hard line.

MEDICARE PREMIUM INCREASE SQUEEZES SENIORS' BUDGETS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday President Bush got up on his \$2.5 million podium and crowed about how his Medicare reform bill was making health care more affordable for seniors. But less than 24 hours later, this administration announced the largest increase in Medicare premiums in history.

Beginning in January, retirees and the disabled will see their Medicare premiums rise by \$11.60 per month, to \$78.20. That is an increase of 17 percent. It comes on the heels of last year's whopping 14 percent increase. The Bush administration deliberately tried to bury this bad news, releasing the information late on Friday in the midst of a hurricane and leading up to a long holiday weekend. They did that in the hopes that seniors would not notice.

The Social Security COLA will not be generous either. That is why the Bush administration needed to stifle news coverage about the Medicare premium increase. The Social Security trustees have predicted a 1.3 percent COLA for 2005. For a retiree receiving the average benefit of \$895, that amounts to a monthly increase of \$11.64.

After Medicare's premiums go up, seniors will be left with an additional 4

cents per month to handle rising expenses. Seniors have increasing housing costs, high gas prices, rising grocery bills and the prospects of record heating bills this winter, just like everyone else. Does 4 cents a month sound like enough of a cost-of-living increase to cover inflation and expenses?

The retirees I know pay very close attention to information about their health insurance costs because they need to watch every dime. But the same cannot be said of President Bush and the Republican Congress. The so-called Medicare reform bill that they are so quick to praise is largely to blame for the premium increases and Medicare's ongoing financial difficulties.

The Medicare reform bill, with a price tag of \$549 billion, spends more money to pad the pockets of corporate executives than it does to pay for prescription drugs or for more comprehensive medical coverage for seniors. More than 60 percent of the bill's cost is attributable to \$139 billion in overpayments to pharmaceutical companies, \$70 billion in subsidies to corporations and \$130 billion in overpayments to Medicare HMOs. These expenses do nothing to improve the quality of health care that seniors receive, but they certainly have a negative impact on the affordability of that care.

Today's retirees will not be the only ones to pay the price for the short-sighted, irresponsible agenda of President Bush and the Republican Congress. We all will, in today's budget deficits and tomorrow's skyrocketing Medicare costs.

None of the Medicare bill's \$549 billion price tag was paid for, which means it only adds to the Federal budget deficit. The growing budget deficit in turn means that we will not be able to put any money aside to shore up Medicare's finances for the impending retirement of the baby boom generation. Under this leadership, today's seniors and tomorrow's retirees can expect many years of outrageously high increases.

This is just another example of the Bush administration and the Republican Congress saying one thing and doing another. It sounds nice to say that you have added a comprehensive, guaranteed prescription drug benefit; but you did not. It sounds nice to say that you have made seniors' health care better and more affordable, but you have not done that either. President Bush and the Republican leadership have done just the opposite.

When seniors get their Social Security checks in January and those checks are only 4 cents more than what they got last January, they will know the difference between your words and your deeds.

HONORING THE FIRST RESPONDERS OF THE ELEVENTH DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, in the short time that I have been a Member of this Congress, of this body, the House of Representatives, I have come to expect a good measure of partisanship and partisan rhetoric that occurs on the floor of the House, especially during this, a Presidential election year. I have come to expect that, but not to enjoy it.

But I want to say, Mr. Speaker, to my colleagues, that the past hour I have sat here in this Chamber and seen a great measure of bipartisanship as our chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), came together to bring us this emergency supplemental appropriation to help the people in Florida who have been devastated by Hurricanes Charlie and Frances with this \$2 billion stopgap measure to get money to FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Administration, to help the people of Florida in a bipartisan way, and to have us have this discussion led by the delegation from Florida, both Republicans and Democrats.

This is the kind of bipartisanship that the people of this country and the great State of Florida deserve to see more of. In fact, it reminded me that we are coming up pretty soon, this Saturday, in fact, on the third anniversary of a tragic event in this country. Of course, I am speaking of 9/11, when this body again was at its finest moment when they came together and there was not that level of partisanship, and we pulled together for the benefit of all Americans.

So, Mr. Speaker, tonight I want to rise and pay tribute to the first responders whose selfless service and hard work keep the citizens of the Nation, but particularly Georgia and my eleventh district, safe and secure each and every day.

Just as the moniker suggests, our Nation's first responders are the first to arrive at the scene and usually the last to leave. They are the brave souls risking their lives to prevent catastrophe and healing the wounded and broken when disaster strikes, just as they are doing in Florida today. They are always vigilant and ever ready, and they deserve our heartfelt thanks.

Since the tragic events of September 11, we have all learned that terrorists are not just looking at New York City and Washington, D.C. Rather, they have undertaken a vast effort to survey potential targets across this country. Should Metro Atlanta, the capital of the South, suffer an attack, you and I know that the brave first responders from West Georgia's Eleventh Congressional District will be among the many who will answer the call to duty.

I also know how much new equipment and technology means to the first responders of the Eleventh Congressional District of Georgia, and we in Congress are working hard to continue to provide it.

Mr. Speaker, I recently had the privilege of visiting with the volunteer fire department in Woodland, Georgia, in Talbot County, to inspect their new fire truck; and I left very impressed with their operation. I was also struck by how much of a difference a piece of equipment like a new fire truck can have on a great community like Woodland.

So whether it is a fire truck, HAZMAT equipment for biological threats, or a communications network upgrade in northwest Georgia, I remain committed to doing everything I can to ensure that Georgia's first responders receive the necessary funding to ensure the safety and security of our communities in Georgia.

We must never take for granted the bravery and commitment of our true first responders. We in Congress must provide them with the tools necessary to conduct their vital service.

Mr. Speaker, the eleventh district's first responders are on the front line every day, and they deserve our support and appreciation. I want to take this opportunity tonight to thank each of them as we approach the third anniversary of 9/11 for their work to protect and serve the citizens of Georgia and the Southeast.

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN MUST NOT EXPIRE

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. Mr. Speaker, over 200 days ago I started speaking about September 13. That is the day when the assault weapons ban that we have in place now is going to expire.

Over the last couple of years, and then even this week when we saw the tragedy that happened in Russia, we saw what terrorists could do when they put their minds to having destruction. They do not care about human life. We are told that we have terrorists here in this country waiting to do their destruction on us as American citizens. We are told that when they can, they will do as much destruction as possible.

Come September 13, at midnight, your local terrorists, the gangs that are in our streets, the drug dealers, will be able to buy assault weapons at your local gun store.

I do not understand this. We hear the rhetoric all the time that the assault weapons bill has not worked. Well, you talk to the police officers that are coming down here tomorrow to try to convince the President to expand the bill. We have seen a 60 percent drop in killings with the guns that have been banned.

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Our local police say they are not prepared for this. The bulletproof vests that we give our police officers are no match to the guns that are going to be back out on the streets. The large-capacity clips, right now we hold it at 15, 10, and yet in our States when our hunters go out shooting for deer or hunting, they are only allowed 6 bullets. But we are going to give people anywhere like the killer today in Ohio that used 50 rounds. Where is the common sense?

We have the majority of the American people wanting to keep this ban in place. We have 56 percent of gun owners, NRA members that say, keep the ban in place. Yet there is total silence here in this House. The bill is not going to be allowed to be brought up even for a vote. But by the way, on Monday there will be a suspension vote to allow guns back into the D.C. area and not to punish anyone that is carrying an unlicensed gun.

Is this where we as Americans want to be? The rhetoric that we hear constantly, as if this is a slippery road, we are out to take away everyone's right to own a gun. Well, that is not the slippery road. We are trying to save lives.

Ten years ago we put this bill in place because too many of our police officers were being killed and outgunned. Come Tuesday morning of next week, September 14, when our kids are going back to school, our police officers are going to be in harm's way once again. The President of the United States has said that he would sign the bill if it got on his desk. Well, you cannot have it two ways, Mr. President. You have to make the phone call here. You have to tell DENNIS HASTERT, we want the bill up here. And like your father before you, make phone calls to say, get this bill passed, as Ronald Reagan did, as President Carter did, and as President Clinton did.

We cannot save every life. There is no bill in the world that is going to be able to do that. But when we have something in place that has saved lives, why would we just let it go? The NRA, are they that strong? Where are the voices of the American people? Where is this House, and where is this President? Whose side are they going to be on? The police officers that we talk about that are so heroic from 9/11 and through the convention and through all of the terrorist threats that we have, where are the voices that are going to protect those police officers? We are just going to let it go? Who is going to face the families? Who is going to talk to the surviving families when the first police officer is mowed down? Who is going to do that? It always seems that I am the one who has to talk to the victims' families.

We have several days left. We have all of the police and the police chiefs coming in tomorrow. Mr. President, I am begging you, get on the phone. Make this happen. We can pass it in

the Senate, and we can pass it here in the House, but we need your help. Mr. President, I am begging of you. You talk about our police officers. How about protecting them now?

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KING of Iowa). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair rather than to the President.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BLUMENAUER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

SMART SECURITY AND ELECTIONS

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, in November of 2000, America witnessed the breakdown of its electoral system. Four years later, as far as I can see, nothing that was broken has been fixed. Many Americans believe the same injustices to democracy that we witnessed 4 years ago could occur once again this November.

The very security of our democracy is at stake. For all of the Bush administration's talk about securing our Nation from the threat of terrorism, no discussion of security would be complete if it did not address the need to secure our national election system.

After the controversial election in 2000, one would think President Bush would do everything in his power to ensure the integrity of America's election system. I know that is what I would have done had I become President of this United States, particularly after having lost the national popular vote by more than half a million votes. But unfortunately, despite some Democratic efforts here in Congress, this administration has failed to win back the trust of our Nation's voters.

The Help America Vote Act, which was signed into law in the year 2002, was designed to assist States in upgrading their fragile election systems. I supported this legislation because it took steps in the right direction to make our election system secure. While some improvements have been made because of this act, its most useful reforms, the reforms that would actually ensure security, will not be in

place by the November election, and that is because this administration refused to release most of the Federal dollars promised by the Help America Vote Act until June of 2004, 2 years after it became public law, delaying what could have been a secure election this November.

With 32 million voters in 19 States using punch-card ballots again this November, millions of voters will walk away from the polls not knowing for certain whether their votes were tallied correctly.

The emergence of electronic voting systems, I believe, is a good thing, but not without verifiable technology. Sadly, Republicans have refused to allow for paper-verified voting trails to ensure that each vote is counted correctly. Without a paper trail, there will be no way to conduct a recount should an election be contested.

Why have Congress and the Bush administration failed to produce vital changes since the drawn-out election of 4 short years ago? Some would say it is in the administration's best interests not to change the system.

Mr. Speaker, there is an even greater threat lurking quietly below. That is, the possible disenfranchisement of voters due to inaccurate registration methods and the shady control of voting lists. A recent Caltech/MIT study concluded that 4 million to 6 million votes were lost nationwide in the 2000 election. Half of these were traced to registration problems. In the year 2000, thousands of Floridians were deprived of the right to vote because they shared the same name with someone who had been convicted of a felony. This type of disenfranchisement and the physical intimidation of some voters is no better than the practices used to prevent Southern blacks from voting in the 1950s and 1960s. It appears we have not come very far since then.

We need to be smarter. We need to be smarter in order to secure our elections. I have introduced H. Con. Res. 392, the SMART Security Resolution, to address both foreign and domestic threats to our Nation. SMART stands for Sensible, Multilateral American Response to Terrorism. SMART security emphasizes the need for the United States to act as a leader and a model for other less sophisticated, less democratic nations. This means shoring up the credibility of our own election system, including the development of new, verifiable technology, to ensure that our Nation's poor and aged are not disenfranchised. It means avoiding a system where our own citizens are forced to cry out for international observers to ensure the fairness of our elections. SMART security means fully and quickly implementing the reforms stipulated in the Help America Vote Act.

Mr. Speaker, how can this country ever hope to be a true democratic model for the rest of the world when its own elected leaders have failed to ensure that our election system is truly

democratic? Let us be smarter about the way we elect our national leaders, because until we do, our election system will remain one accused of fraud and riddled with doubt, and we will not stand as an example of democracy in the rest of the world.

HONORING OUR FALLEN HEROES WITH A MEMORIAL IN THE CAPITOL ROTUNDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today, nine more Americans gave their lives in Iraq, nine more families are going to be without their loved ones this holiday season, and nine more American families are grieving.

Out of those nine, two soldiers and seven marines, perhaps your neighbor, and they are our neighbors, because they are always going to be America's neighbors, holds the distinction of becoming the one thousandth American casualty in Iraq. We salute our soldiers, marines, airmen, sailors, reservists, and guardsmen who are called to duty. We thank them deeply for their service, their valor, and their sacrifice for this country.

The one thousandth casualty in Iraq is a milestone and one we must acknowledge as we continue to reflect on the cost of the war on our Nation's families and the American people. We must honor the service of our troops and pay tribute to their heroism.

For that reason, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER), a veteran, and I have written a letter to the Speaker of the House asking him to arrange a temporary memorial in the Capitol Rotunda to our fallen troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, explaining the pictures of each fallen soldier, along with biographic information, which would also provide an opportunity for visitors in the Rotunda of the people's House to write notes in honor of those soldiers to their families, their loved ones, their brothers, their sisters, their mothers and fathers, and husbands and wives.

Throughout its history, the Rotunda has been used for public viewing for fallen heroes, bestowing upon them one of the Nation's highest honors. After World War I, we saluted the fallen soldiers in the Rotunda. After World War II, Korea, Vietnam, we did the same. It is only fitting that we use the Capitol Rotunda of the people's House to honor those who have fallen in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The war in Iraq is not over, and there will certainly be more lives lost, but this tribute is for all Americans to show its respect for the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice as well as to their families. In honor of those lost soldiers, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt once said, "He stands in the unbroken line of patriots who have dared to die, that freedom might

live and grow and increase its blessings. Freedom lives and through it, he lives in a way that humbles the undertakings of most men."

Just as President Roosevelt honored the fallen of World War II, we believe this tribute would honor our most recent heroes and their families.

Mr. Speaker, since this Congress has begun, we have found time to name, I think at last count, 65 post offices, including 2 tonight. I think we can, and, indeed, it is our duty and our responsibility, to find the time to properly honor those who have sacrificed everything in Iraq and Afghanistan. I hope that we do this as an institution, as a Congress, to use the people's House to pay tribute to those families and allow all those families to know that for everybody who comes here who writes a card, a note, a tribute, that those families who have lost their loved ones will know that they will always be in America's prayers and in America's thoughts.

A colleague, a Republican colleague, outside of his office has that memorial put up. I think it is a great idea. I have asked the Speaker to take that idea and now make it an institution rather than an individual's decision. Regardless of politics, regardless of where you were on the idea of going to war in either Iraq or Afghanistan, we use the people's House, put on that memorial, and let the families know as they get the letters from everybody who visits it, the cards, the letters, the notes, the tributes, they will always be a part of America's family, and they will never be forgotten.

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And they will always be in our prayers and our thoughts. I think this is something we owe these families. And I hope we can accomplish this, unlike other matters, in a bipartisan fashion. It is an idea I saw one of our colleagues had done outside his office, and I am hoping now the institution will take it up and make it its own in a proper tribute; and it would be a temporary tribute for all those families and to all those who have fallen in both the theaters of Iraq and Afghanistan.

BREACH OF THE COMMITMENT TO MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KING of Iowa). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, when President Bush took office, he assured seniors he would honor the Nation's commitment to Medicare. He said Medicare is the binding commitment of a caring society. He did not say temporary commitment. He did not say faltering commitment. He said binding commitment.

By any standard, raising the Medicare premium by 17.4 percent, that is more than five times the projected increase in Social Security benefits for

seniors, raising the Medicare premium by 17.4 percent is a breach of that commitment, the largest increase in Medicare's 38 year history.

At the Republican convention on Thursday night, the President said, "I believe we have a moral responsibility to honor America's seniors." The next day, late in the afternoon, right before Labor Day, Friday afternoon, the Labor Day weekend, in spite of his comments the night before, the President quietly announced this 17.4 percent increase in premiums for senior citizens to have to pay into Medicare. Right before the Labor Day weekend. Is that what it means to honor seniors?

After President Bush signed the Medicare drug law a year ago, he launched a very expensive taxpayer-financed ad campaign featuring the slogan: "Same Medicare, better benefits." Those ads failed to mention the 17 percent premium increase even though the administration planned it as far back as March 2003. They failed to mention the 10 percent increase in the deductible for doctors' services which was written into the new law. It failed to mention the fact that both the premium and the deductible will continue to increase year after year after year without any corresponding increase in coverage.

Those ads, those taxpayer-financed ads, trying to sell the American people on the new Medicare bill failed to mention that while seniors will be paying more for the same Medicare, HMOs will be, "earning" might not be the right word, but earning more for the same Medicare. \$16 billion more, in fact.

This bill, this Medicare bill, clearly written for the drug industry and for the insurance industry, clearly has put seniors in the back seat. The drug industry, the insurance industries have contributed literally tens of millions of dollars to President Bush's campaign. The insurance industry gets a taxpayer subsidy of \$16 billion. And then seniors see their premiums go up and see their deductibles go up. They have got to find the money somewhere.

Under the Bush plan, in order to pay the insurance companies those subsidies, they need to raise the premiums for seniors more than \$100; they need to raise those premiums, a 17 percent increase. They need to raise those premiums for seniors to make up that money.

These benefits are being lavished on HMOs as a bonus and incentive for HMOs to accelerate their enrollment of Medicare enrollees. Now HMO profits last year without this increased by 50 percent, yet seniors are paying higher premiums so that HMO profits can soar even further. Senior and disabled Medicare enrollees on fixed incomes will pay more. HMOs will earn more and big drug companies will charge more.

The Bush administration in an amazing sleight of hand insisted on prohibiting Medicare from negotiating bulk discounts on behalf of 39 million Medicare beneficiaries on the prescription

drugs the same way that large insurance plans do, the same way that the VA does in our government.

As a result, the drug industry, because of this protection of the drug industry by the Bush administration, the drug industry stands to earn an additional \$160 billion in profits during the next 10 years. \$160 billion in profits in the next 10 years.

Again, more campaign contributions to President Bush from the insurance industry, more tens of millions of dollars in campaign contributions to the Republican leadership and to the President from the drug industry.

It is the same old story, the President says the right thing and then he does the wrong thing. It is the same old story, the President always responding to the best heeled, most organized, wealthiest corporate interests in this city.

Last week, the President again called himself a compassionate conservative, as if eroding senior's fixed incomes is compassionate, as if coercing them into fly-by-night HMOs, as the Medicare bill does, is compassionate, as if relegating seniors to a bargain-basement prescription drug plan is in any way compassionate.

After all, this President has proposed cutting \$60 billion from Medicaid; he had to because the tax cuts that went overwhelmingly to the wealthiest people in our society, he had to find the money someplace when it is the only source of nursing home care for 70 percent of people who need it. It is consistent, but it is not compassionate.

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.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order out of order.

HONORING THE MEN FROM WASHINGTON STATE WHO HAVE DIED IN IRAQ

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, young men and women are giving up their lives nearly every day to sustain the President's war in Iraq. They are not in Iraq toppling Saddam. That has been done. They are not in Iraq dismantling weapons of mass destruction. There never were any. They are in Iraq dying in George Bush's crusade.

I think it is only fitting that we should give each of the dead a minute of silence here on the floor. But we

cannot because we would have to stand here silent for 16½ hours. That is because today we lost the 1,000th American in Iraq. For what? For what?

The President says we took out Saddam Hussein because he was a bad guy. Well, that could apply to an awful lot of people all over the face of the Earth. They went in there with no plan for establishing the peace. And more people have died since the President made his fabled landing on the Abraham Lincoln saying "mission accomplished" than died before that. More people have died since they handed over control to the Iraqis than died before the mission was accomplished. This has been an unending disaster.

So since we cannot give a minute of silence for every member, let me tell you who has died from my State thus far in Iraq. And I hope every Member will come to the floor and do what I am doing tonight, speak the names of the dead. Think about the futures they have lost and the families they leave behind. And then I hope every American will ask the President why. Why?

From Washington State we have lost Lance Corporal Cedric E. Burns, age 22; Specialist Justin W. Hebert, age 20; Private Duane E. Longstreth, age 19; Private Kerry D. Scott, age 21; Second Lieutenant Benjamin L. Colgan, age 30, distinguished soldier who made his picture on to the front page of Time magazine, very courageous and very good soldier; Specialist Robert T. Benson, age 20; Specialist John R. Sullivan, age 26; Captain James A. Shull, age 32; Specialist Nathan W. Nakis, 19; Sergeant Curt E. Jordan, Jr., age 25; Staff Sergeant Christopher Bunda, age 29; First Lieutenant Michael R. Adams, age 24; Sergeant Jacob R. Herring, age 21; Sergeant Jeffery R. Shaver, age 26; Private Cody S. Calavan, age 19; Lance Corporal Dustin L. Sides, age 22; Staff Sergeant Marvin Best, age 33; Specialist Jeremiah W. Schmunk, age 21; Sergeant Yadir G. Reynoso, age 27; Lance Corporal Kane M. Funke, age 20; Lance Corporal Caleb J. Powers, age 21; Sergeant Jason Cook, age 25.

These men have died in this crusade in a war that was never understood by the people who started it. They had no reason to go to Iraq and they went anyway, and these people from my State paid the price.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. LEE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CONYERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TWO UNFORTUNATE NATIONAL RECORDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I want this evening to talk about two national records. Unfortunately, they are records we wish had not happened. Mr. Speaker, at this point I will place in the RECORD a story from the New York Times today.

[From the New York Times, Sept. 7, 2004]

BUSH UNLIKELY TO FULFILL VOW ON DEFICIT, BUDGET OFFICE PROJECTS
(By Edmund L. Andrews)

Washington, Sept. 7—Almost regardless of what happens in Iraq and Afghanistan, President Bush is very unlikely to fulfill his promise of reducing the federal budget deficit by half within five years, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office said today.

In the last independent assessment of Mr. Bush's fiscal legacy before the elections, the Congressional agency said that if there were no change to existing law, the federal deficit would decline only modestly from a record of \$422 billion in 2004 to about \$312 billion in 2009.

If Mr. Bush persuades Congress to make his tax cuts permanent, he will fall even farther short of his promise. The federal deficit could reach nearly \$500 billion in 2009 and the federal debt could swell by \$4.8 trillion over the next decade.

The new estimate is the first time that the Congressional agency has projected that President Bush will not be able to fulfill his promise, made last February, to cut the deficit by half.

Budget projections, by Congress as well as the administration, have been notoriously wrong in the past—failing to anticipate a flood of tax revenue during the last 1990's and then badly underestimating a plunge in revenue after the stock market collapsed in 2000.

But the new report is sobering because it arrives at similar conclusions even when analysts made extremely optimistic assumptions about war costs in Iraq and robust economic growth.

"The message is that you cannot grow your way out of this," said Douglas Holtz-Eakin, who is director of the Congressional Budget Office and a former chief economist on President Bush's Council of Economic Advisers.

If anything, Congressional analysts are more optimistic about economic growth, which usually leads to higher tax revenue, than Wall Street analysts or the White House. The Congressional report also estimated the budget outlook with three different assumptions about the course of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, including the unlikely possibility that no more money would be needed after next year.

Stripping out all war costs for the two countries after next year, the Congressional analysts said the federal government would save \$536 billion over the next five years. But making Mr. Bush's tax cuts permanent, one of the president's top priorities, would cost \$549 billion through 2009 and \$2.2 trillion through 2014.

Averting a massive increase in the alternative minimum tax, a parallel tax that was originally designed to keep people from taking too much advantage of loopholes, would cost another \$150 billion over the next five years and more than \$400 billion over ten years.

Democrats said the new report showed Mr. Bush's tax cuts and spending policies had been reckless in transforming a record budget surplus to a record budget deficit, just a few years before the nation's retiring baby boomers start to drive up Social Security and Medicare entitlement costs by tens of billions of dollars a year.

"When the Bush administration took office in 2001, C.B.O. projected a \$397 billion surplus for 2004," said Representative John W. Spratt of South Carolina, the senior Democrat on the House Budget Committee. "Under the fiscal policies of this administration, the bottom line of the budget has worsened by \$819 billion in 2004 alone."

Republicans quickly countered by saying that the federal deficit this year will be smaller, and tax revenue will be higher, than either the administration or the Congressional Budget Office predicted in January and February.

"This report underscores that our policies are working to create a stronger economy, more jobs and a lower deficit," said Representative Jim Nussle, Republican of Iowa, the chairman of the House Budget Committee.

Mr. Speaker, the headline reads: "Bush Unlikely to Fulfill Vow on Deficit, Budget Office Projects." The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office has said regardless of what happens in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, President Bush is very unlikely to fulfill his promise of reducing our Federal deficit by half within 5 years, which is what had been promised.

In fact, the fiscal legacy of this administration is simply horrendous. By the end of this decade it is anticipated that the Federal debt could swell by nearly an additional \$5 trillion.

President Bush will not keep his promise made last February right here to cut the deficit by half. In fact, Douglas Holtz-Eakin, who is director of the Congressional Budget Office and former chief economist on the President's Council of Economic Advisors, has said the message is you cannot grow your way out of this.

The policies of this administration, the fiscal policies, are truly reckless. And I think what is of deep concern to me and to our constituents in Ohio is that when you rack up a deficit of this proportion where you are borrowing against Social Security trust funds and borrowing from foreign countries to float this debt, you leave the trust fund in jeopardy and you end up giving your independence over to those who are financing you.

And who are those holders of U.S. dollar reserves? Who are the holders of 42 percent of the bonds and securities that we have to pay off? China, Saudi Arabia, Japan, many other Middle Eastern countries.

Our tax revenues then have to go to pay interest, 42 percent of this debt now being owned by foreign interests.

This is a story which is an unfortunate development that we need to reverse this year and next year and the following year by electing people to the Presidency and to this Congress who are responsible with the taxpayers' dollars.

The second record I wish to place in the RECORD this evening is the death

toll, just announced for U.S. troops in Iraq which passed 1,000 today, a milestone marking the continuing high cost of the war 18 months after President Bush declared an end to major combat and more than 2 months since the nominal return of sovereignty to Iraq.

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This is truly a tragedy. The total today of those killed reached 1,001, including 756 combat deaths. According to casualties.org, a Web site that tallies U.S. military casualties in Iraq, mainly from U.S. military news releases, including combat and noncombat causes, 855 U.S. troops have died since May 1 of last year, and 140 have died since the return of sovereignty on June 28.

A total of 6,916 were wounded as of the end of August, and this past August was the most cruel of all months of this war. Our soldiers were being attacked about 2,000 times in the month of August, an average of 67 times daily, which is double the rate of attack in July when forces were attacked about 1,000 times or an average of 37 times daily.

I will place this article from Knight Ridder news in the RECORD at this point.

[From Knight Ridder, Sept. 7, 2004]
U.S. DEATH TOLL IN IRAQ PASSES 1,000
(By Dogen Hannah)

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—(KRT).—The death toll for U.S. troops in Iraq passed 1,000 on Tuesday, a milestone marking the continuing high cost of the war 16 months after President Bush declared an end to major combat and more than two months since the nominal return of sovereignty to Iraq.

The total, which reached 1,001, included 756 combat deaths, according to icasualties.org, a Web site that tallies U.S. military casualties in Iraq mainly from U.S. military news releases. Including combat and noncombat causes, 855 U.S. troops have died since May 1 last year, and 140 have died since the return of sovereignty on June 28.

The daily casualty toll has been slowly rising since major combat operations ended—it now averages more than two deaths each day. April was the deadliest month of the war, with 135 U.S. soldiers losing their lives during a broad uprising in central and southern Iraq. Fifty-four U.S. troops died in July, 66 in August, and 23 so far in September.

A total of 6,916 were wounded as of the end of August, of which 3,076 returned to duty within 72 hours.

Pitched battles such as last month's three-week showdown with a militia in Najaf, during which seven Marines and two soldiers died, have grabbed headlines. But months of attacks on or by U.S. forces elsewhere have added to the toll, even as fledgling Iraqi forces shoulder more of the burden of quelling the tenacious insurgency.

On Tuesday, White House press secretary Scott McClellan said of those who died in Iraq and Afghanistan: "We remember, honor and mourn the loss of all those who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom."

Army Lt. Col. Steven Boylan, a U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad, said the rising death toll should be kept in perspective. Each death is regrettable, he said, but the overall toll is relatively small compared with how long U.S. forces have been in Iraq and how many service members have served in the country.

"I'm not sure it is a large number when you look at it in the big scheme of things," Boylan said. "The thing that concerns me is people equating success or failure with the number. The first casualty to the last casualty, whenever that will be, is just as important and shouldn't be pegged to numbers."

The latest deaths include four soldiers killed Tuesday in Baghdad and a soldier who died Tuesday from injuries received from a roadside bomb attack Monday on a convoy in Baghdad. On Monday, the deadliest day for U.S. forces in four months, seven Marines were killed in a massive car bombing on the outskirts of Fallujah, a notorious hotspot of anti-U.S. sentiment about 40 miles west of Baghdad. Three soldiers also were killed in Baghdad and elsewhere. The approximately 140,000 U.S. service members in Iraq are deployed across a vast region stretching from Iraq's northern border with Turkey, Syria and Iran, through the country's middle and into its southern provinces. The rest of southern Iraq is the responsibility of coalition forces led by Britain and Poland.

The coalition's mission is to support the fledgling interim Iraqi government's efforts to prepare the country for nationwide parliamentary elections by Jan. 31, including establishing law and order. Boylan said U.S. military leaders have acknowledged that the insurgency is making their job difficult.

"It may not happen as fast as everybody would like," Boylan said. "It's hard work, especially when there are groups of people who don't want you in their area, for whatever reason."

Multinational soldiers were attacked about 2,000 times in August, or an average of 67 times daily, a record since the April 2003 fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, a military spokesman said this week. In July, the coalition was attacked about 1,000 times, or an average of 37 times daily.

Mortar rounds rain on military bases. Improvised explosive devices and car bombs blow apart military convoys. Gunmen armed with assault rifles, sniper rifles and rocket-propelled grenades prey on Marines and soldiers patrolling in armored vehicles or on foot. "It kind of runs the whole gamut," Boylan said of the perils facing U.S. forces. "There's still an active threat. We have to guard against that every day."

Soldiers such as Army Staff Sgt. Mathew Barker, whose 1st Cavalry company is stationed in an Iraqi National Guard building in northern Baghdad barricaded behind razor wire and earthen barriers, remain alert to the threats but try not to let the danger impede their mission.

"If you spend every waking moment worrying about what's going to happen, it isn't going to do you any good," Barker said. "Unfortunately, due to the nature of the operation—guerrilla-style tactics—you're going to have casualties. But we have a mission to accomplish." The number of organized, "full-time" insurgents is hard to quantify but is believed to be between 4,000 and 6,000, Boylan said. Also, there are an unknown number of individuals occasionally participating in insurgent activities, sometimes for money, he said.

Other reported estimates, including from U.S. military sources speaking on condition of anonymity, have put the insurgency's size as high as 20,000.

Much of the danger to U.S. forces continues to be within, and emanate from, the so-called Sunni Triangle. The region north and west of Baghdad and bounded by the predominantly Sunni Muslim cities of Tikrit, Ramadi and Baquouba is an insurgent stronghold.

So hostile are certain areas that the military has designated some cities—including

Fallujah, Ramadi and Samarra in the Sunni Triangle and the southern cities of Kufa and Latifiya—"no-go zones." Yet, Army Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz said this week that U.S. forces might seek to gain control of Fallujah before next year's parliamentary election.

Such a move could add significantly to the number of U.S. casualties.

Barker, the 1st Cavalry soldier in Baghdad, looks on the casualty count with a certain degree of stoicism. "We're Army. This is our job. This is what we signed up to do," he said.

Yet he and his fellow soldiers also are keenly aware of the mounting death toll. Reading the Army's newspaper, Stars and Stripes, they can't ignore the rising number and the names of their fallen comrades-in-arms.

"Yes, it's a low figure compared to how many people have been here," Barker said. "But one death is more than enough."

Later this month I will begin a Special Order on the anniversary of September 11 that addresses the root causes of terrorism and where the rising antagonism against the United States and the West emanates from. For until we address the root causes of the hate, we cannot possibly contain the rising insurgency that cuts across borders, Nations and cultures, and our soldiers are paying the largest price for this.

Tonight we wish to thank those men and women serving our Nation through the military, whose mission is extraordinarily difficult and whose patriotism is at the highest levels, and they deserve our highest esteem and appreciation.

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN EXTENSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KING of Iowa). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me rise to acknowledge and offer my personal sympathy to the many, many families in this country who since we have been on the work recess have lost their loved ones in Iraq and Afghanistan. I think it is important as we proceed in what is going to be probably a very vigorous and adversarial 6 to 8 weeks of legislative business to let all Americans know that those of us who have vigorously opposed the policies of an undefined war and lack of an exit strategy no less have the greatest amount of respect and sympathy for those who are willing to give the ultimate sacrifice.

In the last 48 hours, we lost 7 marines in the tragedy of a car bomb in Iraq. So I wanted to make clear, as I proceed and will be debating these questions of the 9/11 Commission, how important it is to reflect upon those servants who have given their lives.

I also want to mention this evening, Mr. Speaker, the importance of the next couple of weeks and days and to focus tonight on what I think is the week's outrage.

Six days from now on September 13, 2004, this Congress and this President

will allow the assault weapons ban to expire. I think that if we were to think with a deal of consciousness and be reflective, people of reason would ask the question, why.

Why, when the assault weapons ban has seen a 60 percent decrease in the use of assault weapons in crime; why, when we have seen a decrease in the number of school shootings we had just 4 or 5 years ago, when children were being shot by automatic weapons; why, in the backdrop of an automatic weapon shooting today, why would you imagine that the Republican leadership of the House and Senate refuse to do what is right? When our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan cannot even get flak jackets to protect them against bullets, why would we want to have in the United States of America the idea of war weaponry on the street?

Is the Speaker aware that the gun companies are now taking people's credit cards over the Internet so that on the sunset of September 13 they can simply ship these guns out en masse?

Why is democracy being denied in the very place that democracy is supposed to be enhanced? Why are we refusing to allow a vigorous and fair debate on the question of whether or not the assault weapons ban should continue? Why are we being denied the very privilege of having this legislative initiative being placed on the floor of the House and Senate simply to allow those who have differing opinions, who represent millions and millions of Americans who have pleaded with their legislators to again enact the assault weapons ban, why is the leadership refusing to acknowledge this legislative initiative?

Why is the President of the United States, who has indicated his consent and approval of the assault weapons ban, not lifting a single finger? Is this what my colleagues call flip-flop? Is this what my colleagues call indecisiveness? Is this what my colleagues call saying one thing and doing another?

It seems very clear to me. It is a tragedy. Whose child will be next that will be shot by an assault weapon? Whose employee is next? Whose employer is next; what law enforcement officer, what first responder, whom we pretend to be so supportive of, when most of the law enforcement agencies in America have asked us to extend the assault weapons ban?

This is an absurdity, this is an outrage, and we will continue to be on the floor every single day to shed the light of day, to pull the covers back to let everybody know the masquerading that is going on here in Washington, the flip-flopping, the outrage of deceit by suggesting that there is some support for the assault weapons ban, and yet the leadership of this House, dominated by the Republicans, and the Senate, refuse to allow us to have a simple debate on this question.

I believe in life over death and peace over war, and I see no conflict in the

second amendment in the constitutional right to bear arms with any desire and need to carry an automatic weapon. I would support my law enforcement officers, the peace of our community and peace of this Nation over any gun manufacturer any day. Come out and show yourself. We are the truthsayers in the place. I ask for a debate on the assault weapons ban, and I ask for it to be extended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. STRICKLAND 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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WHY THE CAPITAL LOOKS LIKE A BEWILDERED CITY UNDER ATTACK

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. Mr. Speaker, I thought I ought to come to the House floor this evening to explain my understanding of why the capital looks like a bewildered city under attack. The Members have not seen the worst of it yet because we have not all come to the House during rush hour or left the House during rush hour.

The District was put under an orange alert while Members were away. I am fully appreciative of the reasons for the orange alert after the IMF and World Bank were seen as targeted places. I am a member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security. I believe strong action was necessary. What we see around the House and the Senate are the primitive protections, if we can call them that.

Checkpoints, a street closure of the only street for all intents and purposes leaving from this part of the city to the transportation hub of the region, Union Station, rail, light rail, buses, Metro, this is what you would expect if we were under attack. If you get a red alert, there is nothing more to do. So we have to ask ourselves, was this necessary, was there an alternative?

Let me be clear, New York has been under an orange alert since 9/11. While very special precautions were taken during the Republican convention, and I would hope so, no major street in New York City has been closed to traffic.

During the recess I had meetings with all the security officials, Mr. Livingood, Mr. Pickle, Chief Gainer, to ask what was going on and to see

whether or not we could offer some alternatives. With me also was the administrator of the District of Columbia representing the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

The first thing I asked was, do we have a citywide plan, a coordinated, citywide security plan to protect the Nation's Capital. Astonishingly, we do not. Each sector operates on its own. The Capitol Police here in the House and the Senate, that is one sector. The White House sector, through the Secret Service, the Federal agencies, that is another sector. Finally, the Metropolitan Police Department, on whom all are dependent, no coordinated plan. So on 15th Street, right by Treasury and the White House, no security checkpoints, no street closures, because the Secret Service made a calculated, analytical decision that you did not need it, that the risk was not such that you needed to close whole streets or even use checkpoints. Why are we having checkpoints here?

I believe that Mr. Livingood and the Capitol Police will shortly be forced to do the sensible thing, not to abolish the necessary checkpoints, but to look at what they say are the vehicles that concern them, larger vehicles like limousines, like SUVs, but they are peering into each and every car so that there is going to be traffic, as the Mayor says, all the way to Delaware. It is all the way, all the way to Maryland.

Mind you, the entire region is going to be affected. Many people are avoiding the area so they are clogging up 395 and downtown.

The gentleman from Ohio (Chairman NEY) and I have spoken. He believed on his own motion that there needed to be a citywide coordinated plan. He has said he wishes to have a task force with all of the players at the table. That is the only way we are really going to be secure.

We have submitted alternatives that came out of these meetings, checkpoints of the kind I just described where you, in fact, let most cars go by, but you do, in fact, stop those of a particular size. Open First Street. We have an alternative. Use checkpoints on First Street. Then narrow First Street with barricades so that cars can only go to and fro after being checkpointed. There is no way in which that does not provide the kind of protection that is needed for Dirksen and Russell, which are on each side.

Above all, let us get down to technology. They used some low technology for the first time, tested some low technology for the first time after the orange alert that had to do with manipulation of traffic lights.

I am asking Members to call my office, to let me know what their experience has been with the checkpoints and with the closure of First Street. Some of you are going to be absolutely exasperated. There are over 20,000 employees, 440 Members of the House, 100 Members of the Senate, but I need your feedback as we try to find new ways.

At the moment we are dealing with 19th century ways to protect the Nation's Capital. They would have used checkpoints and barricades 100 years ago. I think we can do better than that. We do not want the people's House and the Senate to look like an armed camp. We must protect this place not only symbolically, but because this is where the greatest government in the world is, and this is where 600,000 people live.

We have all of the resources that come with innovation because we are Americans. That spirit of innovation is not being shown around this Capitol. I need Members to come forward. Let me know what is happening so that we can compel improvements and make this House and the Senate look like the people's Congress again.

□ 2100

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KING of Iowa) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 7, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The 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, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on September 7, 2004 at 4:50 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits a copy of a Proclamation he has issued entitled, "To Modify the Generalized System of Preferences and for Other Purposes".

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHLL,
Clerk of the House.

TO MODIFY THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-211)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 502(f) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act"), I am writing to inform you of my intent to designate Iraq as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

I have considered the criteria set forth in sections 501 and 502 of the 1974 Act. In light of these criteria, I have determined that it is appropriate to extend GSP benefits to Iraq.

GEORGE W. BUSH,
THE WHITE HOUSE, September 7, 2004.

A FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE
SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 5005. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, for additional disaster assistance.

MAJOR TOPICS IN THIS FALL'S
ELECTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, there seem to be three major topics which will be determining factors in this fall's elections, and these are: the conflict in the Middle East, the economy, and values in cultural issues. I will attempt tonight to discuss each one of these areas, hopefully in a somewhat accurate, factual, and dispassionate manner. I will start with the situation in the Middle East.

One thing that we often notice as we watch the nightly news is relatively little discussion of Afghanistan; and by almost any measure, Afghanistan has been a major success. The Taliban has been removed from power, the Soviet Union left Afghanistan after several years of war, unable to conquer the Taliban; and we took them out in a matter of weeks with a loss of roughly 100 troops. The terrorist training camps have been destroyed. Terrorist funding in Afghanistan has been largely disrupted, and the terrorist leadership has been rendered largely ineffective throughout that whole country, which is roughly the size of Texas. The country is reasonably stable and has been stabilized with a very small coalition force of approximately 15,000 troops, again in a country the size of Texas.

This is a remarkable achievement. The Loyal Jurga, the constitutional convention, has been accomplished. Even with all of the rival warlords and tribal factions, they did come up with a constitution that is pro-democracy and seems to represent all factions within the country. So it was a remarkable achievement.

Karzai is certainly a very effective leader. They will have general elections on October 9, and certainly Karzai will have some opposition. But if he is elected, and I think that he will be, we will have a very powerful ally. And I think most people would have to say that this was an almost unheard of accomplishment in a period of a little over a year and a half. So Afghanistan has been a truly amazing accomplishment and one that I think that we can be very pleased with.

There are still some negatives there. There still is somewhat of an opium

crop, and that has to be dealt with. A few hundred Taliban and al Qaeda forces are still active, but most have been driven back into the mountains.

Iraq, of course, is another subject; and we have heard that discussed by two or three other speakers on the House floor this evening. There is no question that there is a great deal of controversy about weapons of mass destruction, and there is no question that some of the intelligence that we have received regarding weapons of mass destruction has not been accurate.

I would say that most of the Members of this House at one time or another were invited over to the Pentagon, and we went over in groups of 10 or 15 or 20 or 30, and we were shown aerial reconnaissance photos of Iraq. Most of these were satellite photos. They were remarkably clear. You could read a license plate from outerspace because of the clarity. We were told, and I believe that the people giving us the briefing absolutely believed what they were saying, that this building here was where anthrax was being created, this was where foot and mouth disease was being experimented with, these trucks were going here, and these ammunition dumps were here and so on.

The problem was that our intelligence on the ground was very ineffective. We were relying heavily upon Iraqis for our information, and many of those Iraqis had an axe to grind. They wanted to get rid of Saddam Hussein; and, therefore, whether they deliberately did it or not, I do not know, but obviously some of the information that we received was not very accurate. So this has been certainly a major concern.

However, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and most U.N. countries had very similar intelligence, and that is why we had 17 United Nations resolutions based on the assumption that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. So this was certainly not a miscalculation that was done by the United States alone.

One of the main difficulties that we had was that intelligence spending in our country was cut during the 1990s; and, as a result, the expenditures on intelligence were roughly cut in half, and that certainly reduced our capabilities. So there is plenty of blame to go around, and many people have been busy pointing the finger over the last several months. However, the key issue at this point is not what happened in the past, but where do we go from here.

While I was in the Middle East, I had a conversation with a young captain from Nebraska, my home State, and this young man's name was Christ Ferdico; and he said two things that made sense to me. First of all, he said, you know, it is better that we fighter terrorists here in the Middle East than fight them in the United States. So he was saying that by being on offense, we have occupied the terrorists' attention and resources, and there is no question

that we have. Some people have said we have made the world a more dangerous place. But, obviously, the financial resources, the military resources, a lot of the planning has been diverted from this country and other countries to the conflict in the Middle East, so we have not had an attack in this country since 9/11. It does not mean we will never have another attack, but it certainly means that we have, to some degree, diverted some of the attention from this country.

The second thing this young man said to me which I found to be interesting and I believe to be true, he said, I hope the American people do not lose patience. We tend to be a very impatient Nation. We want our problems solved yesterday. We sometimes do not want to pay a very great price to achieve something. And so the impatience of the American people certainly is a concern. Again, we heard some of that debate earlier from some of the other speakers.

We have lost at this point approximately 1,000 soldiers in Iraq. One is too many, and every one of those soldiers from my district that have been lost I have attempted to call their wives, their husbands, their parents and talk to them personally. It has been very interesting because I thought at some point I would run into bitterness or run into acrimony. Certainly there was sorrow, but there was also pride in every one of those phone calls. Every one of those families said, you know he really believed or she really believed in what he or she was doing. They were really proud of the effort, and we are very proud of them and their willingness to sacrifice.

In the Civil War, Mr. Speaker, we lost roughly 400,000 troops. At Antietam it was 20,000 in one day. During World War II there were approximately 450,000 soldiers who died. In Korea, roughly 50,000. In Vietnam, 60,000. In those two conflicts we really do not have much to show in any way by way of accomplishment. That is not true with this particular conflict that we are involved in today.

So, again, I do not want to in any way minimize the sacrifice of those 1,000 soldiers; but it is important historically to keep this in perspective in terms of what has been accomplished and in terms of the loss of life, which has been relatively small when you look at all of the wars that have been fought over the history of our Nation.

A few months ago, I talked to soldiers in Afghanistan, in Kuwait, and in Iraq. We visited the hospital in Ramstein, Germany, Landstuhl, where most all of the casualties, the seriously injured troops from the Middle East were taken, and then more recently here at Walter Reed. I was really amazed at how positive they were. Some had been seriously injured. Some had even lost limbs, arms or legs. The prevailing sentiment was that they wanted to get back to their units.

Now, many of them would not be able to do that. And I thought at some point

I would run into somebody in all those travels that would tell me, you know, this was a terrible mistake. We should not have done this. I do not know why you put us over there. That did not happen. So there seems to be a great deal of pride and a great sense of mission on the part of these young people.

So some might pose the question: Well, why would they feel that way? Has anything good happened? We talked a little about Afghanistan; but in Iraq, for instance, more than 20,000 reconstruction projects have been completed and a great many of them have been with the aid of our troops. Crude oil exports are estimated to be \$8 billion worth of exports in 2004, which would be approximately prewar or maybe even exceeding prewar levels.

The average household income in Iraq has doubled over the last 8 months. Most Iraqis feel very good and very confident about their economic future. Businesses are springing up where normally there was no free enterprise at all previously. Today, there are more than 1 million automobiles more in Iraq than before the war. We have cleared roughly 17,000 kilometers of waterways for irrigation in 2003. Thirty to forty percent of the marshes drained by Saddam are now restored.

In the health care area, 85 percent of the children have been immunized. Most of them had never been immunized previously in their lifetime. All 240 hospitals in Iraq are now open and functioning. There are 1,200 clinics in operation, and 30 times more money is being spent in Iraq today on health care than under Saddam. His people had abysmal health care under his regime.

As far as education is concerned, 2,500 schools have been rehabilitated. New desks and books have been brought in, and 32,000 new teachers have been trained. School attendance is up by 80 percent in Iraq, and in a great many of these schools girls are there for the first time. Iraq has the highest illiteracy rate of any Arab country, roughly 77 percent in the female population, so for the first time many of these young women are attending school.

Power generation continues to be a problem, but still we are generating more power today than before the war. There is still occasional brownouts or blackouts, but it is better than it was.

There are 230,000 police, military individuals, guards, that have been trained. Most of them are employed, some are still in training; but we do feel that a great deal of progress has been made in that respect.

Of course, everyone knows there has been a transfer of power to the Iraqi interim government. These are very, very brave people. They are under constant attack and surveillance, and we have to hope that they can be somewhat successful. Elections will be scheduled this January, and of course that will be a tremendous milestone. The whole Middle East, I believe, is

looking at this experiment to see whether it can be successful or not, and that is why we see so many attacks from the insurgents. They absolutely do not want to see a democracy succeed in that part of the world.

The gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DUNN) and I have formed something called the Iraqi Women's Caucus. Sounds like kind of a strange thing for a former football coach to be involved with; but we, in a conversation, came to believe that women tend to be a little less violent than men, and currently 60 percent of the population in Iraq is female because so many men have been killed. So we thought is there anything that we can do to help the Iraqi women be elected to office, or at least a certain percentage of them.

□ 2115

So we have brought Iraqi women to this country to teach them about democracy, about how they might be elected to public office, and some minimal funding has been given to these organizations. I have tried to spend time and speak to each one individually. Some of them are highly educated and speak English, some of them I speak through an interpreter, but the prevailing sentiment I get is things are better now. One lady said, we do not understand what all of the uproar is about weapons of mass destruction. Saddam Hussein was the ultimate weapon of mass destruction.

Many of these women had family members who were killed, had seen rapes in front of their families, had undergone and seen tremendous atrocities. They feel almost unanimously the Iraqi people are relieved and grateful to see Saddam Hussein gone.

They also say that the future is brighter now. They feel definitely things are better, and they see some light at the end of the tunnel.

So the major sources of information that I have tried to use as I evaluate that situation is a little bit of personal experience, but mostly what I have gleaned from talking to the soldiers who have been there and who are there and talking to Iraqi citizens who are there now, I feel that the picture I have gotten is quite different than what we get on the nightly news. Certainly not all of the news is good, and I do not want to hide our head in the sand and pretend everything is perfect. There is no question that security over there is very problematic, and the Iraqi women tell us that. The Iraqis we talk to say that security is the number one issue that they are faced with. But still, a tremendous amount has been accomplished.

A Gallup poll done a few months ago in Iraq clearly said that 80 to 90 percent of the Iraqis see a brighter future. About 80 percent would like to see some type of democratic government, a parliamentary type of government like they see in Europe, or something like what we have, and most of them would like to see their country no longer

under a coalition force. But they also realize it is too soon; this is something that cannot be done at the present time.

As I look at the situation, I feel that failure really is not an option, because if we were to pull out of Iraq at this time, number one, we will have dishonored the nearly 1,000 soldiers who have lost their lives. As I have talked to their families, as I have mentioned, it would be a terrible thing to talk to one of those families and say, we are leaving now, and the death of your soldier really went for naught. I do not think we can afford to do that. They felt there was a meaning and a purpose in going there, and we have to honor their lives by making sure that there is a favorable outcome.

Number two, we will condemn thousands of Iraqis to death. Almost any Iraqi who has helped the coalition will certainly be sentenced to some type of very poor future, probably death. There is a strong likelihood of a civil war breaking out, which would be a bloodbath, and we promised the Iraqis that we would not do that. After the first Gulf War, hopefully we learned our lesson. So we have told them we will stick with them and see it through.

The third thing that would happen if we pulled out is this country would become more vulnerable to terrorism, because any time you show terrorists that their methods are successful, it only invites more terrorism. It does not involve appeasement, it does not solve anything, it only escalates the problem. We cannot allow them to see that terrorism works.

We have heard a great deal about Abu Ghraib and some of the things that have not gone well in Iraq, but I would like to tell Members, Mr. Speaker, about a young man named Troy Jenkins and what he did last April. Troy Jenkins was one of our soldiers. A young Iraqi girl apparently either had in her hands or was standing near a cluster bomb, and no one knows for sure whether she was innocent and did not know what she had, and apparently Troy Jenkins assumed she did not know. He threw himself on that cluster bomb and saved that girl's life and probably several of his comrades. We do not hear much about Troy Jenkins and the soldiers who have been willing to risk danger every day to do some of the reconstruction projects.

I think it is well that we remember that there have been many acts of heroism. Some great things have been accomplished. It has not been a universally successful operation, but still more good has occurred than bad.

The second thing I would like to talk about today, Mr. Speaker, which seems to be a matter of some controversy, is the economy. As with the war in Iraq, we find that perception often does not match reality. Some characterize the economy as being very poor. We hear this being discussed all of the time. I would like to mention just a few factors which I think are important to consider at this point.

Referring to this chart on my left, interest rates currently are the lowest in the last 40 years. Of course, low interest rates generally stimulate economic growth and investment. Inflation is again at historic lows. The Producer Price Index is roughly 1.5 percent over the last 12 months. There was a time not too many years ago when we had double-digit inflation. No economy can sustain that type of inflation. The inflation level now is very low. Productivity expanded 5 percent over the last 4 quarters. We think that is the highest in the last 20 years.

In the manufacturing sector, which we hear a lot about, employment reached a 30-year high in May. So the manufacturing sector is recovering, and employment is certainly rebounding.

Housing, homeownership was 68.6 percent last quarter. That means more than two-thirds of Americans now own their own home, an all-time high. Again, that is an encouraging sign.

Members may say if all of these things are true, what is the problem with the economy? There has got to be something wrong. The thing that we hear most often is the unemployment rate. The unemployment rate is out of sight, and people simply do not have any jobs. So we might again refer to a chart here.

During the decades of the 1970s, for that 10-year period, the average unemployment rate was 6.2 percent. During the 1980s, average unemployment went up to 7.3 percent. During the 1990s, which was an exceptionally favorable period of economic activity, if we listen to most people, particularly some Members speaking on this floor, the unemployment rate was 5.8 percent. Today, in 2004, the unemployment rate is 5.4 percent, lower than any one of those decades. If we average that 30-year period from 1970 to 2000, the average unemployment rate was 6.4 percent. Today it is 5.4 percent. That is not perfect. Mr. Speaker, we would like to see that down around 4.5 or something like that, but it is very difficult to get there. It certainly is much better than it has been historically for the last 30 years. I think that is important to realize.

Mr. Speaker, unemployment runs roughly 9 to 10 percent in the European Union. Many of us feel that the European Union countries are doing well, but their unemployment rate is roughly double what we are currently experiencing. We added 144,000 new jobs in July. So over the last 12 months, we have added 1.7 million jobs in this economy. Some will say, but since the President took office, we are still down about 700,000 jobs. We lost about 2.5 million, we got 1.7 million back, so this President is a failure. I do not necessarily think that is true, because we had 9/11. We had a recession going on when the President took office, and we had the corporate scandals. So a lot has hit this economy, but it is certainly going in the right direction. It looks like it is recovering.

In 2003, and this is something that very few people have stopped to think about or talk about, we had more Americans employed at the end of 2003 than at any time in history. What has happened is some of those roughly 2 million Americans who lost jobs started to work for themselves. So we had more people employed when we went to the household survey than ever before. So we talk about lost jobs, but many people have started their own businesses and are not destitute or out of work.

Another myth which has been circulating here recently is that all of the tax cuts that were passed have not impacted the middle class. Some have said that the middle class is now paying more than before the tax cuts. That is absolutely not true. Every segment of the tax-paying economy is paying less in taxes than before the tax cuts. So currently an average middle-class family making \$35,000 or \$40,000, a wife, husband and two children, pays today \$1,948 less in taxes than before the tax cuts. If you are making \$35,000 or \$40,000, and you have \$2,000 less to pay, that is significant, and that is going directly to the middle class. So whether you are talking about the top bracket, the middle bracket or the lower bracket, if they paid taxes before, they are paying less today. So it is important to realize that the average American citizen has received a substantial tax cut.

The most troubling factor, I think, as far as the economy is concerned which faces this country is well within the domain of Congress, and that is high energy prices. That is the one thing that we continually see affecting jobs, the stock market, and the economy in general. So I would like to address that very quickly because it affects trucking, airlines, agriculture, individuals, and yet one of the most discouraging things to me is we cannot get an energy bill passed in this Congress. The House has passed an energy bill, we have passed the conference report, but still it has not passed the other body. Until it becomes law, we all have failed to some degree.

I would like to flesh out briefly for one second some of the main provisions of the energy bill which I think would be so important as far as the economy is concerned. This is really something that lies at the feet of not Republicans or Democrats, it is all of us.

A key part of the energy bill is renewable fuel standards which provide for solar energy, wind energy, ethanol, and biodiesel. These are all ways to avoid being so dependent on foreign oil. Also, hydrogen fuel cell research and development is part of the energy bill, and most people feel this is the wave of the future. It is environmentally friendly and leaves no greenhouse gases. So if we want to develop hydrogen fuel cells, we need an energy bill because this is the stimulus that will cause this to happen.

In Alaska, the natural gas pipeline, we have tons of natural gas. We have

thousands of tons of natural gas in Alaska at the present time, and yet we are experiencing a tremendous shortage of natural gas in this country today. So it affects fuel prices, it affects heating prices, fertilizers and all of the different things which impact our economy. If we can build that pipeline from Alaska bringing that gas down here, our economy is going to recover very quickly.

□ 2130

It is going to take a little time, 2, 3, 4 years; but it needs to be done. Then, of course, tax incentives to increase energy production. This country basically has not done much in exploration for additional oil reserves, energy reserves, nuclear power over the last 20, 30 years because of environmental regulations. We have to have some incentives to get this thing going again. Our refinery capacity has been reduced by roughly 30 percent over the last 15, 20 years. With those reductions, we put ourselves in a bind. We are now 60 percent dependent on foreign oil. We cannot continue to operate that way because projections have that going from 60 percent to 70 percent within the next few years. The buck stops here. It stops with Congress, and the blame game and partisanship is inexcusable. It simply needs to be done.

On balance, Mr. Speaker, having said all of this, I think it is important to realize that this is the strongest economy in the world. Regardless of what anyone says, it is not perfect; but the economy by most measures, by most standards, is very strong at the present time and appears to be getting stronger.

We have talked a little bit about the Middle East, and we have talked about the economy. The last topic I would like to cover has to do with the third significant factor, I think, which will bear upon the upcoming elections and that has to do with the culture. I was privileged to hear British Prime Minister Tony Blair speak in this Chamber a year ago. One comment that he made made particular sense to me. He said this: "As Britain knows, all predominant power seems for a time invincible but, in fact, it is transitory." What he was saying, I believe, is that there is sort of an illusion. When you are on top, when you are the predominant country in the world, the most powerful country in the world, it seems like that will go on forever. But he says, Great Britain has experienced this, and we know that this is transitory, that all power is eventually transitory. It does not last forever.

I would like to explore that thought a little bit tonight because history teaches that most of the world's great powers are not overcome by external military force but, rather, disassembled from within. Let us examine three such instances. First, we might take a look at Rome. That is a long time ago, about 2,000 years; but it certainly was the most dominant civilization. As a

matter of fact, it ruled the whole civilized world at one time about 2,000 years ago and appeared to be invincible, but eventually it fell from pre-eminence.

Some of the incidents that are given by historians are a little disturbing. They said there was a general decline in morality. There was increasing corruption and instability in the leadership of the Roman Empire. An increasing public addiction to ever-more violent public spectacles. In the Roman Colosseum, as you know, the masses had to be entertained, and it got bloodier and it got bloodier. Increasing crime and prostitution and a general population that became more self-absorbed, apathetic and unwilling to sacrifice for the common good. I do not know if any of that rings home or not, but to me it is a little disturbing when you read that list.

Then, of course, Great Britain, the British Empire, dominated the world from the late 1600s through much of the 1800s, and this is what Tony Blair was talking about. That empire eventually slowly crumbled. The reasons given by historians were that they lost the national resolve to maintain their territory, which was spread all around the world, a great colonial empire, the values that led to ascendancy eventually were eroded and the spiritual underpinnings shifted in that nation.

Then Russia more recently, only 20 years ago, one of two great superpowers at that time, in a matter of months Russia disintegrated before our very eyes. Alexander Solzhenitsyn reflected on this fall when he observed this: "Over a half century ago, while I was still a child, I recall a number of older people offer the following explanation for the great disasters that had befallen Russia." He said this: "Men have forgotten God. That's why all of this has happened." Marx and Lenin had dismantled Russia's religious heritage and their value system and Russia, even though it continued to do well for a number of years, had a broken foundation and eventually collapsed like a house of cards with nothing to sustain it.

Some of the common themes of these three great world powers and their historical collapse would be the following: citizens are less willing to sacrifice for others and for their country, citizens become more self-absorbed, a greater desire for the state to provide for their welfare, less personal responsibility, a weakening of commonly held values, and a decline of spiritual commitment.

What does all of this have to do with the United States and our present situation, Mr. Speaker? We certainly have the most powerful military. We have the strongest economy and the most stable government of any nation in the world today. And so it is easy to think that we are truly invincible. However, as Tony Blair stated, "As Britain knows, all predominant power for a time seems invincible but, in fact, it is transitory."

Is there reason for concern? Is there any reason to think that maybe we ought to pay attention to the current situation? I would say that there are some things over my previous 36 years spent in coaching and working with young people that have given me pause. I would like to mention some of these trends that I find disturbing. The young men that I worked with from roughly 1962 through 1997 were more talented each year. Yet they showed more signs of distress, more personal struggles. We spent more time with them off the field than we used to, and with some players off the field was really more intensive than on the field. There was less moral clarity as time passed and just generally a higher level of troubled young people.

This chart that I am going to show you reflects some of the dysfunction that we have seen and an alarming trend. From 1960, the number of juvenile court delinquency cases increased by between 400 and 500 percent, just a steady upward trend, until the late 1990s. Several factors, I believe, contributed to these changes. First of all, family stability has eroded considerably. In 1960, the out-of-wedlock birthrate, Mr. Speaker, was 5 percent, one out of every 20 young people born. Today, the out-of-wedlock birthrate is 33 percent, one out of three. And so one-third of the young people coming into our population have two strikes against them. Some of them somehow or another adapt, weave their way through, make it okay; but it is much more difficult.

In 1960, the great majority of children lived with both biological parents. Today nearly 60 percent of our young people will spend at least part of their youth without both biological parents. So at least half, and maybe more than half, of our young people have suffered some major trauma in their family life. Only 7 percent of today's families are traditional families. I use quotation marks around the word "traditional" because only 7 percent today are traditional. A traditional family would be where one parent, primarily the father usually, works full-time and one parent, usually the mother, but not always, would be home with the children. And so when the children come home from school at 3 o'clock, generally nobody is home and so the hours from 3 to 6 are the most dangerous and the most troubled hours of the day for our young people in our culture at this particular time. Parents spend 40 percent less time with children than they did a generation ago. The divorce rate has increased 300 percent since 1960. This is a big one, Mr. Speaker. Twenty-four million children today live without their real father.

Fatherless children, according to research, show the following tendencies: number one, they are more likely to be abused, girls or boys. They are more likely to have mental and emotional problems. They are more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol. More likely to

commit suicide, commit a crime, or be promiscuous. The foundation of our culture, the family, is under assault. The family is the basic social unit. Some are surprised when there is concern about how marriage is defined. Many people say this is bigotry, this is religious fundamentalism, this is narrow mindedness.

The concern that I have and I think a great many people have is not against anybody. The concern is for children, because it takes a mother and a father to create a child. According to nearly all of the research I have seen, and there is a lot of it, to have an adequate family and to have a healthy child, the best chance you have is to have a father contribute to the rearing of that child and a mother contribute to the rearing of that child. It takes both, each one, a male and a female, to contribute something to the stability and the education of that child. We feel that it is important that we think this through, because some countries have redefined marriage. As they have done so, we have seen less traditional marriage, we have seen more children born out of wedlock and more children living in dysfunctional situations. If you want to preserve the culture, if you want a strong country, you absolutely must have strong families. You must have children who grow up in a healthy way.

Mr. Speaker, that is one reason why many of us have some concern about this particular issue. The family structure, the launching pad, is certainly not as stable as it once was. There are some discouraging signs. The difficult thing now is that we are taking those young people from that launching pad and we are releasing them into an environment that is much less friendly than it was 30, 40, 50 years ago.

In 1960, when I first started coaching, working with young people, drug abuse was almost unheard of. Today, of course, drug abuse is of almost epidemic proportion. Even in rural areas, an area I represent, methamphetamines, which are tremendously destructive, are very common. Another type of drug which oftentimes flies under the radar screen is that of alcohol abuse involving underage drinkers. A National Academy of Science study shows that alcohol kills 6½ times more kids than all other drugs combined. And so we are scared to death of cocaine and ecstasy and methamphetamine, and we should be; but when all is said and done, roughly 6½ times more children die from alcohol abuse than all the other drugs put together.

Alcohol underage drinking costs the U.S. \$53 billion annually, roughly 2½ times what we spent to rebuild Iraq. We have 3 million teenage alcoholics. As I said, by far the biggest drug problem, and one of the major concerns is that children are starting to drink at younger and younger ages. The average young person today takes their first drink of alcohol at age 12.

Unfortunately, underage drinkers tend to binge drink. They drink on average, at an average sitting, twice as much as an adult; and, of course, alcoholism is achievable much more quickly under those circumstances. Alcohol and the drug issue is a big issue.

In addition, we have the most violent Nation in the world for young people, the highest homicide rate, the highest suicide rate, and the second-place country is not even close. Pornography has exploded. There are over 1 million porn sites on the Internet. According to the London School of Economics, nine out of 10 children ages 9 to 16 have viewed pornography on the Internet and mostly unintentionally. Corporations such as AT&T have in the past been involved in the hard-core pornography business. Some of our more respectable businesses, and I say respectable in quotes, have gotten into this business.

Many of us are somewhat dismayed by the way the FCC is regulating obscenity on the Nation's airwaves. I would have to say they are doing better. They have made some attempts to see things differently since the Super Bowl; but it took that, the Super Bowl half-time show, to get their attention. Video games, of course, are very violent. Some of them are very antisocial and of course much music, some television, many movies are graphic. The content of some of these media programs simply could not have been presented to the public 30 years ago.

I have grandchildren ages 5 to 12, and I guess anyone who has young children or grandchildren is concerned about this. The family is less stable, the environment is more threatening, and our value system has shifted. Stephen Covey in his book, "Seven Habits of Highly Successful People," reviewed all of the literature that had to do with success during the history of our Nation. He came up with something that was rather interesting. He said during that first 150 years of our Nation's existence, all of the research and all of the articles that he could find, nearly all of them, defined success in terms of character traits. A successful person was honest, a successful person was hardworking, faithful, loyal, compassionate and so on.

Then he said about 50, 60 years ago, things began to shift. What he noted was that success was no longer defined in terms of character.

□ 2145

Success had to do with material positions, how much money one had, how much power one had, how much prestige or celebrity one had. So it is very possible under this current definition to be labeled a success and really not be a very good person, not be a very sound person.

So character apparently today has very little to do with whether a person is called successful or not. And, of course, we have seen a discouraging lack of integrity in the business world:

Enron, WorldCom, Global Crossing. We have seen some of it in the press, some of it in athletics, some of it in the church, some of it in politics in the last few years. So the value system has shifted.

Philosophically, the predominant world view that we see today in our culture is something called postmodernism, and it is especially prevalent on college campuses. And what postmodernism says is that there are no moral absolutes; everything is relative. So in the right circumstance, theft is okay; incest is certainly understandable, excusable; murder, adultery, treason. There are no moral absolutes. One's truth is one's truth. My truth is my truth. And there are no standards to which we can hang our moral compass.

So in view of the family breakdown, the decline of the culture, and shifting values, this is an extremely difficult time to be a young person, perhaps the most difficult time in our history, and we are asking them to weave their way through a minefield littered with alcohol and drug abuse, harmful video games, music, TV, movies, promiscuity, gangs, violent behavior, and broken homes. And I think it is important that we pay attention to this because this has to do with the strength of our culture. So this is one reason, I believe, why the President has seen a real need for mentoring, because in the absence of caring adults in the lives of young people, mentoring seems to be about the next best thing that we can do.

So a mentor is someone who cares unconditionally. A mentor is one who affirms, who says, "I believe in you, I know you can do this," and everyone at some point needs affirmation. And a mentor is one who provides guidance, who tells someone that they have this talent, and they can see them going to a community college, that they can see them developing their artistic ability or their athletic talent or their music or whatever. Everyone needs somebody who sees something in them. So we need to pay close attention, as no culture is more than one generation away from dissolution.

Two hundred years ago, de Toqueville made an astute observation, and this is what he said: He said, "America is great because America is good," and he was referring to the large number of churches and civic clubs and youth groups and individuals reaching out to help those who were less fortunate when he said this. And he was referring to the inherent decency of the American people. He was referring to the basic ethic, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." And de Toqueville wrote 200 years ago, as I said, and I guess the question we have to ask is, are his observations true today? Some are; however, there are certainly disturbing signs of change.

I will conclude today, Mr. Speaker, by discussing a couple of concerns that I have with the courts, and I think, as I go through this, I would like people

and the Speaker to consider, as the election approaches, what candidates, what people would be most likely to address some of the dysfunction that we have discussed here, some of the concerns that we have about our culture, and some of the things that our young people are enduring.

In regard to the first amendment, we have found that there are some court decisions that at least some, including myself, would question.

In 1996 Congress passed the Communications Decency Act, that was the overwhelming majority of people in this body, that made it illegal to send indecent material to children via the Internet. But in June 1997, the Supreme Court overturned portions of the law. They said this: "Indecent material is protected by the first amendment." So indecent material is protected.

In 1996, the Child Pornography Prevention Act outlawed child pornography, including visual depictions that appear to be of a minor. In other words, this was simulated, computer-generated child pornography. In April 2002, the Supreme Court declared this law unconstitutional and overturned the law.

In October 1998, the Children Online Protection Act was passed by Congress, signed into law, and it prohibits the communication of harmful material to children on publicly accessible Web sites. The Supreme Court refused to rule on the 1998 law, and it prevented it from being enacted.

The 106th Congress passed the Children's Internet Protection Act, which requires schools and libraries that receive Federal funds to use Internet filtering to protect minors from harmful material on the Internet. In May 2002, a Federal court declared the law unconstitutional.

So free speech, indecent speech is protected, while many of our women and children are being attacked, because 80 to 90 percent of pedophiles and rapists use pornography on a regular basis.

So the argument is what people see and what they hear really does not harm anybody. This is just something that is out there in space. And if that is true, then why do we spend each year as a Nation billions of dollars on advertising? The reason is obviously that what people see and what they hear and what they read does affect behavior. It has a great impact on behavior. So there is some concern about these issues.

Another first amendment issue that is a major concern is the issue of separation of church and state. Many people assume that that is in the Constitution, separation of church and state, but actually what the Constitution says in the first amendment is this: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." So the establishment clause simply says that Congress, this body, cannot create a state religion and cannot prevent

somebody from practicing a religion. That is what it says. So we have taken that and run with it.

So in 1962, the Supreme Court ruled the following prayer as being unconstitutional, and this is what the prayer said: "Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence on Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our teachers and our country." I do not want anyone to believe that I am saying that a teacher ought to get on a PA system, or the superintendent, or a teacher ought to get up in class and proselytize or try to promote a particular religious agenda. I do not believe that at all. But it seems to me that many of the rulings that we have had have taken us far afield from what the Founding Fathers originally espoused.

Benjamin Franklin said this: "We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this. I also believe that without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in the political building no better than the builders of Babel; we shall be divided by our little, partial local interests; our projects will be confounded; and we ourselves shall become a reproach and a byword down to future ages."

And he goes on to say this: "I therefore beg leave to move that, henceforth, prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven and its blessing on our deliberation be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed to business." So that is the inception of why we have a prayer on the House floor and in the Senate every day before we begin business. And obviously Ben Franklin was one of the Framers of the Constitution, and yet he did not seem to see that prayer was to be abolished.

George Washington said this: "The propitious," or favorable, "smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a Nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained." So when he talks about eternal rules of order and right which Heaven has ordained, obviously he is talking about some immutable principles. He is talking about some values which do not shift with the sands and the whims of individuals. So he obviously would not agree with postmodernism.

David Barton, the historian, says this: "Franklin had warned that 'forgetting God' and imagining that we no longer needed his 'concurring aid' would result in internal disputes, the decay of the Nation's prestige and reputation, and a diminished national success. Washington had warned that if religious principles were excluded, the Nation's morality and political prosperity would suffer. Yet, despite such clear words, in cases beginning in 1962, the Supreme Court offered rulings which eventually divorced the Nation, its schools, and its public affairs for more than three centuries of heritage. America is now learning experientially what both Washington and Franklin

knew to be true; we are suffering in very areas they predicted."

So in referring to the establishment clause, I would like to just make a couple of observations: In 1992, that the Supreme Court ruled that an invocation and benediction at a graduation ceremony in a high school was unconstitutional. The Court held that a minute of silence in a school was unconstitutional. In a minute of silence, somebody might look out the window, somebody might think about their history test, somebody might say a prayer, but certainly this was not infringing, I would not think, on anyone's religious principles. In a student-led prayer at a football game, the students had voted that they wanted a prayer before the football game, a student would lead the prayer, and the Supreme Court said that is not constitutional.

So the thing that has happened is that we have seen some jurists who seem to have taken what I would say great liberty with the Constitution. So the Constitution is increasingly interpreted as a "living document," in quotes. So the Constitution is not interpreted as it was written, but rather as Justices believe it should be written and as it has become. So this "living document" hypothesis has changed things dramatically.

The makeup of the courts and the will of Congress will greatly influence whether we continue to drift further from our spiritual heritage or draw close to those values upon which our Nation was founded. I believe that November's elections will directly influence not only the makeup of the Congress, but also ultimately the nature of the courts, and this is something I think we need to pay close attention to.

So there is no question that we are engaged in a cultural and spiritual struggle of huge proportion. Much is at stake. I can only hope that the principles upon which this Nation were founded remain preeminent.

THE STATE OF OUR ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KING of Iowa). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I listened attentively to my Republican colleague's remarks, and I do have a great deal of respect for the gentleman, but I have to take issue, I should say, with some of the comments he made.

First of all, as much as he discussed about how the situation has improved in Iraq, and I am not sure that that is the case, but he did talk about how the U.S. has spent so much money on Iraq, in reconstruction in Iraq, and hospitals, schools, other activities, the bottom line is that much of that money I think would have been better spent here.

When I was home during the district work period, I think most people know that the Congress was in recess from the end of July during the time of the Democratic convention until last week during the Republican convention, and I heard constantly in my district office at the forums that I held, at the open houses at my offices, about the problems that Americans were facing, people who had lost their jobs, people who had tried to find another job and found another job that paid less or did not provide the same benefits, people who had lost their health insurance; and I really do not believe that the situation the gentleman described about the economy is at all rosy.

The economy is not doing well. The average person is really feeling squeezed because what is happening is they work harder, and, as the gentleman mentioned, productivity is up, but wages are not keeping up with it, and Americans find themselves working harder, earning less money, and facing increased costs for gas, schools to send their kids to college, and health insurance.

□ 2200

They are really not very optimistic about the future of the economy, because the situation seems to be getting worse over the last 4 years.

So this evening I wanted to really pose, and I see some of my colleagues are here, so I would like to start with some of them, but I would really like to pose the question about whether or not over the last 4 years Americans' lives have improved or gotten worse. I think for most people, the answer is definitely that they have gotten worse.

When you ask people are they better off today than they were 4 years ago when President Bush began his Presidency, the answer is no, they are not better off. I realize that my Republican colleagues spend a lot of time talking about how the situation has improved in Iraq; but, frankly, I think in many ways the money that has been spent in Iraq for reconstruction, for sewers, for hospitals, for education, has been spent at the expense of what could be done here, because as we know, many Americans really face increased costs and the inability to access health insurance, the inability to send their kids to the college of their choice, the inability in many cases even to be able to find an apartment or to pay for the gas so they can go to work.

I know that I do not want to always be pessimistic, I like to think optimistically, but the picture that the Republicans paint and the picture painted at the Republican convention last week about a rosy America and things getting better and jobs being more available, these things just simply are not true. The economy is not doing well. The job situation is not good. Most importantly, Americans feel increasingly that they work harder and that they have to pay more and that they get less.

I have some of my colleagues here tonight. I see the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is here. I know she also waited through the last hour listening to our Republican speaker. I would like to yield to her at this time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding. I am very pleased to join him and to also be joined as part of this Special Order by the gentlewoman from Chicago, Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

I think the wait is important, because as we return from the work recess, and I am glad the gentleman mentioned a number of constituents that he encountered, all of us have, whether they have been in our own respective districts or States, but around the Nation, I think we are at a precipice, we are at a crisis, we are at a no-return point.

What saddens me is that we have a collective body of the executive and the majority in Congress that refuses to deal with the issues that we have heard from our constituents. Might I say to you that I did not see an R on these constituents or a D or an I, meaning Independent, or a non-voter or someone who is nonpartisan or bipartisan. I saw average Americans pleading with Members of Congress to get the job done.

Might I just share with you what our colleagues are going to be spending their time on as we look toward the November election. Rather than spending intense time on getting a serious appropriations bill, because, as you well know, we are told that we may have to return for a lame duck session, and the only reason is because we are going to take up a lot of time, not on the serious issues, but on the frivolous issues that will just create the kind of political and social divisiveness that the Republicans want to see happening.

For example, I am told that the other body is going to take up the flag-burning amendment. As I understand it, Flag Day was 2 or 3 months ago. All of us understand that there are differences of opinion; but, more importantly, I do not know the last time that a flag in the United States has been burned over the last 20 years. So we are going to be dealing with that debate and question.

I understand they are going to be talking about abortion, taxes, reforming the legal system, and, of course, amending the Constitution. None of those deal with the issues that are hurting Americans today, Americans who are trying to send their children to college, those of us who have seen young people graduate from high school and their parents, middle-class parents, not having the resources, the Pell grants, the various scholarships that are necessary, because they happen to be in the middle-class squeeze. Many of them, in fact, are part of those 3 million who have lost jobs under the Republican Congress and Republican

administration. In fact, this administration has already lost almost 2 million jobs; more than 5 million Americans have lost their health care, and jobs are still being shipped overseas.

So I would just like to briefly focus on health care and focus on security. I serve on the Select Committee on Homeland Security and spent a number of days in the month of August in hearings here in Washington, had the privilege of joining my colleagues, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ), and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER), at the border looking at crisis issues dealing with the necessary resources that our Border Patrol needs.

By the way, our Border Patrol said they do not want the military there, as many of the Republicans have tried to do over and over again, but they do want increased resources to secure the homeland by safeguarding the border.

But let me just simply say in the course of looking at America's needs, in addition to the loss of 2 to 3 million jobs and no replacement of such, the last month we saw only 144,000 jobs, way below the necessary job creation in order to catch up with the 3 million jobs lost.

While I was home in the district, I had a teacher that used to be, I believe, either a Teamster or steel worker, I think he was a Teamster, and he was indicating that he educated himself through his union work. He cannot get health insurance for his children through the State of Texas. He is a teacher teaching our children, but he cannot afford the kind of quality health insurance; he cannot pay for it.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I have to say, when I had the open houses, and at my typical open house I will have 100 people show up at one of my offices, that was the biggest concern. People had lost their health insurance, were not able to get it on the job anymore.

Again, the problem that I see is that this Bush administration talks about how they are going to improve access to health insurance, how they are going to improve access to college, No Child Left Behind. But when you talk to the people, the reality is things are getting worse on every one of these fronts. We saw statistics 2 weeks ago, a report came out, that said we started out with 40 million uninsured 4 years ago. Now it is 45 million. Just an example.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. If the gentleman will yield further, it is continuing to grow. I know we as a body, as a Congress, have increased our access to the Web or access to the Internet. It would be interesting as we debate these issues in Special Orders, would it not be interesting to have people sign on to the Web: "I agree with this issue," "I disagree."

I would venture to say you would get 40 to 45 million hits on this question of health care and the uninsured, because it involves working people. That is what I think our colleagues, and that

is why I am so concerned and so much wanting to respond to your question, are we better off today than we were 4 years ago, because the question is, we should be going forward.

What does going forward mean? It means we cannot talk about 44 million that did not have the insurance 4 years ago, and we are now 4 years later and we have done nothing as a Congress to stem the tide, or the Republican administration, to stem the tide of this travesty.

As I look at other issues that are impacting Americans, the other one that comes in at a very high level is, how would you say it, the dismantling of the pension systems of Americans around the country, whether it is a public pension system, a private pension system. Of course, Enron happens to be the poster child for that. But every single day Americans are finding out that their pensions are being decreased, diminished, or eliminated.

We have sought not to do something about that. We decided to give 1 percent of the richest Americans millions of dollars in tax cuts, but yet we have refused to come and deal with the bread and butter issues that Americans are concerned about.

I am concerned that Americans have to deal with these bread and butter issues. I am concerned that our mothers and fathers, whom we claim to be the Greatest Generation, tomorrow will have to pay a 17 percent increase in their premium on their Medicare. I have yet to call home to my mom to be able to sort of say it softly, because I know what that will mean to someone like her that is on a fixed income. She is only symbolic of the millions of senior citizens on fixed income.

I hesitate to think, a \$2 billion check going to Florida, and by the way, not much money got to New York after 9-11 as quickly as it got to Florida, and I want it to go to Florida. I will be voting unanimously on it, I think it was passed unanimously tonight. But there are senior citizens who are not only suffering from Charley and Frances, but now they are getting hit from Washington, D.C. with a 17 percent increase in their premium.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I just wanted to say if you listen to the President during his acceptance speech at the convention, he said that he was going to do all these things for seniors. Of course, he trumpeted the so-called prescription drug benefit that kicks in in 2 years, in 2006, which I think is a sham.

But when asked about this 17 percent increase in premiums for Medicare part B, he said, oh, that is because health care costs have gone up. But what he neglected to mention was the biggest factor in this increase is the fact that with that prescription drug so-called benefit, which you and I realize is really not going to be a benefit in 2 years, so much money has gone to the insurers that that is resulting in the part B increase in premium going up 17 percent. There is a link between the two.

So, once again, they say we are going to help the seniors, and the reality is that their health care costs are going up tremendously. We have not had an increase like that in part B in anybody's memory. I do not know if there has ever been that much of an increase. A lot of it is linked to this sham Medicare prescription drug benefit because so much money is going to the insurers and not actually coming back to the seniors, not to mention it does not even go into effect for a couple of years.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, I see my colleagues here. Let me try to at least bring a few points out, and then yield back to the gentleman, because I know that everyone in their communities are finding this out.

Let me add not only to the pharmaceuticals, but the HMOs are taking a large chunk of these dollars as well, and the services, look, when you see doctors, they are complaining about the complexity of the Medicare system, the dismantling of the Medicaid system almost, where they cannot utilize that. So the victims in this are the medical professionals, nurses, nurse practitioners, doctors, hospitals and the actual consumer of the product and the other guys who stand alongside.

By the way, we all come from communities where we know that there is a lot of good work that pharmaceuticals can do. My problem is that the bad part of the business has been enhanced by this Republican agenda, that is, the 3-hour vote we had on Medicare, versus the good part, because pharmaceuticals do some good work. But the question is the benefit has not gone to the consumers. It has actually gone, in fact, to these folk that are putting money in their pocket.

What else has happened? On the front page of the Houston Chronicle today, and I think the article is all over the country, millions of dollars are being cut from research labs and research universities in America. The highest percentage of research dollars started in 1999 under President Clinton, and it continued that momentum. Now, under this administration, there are research professors that do not even know whether they will be employed. The very same researchers who found the human genome and other kinds of outstanding opportunities that we had in research, can you believe it, they are going to be shut down because we are cutting their research money.

Let me quickly just go to this question of homeland security because I think it is enormously important to point out tragically that the war in Iraq and the Afghan war, many of us understand that there is a need to finish what unfortunately was started in the wrong way.

But the problem is, as evidenced by the tragedy of seven Marines being killed in the last 24 hours, August being the highest number of casualties

among our soldiers over the past couple of months, no enunciated exit strategy.

Now, let me make it very clear because our candidate, Senator KERRY, has received a beating because he has been honest, because he indicated that he voted against the \$87 billion, not out of flip-flop, but because the \$87 billion was not getting the job done and it was destroying the domestic agenda.

But the real question is what kind of exit strategy, with honor, does this administration, this Republican Congress, have? They absolutely have none. How do they mix that, Afghanistan's security and Iraq's security, with the idea of homeland security? I did not hear one word, much of discussion, of homeland security in the 4 or 5 days of that convention.

But let me just point out for you what is happening with homeland security in this country. A task force headed by former Senator Warren Rudman found that the United States remains dangerously ill prepared to handle a catastrophic attack on American soil. This is not a partisan report, but is cited by the 9/11 Commission.

It specifically said the Bush budgets would leave a \$98.4 billion funding gap for first responders over the next 5 years, a finding the Rand Corporation essentially seconded.

I do not believe any of these have Democratic credentials or are part of any sort of partisan activity.

This year the President is proposing to slash more than \$600 million, 14 percent, from first responder funding. Similarly, the Bush administration has allocated less than \$500 million for port security, even though the Coast Guard estimates that \$7.5 billion is needed in the next decade. This is the homeland security of this Congress and the homeland security of this administration. The majority leader said that the 9/11 Commission report is going to be high on the agenda. Maybe it is going to be high on the agenda, but they do not want to do one single thing that the 9/11 Commission has suggested, including the fact that this so-called intelligence director, I believe, and I have legislation on this, should be a cabinet-level position. I think that is crucial in the work that we are trying to do.

I believe that we have come back and there is no agenda in this Congress; and, frankly, I think it is important for the American people if they can sign on to a Web site and say stop fooling around with frivolous issues, divisive issues, and issues that do not provide the bread and butter questions that Americans are asking, get to work.

□ 2215

I hope that the Democrats will be able to say to the Republicans in this House, we need to work on behalf of the American people, not the November 2nd election of which they are trying to establish an agenda for and, as a result, the American people are suffering. I am delighted to join the gen-

tleman and I hope that we will continue to work so that the American people can see that there are those who believe that their jobs are to improve their quality of life.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman. I know I started out asking the question, are you better off than you were 4 years ago, and I was primarily focusing on it from an economic point of view. But as the gentlewoman points out, from a security point of view as well, we can easily say that in the aftermath of 9-11, we can say that the recommendations of the 9-11 Commission and the idea of making the homeland more secure, we can really not make the case that that has happened either under this administration, so I think that is a good point that the gentlewoman makes.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for leading us in these Special Orders so that we can talk truth to the American people.

The fact of the matter is that a large majority of Americans do think that the country is going in the wrong direction. They do not think they are better off today. In listening to some of our colleagues on the Republican side, it sounds like they think that the American people just do not get it; that if they would just look at their charts and really understand the truth, they would understand that things are really better.

But the fact of the matter is that it is the Republicans who do not get it, or are not listening to the people who are telling them that no, in fact, maybe they do not even read the newspapers, except the articles they like to read, because the headlines, I think it was during the convention, in fact, that were saying that, in fact, a million more people now are without any health insurance in the United States of America, that more Americans have fallen into poverty in the United States of America. The fact that there is the kind of poverty that we have here in the richest country in the world is a disgrace in and of itself, or that there are people without health care.

We are facing health care issues in my family, and one of my loved ones was just in the emergency room, got a bill for one night in the emergency room, \$16,500. Now, fortunately, she has health insurance. What if she did not? She would have a bill for \$16,500. You find me an American family that can easily absorb that kind of thing.

Mr. Speaker, we know that college tuition is up. We know that wages for average workers are down. We know that there are problems in after-school programs all over. We know that property taxes are going up, often wiping out any possible tax benefit that they may have had on their income tax, if any. We know that seniors are going to

be paying more for Medicare. Maybe they got a measly check for a refund on their income tax, more than eaten up by the increase that they are facing in their prescription drugs and then their Medicare premiums. So they better check it out. The American people understand the country is going in the wrong direction and the economy is not good.

But I bring my colleagues good news. I have found the people who are benefiting. My husband has a pilot's license, so he gets all kinds of mail and he got this in the mail, a beautiful picture of a private jet. And it says on the front, "Bank with it. Land the ultimate tax benefit with a Cirrus high-performance aircraft." You look on the back and it says, "Deduct up to 79 percent. Your defining moment is now. Better get moving. Take delivery of the internationally acclaimed Cirrus aircraft before December 31st, 2004, and you will be able to take off with more than you think. Interested, aren't you? For only \$220,000, you can purchase a Cirrus srV." That is the low-end Cirrus plane. And, it says, "You must act quickly to take advantage of this incredible tax advantage. Delivery slots are limited for the remainder of 2004," and then they cite the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Act of 2003. "If you ever needed an incentive to fly, this is it," they say.

The Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Act of 2003, this new law makes the purchase of a new aircraft financially more attractive than ever, by providing increased incentives for new aircraft purchases delivered before December 31, 2004. This law allows bonus depreciation up to 50 percent off the purchase price of the new aircraft, and then it talks about additional write-offs.

Anyway, so get out your checkbook; \$220,000 for a Cirrus srV. Your total first-year deduction, first-year deduction, \$172,800, or 79 percent.

So do not tell me that there are not people benefiting from this tax cut. We got another ad that my husband cut out from Flying Magazine which he subscribes to that shows the man with his jacket flung over his shoulder coming out of this airplane. I guess this is the guy who has benefited or can benefit from the tax cuts.

Now, you explain to people who do not have a job, have been looking for a job, who cannot afford that \$16,500 bill in the emergency room of a hospital, who cannot send their child to college, who does not have any health benefits from the new job that he or she got because there are not any benefits, why this is so doggone important. "Bank with it. Land the ultimate tax benefit with a Cirrus high-performance aircraft."

These are the people, this is the priority of this administration, while the rest of us, of our I guess not very smart constituents who have not figured out how great the economy is and are struggling every night at their kitchen

table to figure out just how to make ends meet and have a decent life for their family. You better believe that for most Americans, this means nothing. This is a slap in the face to them.

We can do better as a country. If they think the country is in the wrong direction, it is. It is topsy-turvy, when we are not looking at those people who want an after-school program for their child, or want to be able to send their kid to college, that we are going to be able to provide a 79 percent tax break to somebody buying a private jet.

I thank the gentleman for letting me talk about this tonight.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman's comments, because we need to point to personal examples to show how the policies of this administration are impacting real people, and I think that that is really one of the best. I am sure that is one of those tax loopholes that was put into the jobs bill, or whatever that bill was called, the tax bill of the Committee on Ways and Means at the request of the small aircraft companies, and it is just incredible.

I want to yield to the gentleman from Maine, but first, one of the people that came into my office when I had an open house one day, and I said it was mostly about health care and the loss of health insurance, was a guy from Edison, New Jersey, which is my largest town, and he worked for the Frigadaire plant, which made refrigerators, air conditioners, that kind of thing, and the plant closed this year and there were 1,500 jobs, they all went to China. And he came to my office because under the Job Retraining Act or something that Republicans, whenever they pass these trade bills, they say oh, do not worry, because we are going to provide all kinds of retraining. And as my colleagues know, President Bush has cut all of the retraining money, so whatever was promised out there when you lost your job that you are going to get retrained, most of that has disappeared. In New Jersey, it has pretty much dried up, the Federal dollars.

So he came in and he actually found a job which paid a little less and did not have quite the benefits of the one he lost, but still was a pretty good job. In order to get it, he had to go through some training program that was supposedly funded by the Federal Government. When he showed up at the training program, they told him that the money had been cut, there was not any more money. So he actually lost the job. It was an opportunity to find a job that paid a reasonable amount, and he lost the job because the training money was not there.

Every promise that we get from this administration, whether it is prescription drugs, or expanded health care, or more opportunities for college, or retraining, if you lose your job, it just all ends up being not true. I mean I do not know how to say it. I do not want to say it is a lie, but it is just not true. The funding is not there, the programs

are not there. It is just a lot of hype, and that is what we are getting and continue to get from this administration. But I want to thank the gentlewoman for providing a really good example. Thanks.

I yield to the gentleman from Maine, one of our champions on the health care issue.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for holding this Special Order on whether or not Americans are better off than they were 4 years ago. I particularly want to thank the gentlewoman from Illinois, because I thought that was a great example of how the very wealthiest among us can benefit enormously from the administration's tax cuts, and yet the rest of the people are basically left high and dry. That is why 50 percent of the American people have not noticed any benefit at all from the Bush tax cuts.

But that is a very good example, because it is possible, as we all know in politics, to repeat something over and over again, even if it is not true, and persuade a certain number of people that it is. I give my colleagues this example. I was coming down from Maine on the plane today and talking to the fellow on the plane and we got talking about these tax cuts which most people know are weighted for the wealthiest people in this country. And he said, Well, but don't these small businessmen and women, aren't they the ones who create most of the jobs? And you realize what the administration has been able to do. They have been able to hoodwink a certain percentage of the American people into believing that the very, very wealthiest people in this country are the small businessmen and women. Well, small businessmen and women in my State are not making \$1 million a year. Maybe a few are, and I hope we will have more of them. But the cold, hard truth is, a lot of them are struggling to get by. They are really struggling with the rapid rise in their health care costs, but it simply is not true that the Bush tax cuts go to the small business community in general.

But what the administration has done and what the Republicans in Congress have done is marvelous. They have described as a small businessman the typical person who is worth a half a billion dollars, a half a billion dollars, and just because he or she has some investment somewhere in some small business, they are described as a small businessman. That is what they have done to distort the truth.

If you stand back and go to the question that you posed earlier, are most Americans better off today than they were 4 years ago? That is an appropriate question to ask. Because though elections are about the future, the record of the incumbent is really something that needs to be examined. The President and the congressional Republicans are saying, stay the course. We are back on track. The economy is

doing well. Well, when the election hits, we will still be down a million private sector jobs over 4 years. This is not a 12-month problem, an 18-month problem, it is a 4-year problem. We have lost over a million private sector jobs during the Bush administration. No President since Herbert Hoover, 80 years ago, no President has had that poor of a record on job creation.

So let us think about this problem generally. Do we want to know how the economy is doing? Let us talk about jobs. We are down a million in the last 4 years; wages, median incomes in terms of real dollars adjusted for inflation are down; and health care. And what has happened in health care? Two things. The cost of health care, the premiums that people are paying, particularly in the small business community, are going up and going up rapidly. In my State of Maine, small businessmen and women will tell me, their premiums are going up 20, 30 percent a year, year after year after year. So that is one problem. The second problem is, we have seen an increase of 5 million people during George Bush's first term, 5 million people who no longer have any health insurance at all. Stay the course? Support the President? We are on the right track? It makes no sense.

The cold, hard truth reflected in these numbers is that this administration has paid attention to the stock market and to people earning \$1 million or more a year, tried to provide them the benefit and tried to hoodwink the rest of the American public into believing, if only we take care of the very wealthy and we give them tax breaks, then all of the benefits will trickle down and jobs will be created.

□ 2230

Well, the proof is in the pudding. If that strategy made sense, then the 2001 tax cut and the 2003 tax cut should have produced, according to the President's estimates, according to his Council of Economic Advisors, 7 million new jobs. And instead we are down 1 million, more than 1 million.

So all one has to do is see what they promised and look at the results. This is not a strategy that worked in the 1980s; it is not a strategy that is working today.

One other factor that ought to be thrown in, we have something over 1 million, 1.2 million, I am not sure of the exact number, people who have now fallen below the poverty line in the last 4 years. And we have detected what Alan Greenspan calls a softening in the economy already. For job creation, this year is worse than any single year during the Clinton administration. This is worse than any single year in the Clinton administration, and this is the year of recovery.

So it is pretty clear when you look at the numbers, when you look at the record, this administration has an abysmal record. And for most Americans, staying the course with this ad-

ministration and the Republicans in Congress would be a foolhardy undertaking. And that is why I am so pleased that my colleague has held this Special Order tonight, because we have a lot to say and the numbers, frankly, speak for themselves.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. One of the things, before me there was a Republican who spoke, and somebody that I admire a great deal, but he cited the reasons why the Republicans feel the economy is getting better. And some of them I thought were so off base. The one that was the most off base was he talked about how productivity had increased over the last 4 years. And that is true. But the problem is it has not benefited the worker.

In other words, when I was home in New Jersey, not only did I hear from people about how they had lost their job or they had lost their health insurance, but I also heard, I found another job, I have a job, but I have to work harder and I am not getting paid as much. And that is the other reality, which is that, yes, productivity is going up, people are working harder, but they are not benefiting from it. Their real wages have decreased significantly over the last 4 years, and they do not have the pension benefits, and they do not have the health insurance benefits.

And my colleague, again, some of the things that the Republican colleague said I agreed with. He talked about character and how important it was for people to have good character and a sense of responsibility. And I think that is all true, but we are talking about people who are willing to work, in many cases work harder by his own acknowledgement than they did 4 years ago, but they should benefit from that. They should not be faced with less income in real dollars or the inability to pay for health insurance.

It is one thing to talk about character. I think Americans have a lot of character in the sense of responsibility, but they just find themselves working two jobs and in some cases three jobs and not bringing home the same amount of money in real terms that they were 4 years ago. That is the tragedy of it. It really is.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I have been reading this book called "The Two-Income Trap. Why Middle Class Parents Are Going Broke" by Elizabeth Warren and Amelia Warren Tyagi. There are trends going on in our economy, have been for some time, that are making life very, very hard for middle-income Americans. One is the explosion in the cost of housing. Absolute explosion. If you want to buy a house on a safe street in a place where there are good schools, you have to pay much, much more money than you did 4 years ago, 10 years ago, 20 years ago.

Second is the cost of education. Whether one is talking about preschool

or college, the fact is that education costs a lot more than it used to, and yet it is more critical than ever before.

And the third is the cost of health care. The cost of health care is going up in a way that is just putting middle-income families right on the financial edge. And this is a world that the congressional leadership here, the Republican leadership and the administration just do not understand. And the reason I say that is because they never talk about it; they never talk about it.

And their economic policy is not directed at these people; it is directed to making sure that the wealthiest people in the country get very large tax cuts. Hopefully, the theory was, I remember when the 2003 tax cut was being debated last year, the theory was if we could gin up the stock market, then that will lift up the whole economy. Well, Main Street is more important than Wall Street. It comes down to ordinary people earning enough to be able to buy the goods that American manufacturers and American service providers have to offer.

And what we are seeing with outsourcing, with the squeeze and downward pressure on wages, more productivity as you say, but less hours worked and lower wages, now, this is really a very, very serious economic policy.

That is why I think that it is time for a change in direction in leadership.

Now, the administration will say anything. And what they always say if one criticizes their economic policies or any other policies they say you are being a pessimist. You are being a pessimist. So if one points out the truth, he is criticized for being pessimistic.

Frankly, JOHN KERRY has the right answer: we can do better. I mean, this country can do a lot better for the Republicans in Congress and the administration to be satisfied with net negative job growth over 4 years, with a decline in the median income wage level, with a dramatic explosion in the number of Americans who do not have health insurance, and rapidly rising premiums for those who do not. That is a record of failure. And why any American would vote for those who have espoused that kind of record of failure is really beyond me.

We need to have this debate to make sure that people understand that what they are saying about their economic policies is, frankly, not true, not grounded in sound economics, but is grounded, as it has been in the past, in wishful thinking. That if they help the very wealthiest, somehow the rest of us will benefit. We have had 4 years of it. It has not worked. It is time for a change.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to mention one other thing. I was so glad my colleague mentioned about the housing market, because one of the other things that the Republican Member who preceded us talked about as to why things were better was he talked about low interest rates and linked

that to homeownership. Of course, I am not advocating higher interest rates. I think that low interest rates are a good thing, although they have actually gone up a little bit in the last couple of months. But my colleague pointed out how often times, and this is certainly true where I am in my district in New Jersey, that people simply cannot afford the homeownership, even with the lower interest rates.

And what I find is happening where I am in New Jersey, I live along the coast, so the housing market has gotten so ridiculous in terms of the price of a home or even an apartment or a condo or co-op, that what is happening is any new construction is being purchased by people who have a lot of money for investment. So the people who need a new home are not able to afford it, but the people that are buying the homes are investors, or a condo or co-op unit, who then seek to rent it out or something.

And I am not saying this is always the case, but my colleague is right about the prices for homes. It is just completely out of reach. What is happening is that the people who live in my hometown of Long Branch, but it is not just Long Branch, are traditionally losing their homes and have to leave. And I do not know where they are going, certainly going to leave the district because they simply cannot afford the high prices.

So even though low interest rates help many times, they help the wealthier person who will buy a second or third home rather than the younger person who is trying to buy something because they cannot afford the prices. It is absolutely true.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, if I could continue that thought, one of the points that Elizabeth Warren makes in this book, "The Two-Income Trap. Why Middle-class Parents Are Going Broke," is that often it takes two incomes in order to be able to buy a home. But once you have bought the home and you have signed the mortgage, that is a fixed expense. You cannot get out of it. It is not discretionary income. It is not like cutting back on food, skipping going out to a restaurant once in a while. These expenses have become the most important expenses.

And the reason why middle-income families today have less discretionary income than middle-income families 20 years ago is because their money is all tied up in fixed expenses. It may be a car payment; it often is a house payment. One has got to have health insurance. Those costs are there.

And we need a President and we need a Congress that will focus on the real world, not some dream world which does not take account of what is going on in the lives of middle-income Americans.

I thank the gentleman again for holding this Special Order.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for coming. He is always

out there in front on all the health care issues and certainly tonight was no different in that respect.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to go back to this issue that I mentioned a couple times this evening about how people are working harder but not sharing in the gains. And I particularly mention this because I guess 2 days ago was Labor Day and my Republican colleague tonight talked about productivity and increased productivity, that that was such a positive value in the economy.

There was an article in the New York Times that was actually on Labor Day this past Monday, that was essentially trying to highlight this issue of increased productivity, or Americans working harder but not sharing in the gains. It was an op-ed piece by Bob Herbert that was entitled "An Economy That Turns American Values Upside Down." Why Americans are "working harder but not sharing in the gains."

I thought that that was so relevant because it kind of goes back to the whole issue of the middle-class squeeze that many of my Democrat colleagues were talking about tonight. I just wanted to reference certain sections of this article by Bob Herbert because I thought it was so much on point.

He begins by saying that the Labor Department reported last week that 144,000 payroll jobs were created in August. And he wants to put that, of course, in perspective: "The number was below market forecasts. It was also below the number of jobs needed to accommodate the growth in the unemployment age population. In short, this was not good news. It is only by the diminished job creation standards that have prevailed since the last recession that any positive spin could be put on last month's performance."

President Bush has been out there talking about how great it was that these 144,000 jobs were created in August. And what Bob Herbert is saying is that this is a spin that has been put on it when the reality is that over the last 4 years we have lost so many jobs.

He says, and I quote again, "After almost 3 years of recovery, our job market is still too weak to broadly distribute the benefits of the growing economy. Unemployment is essentially unchanged, job growth is stalled, and real wages have started to fall behind inflation. Prolonged weakness in the labor market has left the Nation with over 1 million fewer jobs than when the recession began."

Of course, when President Bush first took office, this is the worst position in terms of recouping lost jobs in any business cycle since the 1920s. Essentially we have to go back to Herbert Hoover in order to see a situation where so many jobs have been lost.

Then Herbert goes on to say what is happening is nothing less than a deterioration in this standard of living in the United States. And this is what I really wanted to talk about is that re-

gardless of the number of jobs, the bottom line is that the standard of living is going down because people have to work harder and make less money.

He says, "Despite the statistical growth in the economy, the continued slack in the labor market has resulted in a decline in real wages for anxious American workers and a marked deterioration in job quality."

From 2000 through 2003, there was a \$1,500 loss in median household income, or basically a 3.4 percent decrease. We have a 3.4 percent loss in real income juxtaposed with a jump in productivity. "This is the part of the story that spotlights the unfairness at the heart of the current economic setup in the U.S. While workers have been remarkably productive in recent years, they have not participated in the benefits of their own increased productivity. That does not sound much like the American way."

"Today's workers have lost power in many different ways through the slack labor market, government policies that favor corporate interests, the weakening of unions, the growth of lower-paying service industries, global trade capital mobility, the declining real value of the minimum wage, immigration and so on.

"The end result of all this is a trait of American families struggling just to hang on rather than to get ahead. The benefits of productivity gains in economic growth are flowing to profits, not worker compensation. The fat cats are getting fatter while workers, at least for the time being, are watching the curtain come down on the heralded American dream."

□ 2245

I mean, I understand what my Republican colleague said earlier when he was trying to paint a rosy picture of the economy getting better. I do not even think that is true, but the bottom line is, regardless of any growth in the economy, it is not benefiting the average worker. That is why when we go home, myself and my Democratic colleagues, and we hear from our constituents, they are very pessimistic about the future because they realize that even if they have a job, that they are working harder and not making any more money in real terms and the prices for everything continue to go up.

Mr. Speaker, in the time that I have left, I just wanted to be critical, because I do not know how else to put it, of the President and the Republican convention and the way they portrayed the sort of rosy picture about America.

If you think about it, 24 years ago when Ronald Reagan was running for President, he asked American people the same question that I asked tonight, and that is, are you better off today than you were 4 years ago, but last week at the Republican national convention, every speaker that came to the podium simply ignored that question. President Bush refused to highlight any meaningful domestic accomplishments in his acceptance speech at the Republican convention.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is why are Republicans so afraid to ask the American people if they are better off than they were 4 years ago, and I think that the reason is because both the President, as well as the congressional Republicans, are smart enough to realize that if they ask the American people that question the answer for the most part would be a resounding, no, we are not better off. This is what my Democratic colleagues were saying this evening.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, President Bush's leadership on the economy has been lacking since the very early days of his administration, and I just want to get into some of these statistics about the job losses because I think they are so important.

As I said, last Friday the Department of Labor announced that 144,000 jobs were created during the month of August. That number is more than 100,000 jobs fewer than the 250,000 jobs the Bush administration estimated would be created each month this year. Over the last three months, the administration has not come close to hitting any of these estimates.

President Bush will certainly now be the first President since the Great Depression, since Herbert Hoover, to have lost jobs on his watch. Unless the economy creates 900,000 over the next few months, which is not possible really, the President will not have created one net job over the last 4 years, and if we contrast that with the economic record of President Clinton, before President Bush, Clinton created more than 20 million net jobs during his 8 years in office.

It is no wonder that the Republicans do not want to talk about their economic record and did not talk about it last week at the Republican National Convention.

Last year when the President was touting another round of his tax cuts, which I think clearly benefited the elite and more than the average American, the White House predicted that the cuts would create 2.1 million jobs in the 7 months after the passage of that tax cut bill. But what actually happened during that period? Only 296,000 jobs were created, 1.8 million short of the President's prediction. There is no indication that the tax cuts are helping the economy or that they are helping create jobs, none whatsoever.

The economic reports were so bad that President Bush's advisers refused to endorse the President's own Economic Report in which the administration predicted 2.6 million jobs would be created this year, and I think it is a good thing that the administration backed away from those estimates because there is no way its policies can create 2.6 million jobs this year.

One of my Democratic colleagues tonight talked about outsourcing, and I think that is an important factor in the issue of job loss under this administration. One of the major reasons for

the current job recession is the increased exporting of high-paying, white and blue collar jobs overseas.

I mentioned an example with the gentleman who came to my office who lost his job with Frigidaire, an air conditioning plant in Edison, that basically moved to Brazil, and we lost 1,500 jobs in my district. Earlier this year, the Ford plant in my district closed, leaving more than 900 New Jersey employees without jobs.

We do not even hear President Bush talking about the outsourcing issue or the fact that jobs from New Jersey and other States are being shipped overseas. Earlier this year, we learned the Bush administration views the movement of American factory jobs and white collar work to other countries as a positive transformation that will, in the end, enrich our economy. This is the whole free-trade theme, if you will, or spin that the President puts on the whole issue of jobs going overseas, but I mean, the bottom line is our economy can continue to grow; but if it does not grow by creating jobs here and the jobs are created overseas, that seems like that is okay with President Bush but it is not okay with me. It is certainly not okay with my constituents.

If you listen to what the congressional Democrats and Senator JOHN KERRY have been saying, we support abolishing tax breaks for companies who ship jobs overseas, and I do not know what to say. I do not know how you force the President to address this issue of outsourcing. He simply does not want to do it because I do not think he thinks that it is really a bad thing, and so he is not going to address it.

The other thing I wanted to talk about, and I talked about briefly when I mentioned this Bob Herbert article, about how the jobs that are being created, they pay substantially lower than the jobs that they replace. If you can, imagine losing your job and then searching and searching for another comparable job, only to realize that you are going to have to take a big pay cut. Well, that is what constituents who came to my office during the August break told me that was happening to them.

The new jobs being created are paying more than \$9,000 less than the old jobs that they replaced on the average in the United States. Families are being squeezed by falling incomes and rising costs. According to a Census report released last month, the typical family's income has fallen more than \$1,500 under George Bush, and essentially what you are seeing is Americans are worse off today because of the President's economic policies.

Now, this is not true if you are wealthy. If you are a wealthy individual, you are doing fine, but it is the middle class that is essentially struggling, and instead of coming up with proposals that will help the middle class, the President chooses tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas.

Overall, you end up with a 1.6 million job loss.

I talked tonight about how on many fronts we hear from the President or from the congressional Republicans that they are going to address some of these problems and that they are going to deal with some of the problems of the middle class squeeze. Of course, if you listened to President Bush's acceptance speech at the Republican Convention, he certainly puts a spin to suggest that somehow he is going to address health care costs, he is going to address the high cost of education, he is going to address the need for job training when someone loses their job.

But if you look at the actual record, and this happens to be true on so many domestic policy issues, you find that, in reality, what the Bush administration says is not what they actually do, and I just wanted to give a couple of examples that relate back to some of the issues that my colleagues mentioned tonight, and then I will conclude, Mr. Speaker.

I mentioned the whole job training issue, about how the President promised that there was going to be money for job training when people lost their jobs. In a second term, this was again in the President's acceptance speech last week at the Republican Convention, the President pledged to "double the number of people served by our principal job training program."

I talked about the guy who worked for Frigidaire in my district who was not able to get the job training that he was promised and ended up not being able to get another job when he lost his job at Frigidaire. In his 2005 budget, that is, the budget that we are now working on, the President proposed to cut job training and vocational education by 10 percent. That is \$556 million from what Congress pledged to those programs in 2002. So the President says in his acceptance speech at the Republican Convention that if he is re-elected he is going to double the number of people served by principal job training programs, but his current budget proposal would actually cut job training by 10 percent. Absolutely inconsistent.

He talked in his acceptance speech about increased funding for community colleges because we know that a lot of people who are middle class send their kids to community college because they cannot afford a 4-year college, not to mention private 4-year college.

Last year, the Bush administration proposed cutting the largest direct aid initiative to community colleges, the Perkins Program for technical vocational training, from \$1.3 billion to about \$1 billion. So here he is again, the President is saying in his acceptance speech at the Republican Convention, increased funding for community colleges. In reality, his budget that was proposed for the next fiscal year cuts money for community colleges.

The biggest program that middle class people rely on in terms of direct

funding for college education is the Pell grant proposal. In his speech he pledged to expand Pell grants for low and middle income families, but for the last 3 years, Bush has proposed freezing or cutting Pell grants, and that despite pledging in 2002 to raise Pell grants to a \$1,500 limit, the maximum Pell grant is currently \$4,050.

So, again, I can mention the health care issues, I could mention Medicare prescription drugs, education, job training. In every one of these areas, every one of these domestic what I would call priority areas, if you listened to the President's speech last week, he said we are going to address this and we are going to help the average American, but in reality, the policies for the last 3 or 4 years have done exactly the opposite.

Finally, I just want to say, if you listened to the President's speech last week at the Republican Convention, he renewed his calls to make his tax cuts permanent. This morning again I listened to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) talk about how over the next few weeks we are going to extend the tax cuts.

The reality is that the only people that are going to benefit from these policies are high-income households. Estimates based on data from the Urban Institute, the Brookings Institution, a tax policy center, show that if the tax cuts are made permanent that the top one percent of households will gain an average of \$58,200 a year. By contrast, people in the middle of the income spectrum will secure just a 2.5 percent increase in the after-tax income, with average tax cuts of \$655, a little more than 1/90th of what those in the top 1 percent would receive.

So, again, these tax policies have failed. They have not turned around the economy. The economy is not improving by any standard. The only people that are benefiting from the tax policies and the Republican economic policies are essentially the very wealthy, the people that are in the top 1 percent income bracket.

I started out this evening, Mr. Speaker, by asking the question, are you better off than you were 4 years ago. Clearly, the answer is no.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. FROST (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a family emergency.

Mr. BALLENGER (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today through September 20 on account of medical reasons.

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of travel delays.

Mr. RENZI (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of attending the funeral of a friend.

Mr. TAUZIN (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical 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 Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. HINCHEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STRICKLAND, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GINGREY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and September 8.

Mr. GINGREY, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at her own request) to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

A bill, a joint resolution, and concurrent resolutions of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2682. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 222 West 8th Street, Durango, Colorado, as the "Ben Nighthorse Campbell Post Office Building"; referred to the Committee on Government Reform.

S.J. Res. 41. Joint resolution commemorating the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian; referred to the Committee on House Administration.

S. Con. Res. 109. Concurrent resolution commending the United States Institute of Peace on the occasion of its 20th anniversary and recognizing the Institute for its contribution to international conflict resolution, referred to the Committee on International Relations.

S. Con. Res. 135. Concurrent Resolution authorizing the printing of a commemorative document in memory of the late President of the United States, Ronald Wilson Reagan; referred to the Committee on Administration.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2443. An act to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2005, to amend various laws administered by the Coast Guard, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3340. An act to redesignate the facilities of the United States Postal Service located at 7715 and 7748 S. Cottage Grove Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, as the "James E. Worsham Post Office" and the "James E. Worsham Carrier Annex Building", respectively, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3463. An act to amend titles III and IV of the Social Security Act to improve the administration of unemployment taxes and benefits.

H.R. 4222. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 550 Nebraska Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas, as the "Newell George Post Office Building".

H.R. 4226. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to make certain conforming changes to provisions governing the registration of aircraft and the recordation of instruments in order to implement the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Aircraft Equipment, known as the "Cape Town Treaty".

H.R. 4327. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7450 Natural Bridge Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Vitalis 'Veto' Reid Post Office Building".

H.R. 4417. An act to modify certain deadlines pertaining to machine-readable, tamper-resistant entry and exit documents.

H.R. 4427. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 73 South Euclid Avenue in Montauk, New York, as the "Perry B. Duryea, Jr. Post Office".

H.R. 4613. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4842. An act to implement the United States-Morocco Free Trade Agreement.

H.R. 4916. An act to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

H.R. 5005. An act to make emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, for additional disaster assistance.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 2712. An act to preserve the ability of the Federal Housing Administration to insure mortgages under sections 238 and 519 of the National Housing Act.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on July 22, 2004, he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 1303. To amend the E-Government Act of 2002, with respect to rulemaking authority of the Judicial Conference.

H.R. 4363. To facilitate self-help housing homeownership opportunities.

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on July 26, 2004, he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 1572. To designate the United States courthouse located at 100 North Palafox Street in Pensacola, Florida, as the "Winston E. Arnou United States Courthouse".

H.R. 1914. To provide for the issuance of a coin to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown settlement.

H.R. 2768. To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Chief Justice John Marshall.

H.R. 3277. To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 230th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, and to support construction of the Marine Corps Heritage Center.

H.R. 4380. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4737 Mile Stretch Drive in Holiday, Florida, as the "Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith Post Office Building".

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on July 28, 2004, he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 2443. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 for the United States Coast Guard, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3340. To redesignate the facilities of the United States Postal Service located at 7715 and 7748 S. Cottage Grove Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, as the "James E. Worsham Post Office" and the "James E. Worsham Carrier Annex Building", respectively, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3463. To amend titles III and IV of the Social Security Act to improve the administration of unemployment taxes and benefits.

H.R. 4222. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 550 Nebraska Avenue in Kansas City, Kansas, as the "Newell George Post Office Building".

H.R. 4226. To amend title 49, United States Code, to make certain conforming changes to provisions governing the registration of aircraft and the recordation of instruments in order to implement the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Aircraft Equipment, known as the "Cape Town Treaty".

H.R. 4327. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7450 Natural Bridge Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Vitalis 'Veto' Reid Post Office Building".

H.R. 4417. To modify certain deadlines pertaining to machine-readable, tamper-resistant entry and exit documents.

H.R. 4427. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 73 South Euclid Avenue in Montauk, New York, as the "Perry B. Duryea, Jr. Post Office".

H.R. 4613. Making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4759. To implement the United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement.

H.R. 4916. To provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on August 5, 2004, he presented to the President of the United

States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 4842. To implement the United States-Morocco Free Trade Agreement.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, September 8, 2004, 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:

9353. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Pyrimethanil; Pesticide Tolerances [OPP-2004-0195; FRL-7371-2] received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9354. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Propiconazole; Time-Limited Pesticide Tolerances [OPP-2004-0086; FRL-7352-1] received July 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9355. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Propanoic Acid; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-2003-0283; FRL-7358-4] received July 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9356. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Propamocarb hydrochloride; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-2004-0100; FRL-7368-8] received July 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9357. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a letter indicating the President's concurrence with Congress in the designation of funds provided as part of the Department of Defense Appropriations, FY 2005 (H.R. 4613) as an emergency requirement to support Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, the Department of State's Mission in Iraq, State and local law enforcement assistance for security and related costs associated with the 2004 Presidential Candidate Nominating Conventions, the Judiciary, and to respond to the humanitarian crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan; (H. Doc. No. 108-206); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

9358. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting requests for FY 2005 budget amendments for the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Energy, and the Corps of Engineers; (H. Doc. No. 108-208); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

9359. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting request for an emergency FY 2004 supplemental appropriation for the Department of Homeland Security; (H. Doc. No. 108-209); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

9360. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State,

transmitting a report on U.S. military personnel and U.S. individual civilians retained as contractors involved in supporting Plan Colombia, pursuant to Public Law 106-246, section 3204(f) (114 Stat. 577); to the Committee on Armed Services.

9361. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District [CA 287-0445; FRL-7804-2] received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9362. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wyoming; Restructuring and Renumbering of Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations [SIP NO. WY-001-0013, FRL-7784-8] received July 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9363. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Illinois [IL223-1a; FRL-7784-6] received July 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9364. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; State of Alaska; Fairbanks Carbon Monoxide Nonattainment Area; Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes [Docket #: AK-04-002a; FRL-7792-3] received July 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9365. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Priorities List for Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Sites [FRL-7790-6] received July 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9366. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan; South Coast Air Quality Management District [CA302-0463; FRL-7788-5] received July 23, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9367. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Colorado; Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes, Lamar and Steamboat Springs [CO-001-0076a, CO-001-0077a; FRL-7784-9] received July 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9368. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; State of Washington; Central Puget Sound Carbon Monoxide and Ozone Second 10-Year Maintenance Plans [Docket #:WA-04-001; FRL-7792-5] received July 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9369. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Printing, Coating,

and Dyeing of Fabrics and Other Textiles [OAR-2003-0014; FRL-7797-6] (RIN: 2060-AG98) received July 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9370. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting A report describing in detail Russian proliferation of WMD and ballistic missile goods, technology, expertise, and information, and of dual-use items that may contribute to the development of WMD and ballistic missiles, to Iran and other countries of proliferation concern, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 5952 note Public Law 107-314, section 1206; to the Committee on International Relations.

9371. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Accountability Review Board report and recommendations concerning serious injury, loss of life or significant destruction of property at a U.S. mission abroad, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 4834(d)(1); to the Committee on International Relations.

9372. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting certification that the export to the People's Republic of China of the specified items is not detrimental to the United States space launch industry and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from such exports, will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China, pursuant to Public Law 105-261, section 1512; (H. Doc. No. 108-210); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

9373. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 15-492, "Free Clinic Assistance Program Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9374. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 15-491, "Washington Convention Center Authority Advisory Committee Continuity Third Temporary Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9375. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 15-490, "Juvenile Flotation Device Requirement Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9376. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 15-489, "District Government Reemployed Annuitant Offset Elimination Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9377. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 15-488, "Multiple Dwelling Residence Water Lead Level Test Temporary Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9378. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 15-498, "Board of Education Continuity and Transition Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9379. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 15-504, "Washington Convention Center Authority Advisory Committee Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9380. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 15-503, "Inspector General Appointment and Term Clarification Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9381. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 15-527, "Anacostia Waterfront Corporation Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9382. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 15-505, "Georgetown Project and Noise Control Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9383. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 15-506, "Captive Insurance Company Enhancement Temporary Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9384. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 15-521, "Commission on Human Rights Establishment Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9385. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 15-522, "Office of Administrative Hearings Establishment Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9386. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 15-523, "Help America Vote Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9387. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 15-487, "Fiscal Year 2005 Budget Support Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9388. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 15-470, "Juvenile Flotation Device Requirement Temporary Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9389. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 15-473, "Mental Health Civil Commitment Extension Temporary Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9390. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 15-472, "Tax Increment Financing Reauthorization Date Temporary Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9391. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 15-471, "Walter Reed Property Tax Exemption Reconfirmation Temporary Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9392. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 15-469, "Eastern Market Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9393. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a

copy of D.C. Act 15-476, "Office of Property Management Reform Temporary Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9394. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 15-475, "Public Congestion and Venue Protection Temporary Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9395. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 15-478, "Board of Education Continuity and Transition Temporary Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9396. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 15-477, "Motorized Bicycle Responsibility Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9397. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 15-474, "Presidential Elector Deadline Waiver Second Temporary Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9398. A letter from the Clerk of the House of Representatives, transmitting the annual compilation of personal financial disclosure statements and amendments thereto filed with the Clerk of the House of Representatives, pursuant to Rule XXVII, clause 1, of the House Rules; (H. Doc. No. 108-205); to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and ordered to be printed.

9399. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule—Medicare Program; Changes to the Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems and Fiscal Year 2005 Rates [CMS 0938-AM80] (RIN: 0938-AM80) received August 2, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9400. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule—Medicare Program; Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System for Fiscal Year 2005 [CMS-1360-N] (RIN: 0938-AM82) received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9401. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Low-Income Housing Credit (Rev. Rul. 2004-82) received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9402. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Diane Fernandez v. Commissioner 114 T.C. 324 (2000) [Docket No. 16710-99] received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9403. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Kaffenberger v. United States, 314 F.3d 944 (8th Cir. 2003)—received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9404. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's

final rule—Appeals Settlement Guidelines; Leasing Promotions—Penalties for Leasing Stripping Transactions—received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9405. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Guidance Regarding the Treatment of Certain Contingent Payment Debt Instruments with One or More Payments that Are Denominated in, or Determined by Reference to, a Nonfunctional Currency [TD 9157] (RIN: 1545-AW33) received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9406. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Transitional Rule for Vested Accrued Vacation Pay [TD 9138] (RIN: 1545-BD12) received July 22, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9407. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—2004 Section 43 Inflation Adjustment [Notice 2004-49] received July 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9408. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—2004 Marginal Production Rates [Notice 2004-48] received July 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9409. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Statutory Options [TD 9144] (RIN: 1545-BA75) received August 4, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9410. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Extension of Time to Elect Method for Determining Allowable Loss [TD 9154] (RIN: 1545-BD64) received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9411. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Subsidiary Stock Loss Under Section 1.337(d)-2T [Notice 2004-58] received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9412. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Br., Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Forms and instructions (Rev. Proc. 2004-53) received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9413. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Information Reporting for Advance Payments of Health Coverage Tax Credit [Notice 2004-47] received July 6, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9414. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System and Consolidated Billing for Skilled Nursing Facilities—Update—Notice [CMS-1249-N] (RIN: 0938-AM46) received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

9415. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid

Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Medicare Program; Hospice Wage Index for Fiscal Year 2005 [CMS-1264-N] (RIN: 0938-AM78) received August 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

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:

[Filed on September 7, 2004]

Mr. REGULA: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 5006. A bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes (Rept. 108-634). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 2129. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study regarding the suitability and feasibility of designating certain historic buildings and areas in Taunton, Massachusetts, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 108-637). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 2400. A bill to amend the Organic Act of Guam for the purposes of clarifying the local judicial structure of Guam (Rept. 108-638). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 2457. A bill to authorize funds for an educational center for the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 108-639). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 2663. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating Castle Nugent Farms located on St. Croix, Virgin Islands, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes (Rept. 108-640). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 3056. A bill to clarify the boundaries of the John H. Chafee Coast Barrier Resources System Cedar Keys Unit P25 on Otherwise Protected Area P25P; with an amendment (Rept. 108-641). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 3257. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Western Reserve Heritage Area; with an amendment (Rept. 108-642). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 3334. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design and construction of the Riverside-Corona Feeder in cooperation with the Western Municipal Water District of Riverside, California; with an amendment (Rept. 108-643). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 3427. A bill to authorize a land conveyance between the United States and the City of Craig, Alaska, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 108-644). Referred

to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 3589. A bill to create the Office of Chief Financial Officer of the Government of the Virgin Islands; with an amendment (Rept. 108-645). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 3597. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, to conduct a feasibility study on the Alder Creek water storage and conservation project in El Dorado County, California, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 108-646). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 3954. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to resolve boundary discrepancies in San Diego County, California, arising from an erroneous survey conducted by a Government contractor in 1881 that resulted in overlapping boundaries for certain lands, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 108-647). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 4010. A bill to authorize and amend the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 (Rept. 108-648). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 4045. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a feasibility study with respect to the Mokelumne River, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 108-649). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 4459. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation and in coordination with other Federal, State, and local government agencies, to participate in the funding and implementation of a balanced, long-term groundwater remediation program in California, and for other purposes (Rept. 108-650). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 4481. A bill to amend Public Law 86-434 establishing Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in the State of Missouri to expand the boundaries of the park, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 108-651). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 4494. A bill to designate the Grey Towers National Historic Site in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 108-652). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. S. 943. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into 1 or more contracts with the city of Cheyenne, Wyoming, for the storage of water in the Kendrick Project, Wyoming (Rept. 108-653). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. S. 1537. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to the New Hope Cemetery Association certain land in the State of Arkansas for use as a cemetery (Rept. 108-654). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. S. 1576. An act to revise the boundary of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, and for other purposes (Rept. 108-655). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. S. 1721. An act to amend the Indian Land Consolidation Act to improve provisions relating

to probate of trust and restricted land, and for other purposes (Rept. 108-656). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. House Resolution 431. Resolution honoring the achievements of Siegfried and Roy, recognizing the impact of their efforts on the conservation of endangered species both domestically and worldwide, and wishing Roy Horn a full and speedy recovery (Rept. 108-657). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. House Resolution 700. Resolution directing the Attorney General to transmit to the House of Representatives documents in the possession of the Attorney General relating to the treatment of prisoners and detainees in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Guantanamo Bay, with an amendment; adversely; (Rept. 108-658). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. BOEHNER: Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 4496. A bill to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 to strengthen and improve programs under that Act; with an amendment (Rept. 108-659). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 4518. A bill to extend the statutory license for secondary transmissions under section 119 of title 17, United States Code; with an amendment (Rept. 108-660). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 754. Resolution providing for consideration for the bill (H.R. 5006) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes (Rept. 108-661). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. BOEHLERT: Committee on Science. H.R. 3551. A bill to authorize appropriations to the Department of Transportation for surface transportation research and development, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 108-662 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

REPORTED BILL SEQUENTIALLY REFERRED

Under clause 2 of rule XII, bills and reports were delivered to the Clerk for printing, and bills referred as follows:

[Omitted from the Record of July 22, 2004]

Mr. BARTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3143. A bill to enhance Federal Trade Commission enforcement against cross-border fraud and deception. (Rept. 106-635, Pt. 1); Referred to the Committees on Financial Services, International Relations, and Judiciary for a period ending not later than October 1, 2004, for consideration of such provisions of the bill as fall within the jurisdiction of those committees pursuant to clause 1(g), (j), and (k), rule X, respectively. Ordered to be printed.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the following action was taken by the Speaker:

[The following action occurred on September 7, 2004]

H.R. 3551. Referral to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure extended

for a period ending not later than October 1, 2004.

S. 144. Referral to the Committee on Agriculture extended for a period ending not later than September 30, 2004.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. YOUNG of Florida:

H.R. 5005. A bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, for additional disaster assistance; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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. REGULA:

H.R. 5006. A bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

By Mr. PORTER:

H.R. 5007. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security an Under Secretary for Local Government and Tourism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security (Select).

By Mr. MANZULLO (for himself and Ms. VELAZQUEZ):

H.R. 5008. A bill to provide an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through September 30, 2004, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. REHBERG:

H.R. 5009. A bill to extend water contracts between the United States and specific irrigation districts and the City of Helena in Montana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire (for himself and Mr. BASS):

H.R. 5010. A bill to authorize the establishment at Antietam National Battlefield of a memorial to the officers and enlisted men of the Fifth, Sixth, and Ninth New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry Regiments and the First New Hampshire Light Artillery Battery who fought in the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. BURNS (for himself, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. NORWOOD, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 5011. A bill to prevent the sale of abusive insurance and investment products to military personnel; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LAHOOD:

H.R. 5012. A bill to provide for the redesign of the reverse of the Lincoln 1-cent coin in 2009 in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 5013. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the frequency of disclosure of information by political organizations and to improve the linkage between databases for public disclosure of election-related information maintained by the Department of the Treasury and the Federal Election Commission; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speak-

er, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, and Mr. LANGEVIN):

H.R. 5014. A bill to direct the Director of the National Park Service to prepare a report on the sustainability of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor and the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Commission; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. MCHUGH (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. SWEENEY):

H.R. 5015. A bill to establish a Commission to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Samuel de Champlain in the Champlain Valley and for other purposes; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. OSBORNE:

H.R. 5016. A bill to extend the water service contract for the Ainsworth Unit, Sandhills Division, Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, Nebraska; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. PASCARELL:

H.R. 5017. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain capers preserved by vinegar or acetic acid; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PASCARELL:

H.R. 5018. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain capers preserved by vinegar or acetic acid; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PASCARELL:

H.R. 5019. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain pepperoncini prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PASCARELL:

H.R. 5020. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain pepperoncini prepared or preserved by vinegar or acetic acid in concentrations at 5% or greater; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PASCARELL:

H.R. 5021. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain pepperoncini prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid in concentrations less than 5%; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SWEENEY:

H.R. 5022. A bill to strengthen and expand scientific and technological education capabilities of associate-degree-granting colleges through the establishment of partnership arrangements with bachelor-degree-granting institutions; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SWEENEY:

H.R. 5023. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the payment of stipends to veterans who pursue doctoral degrees in science or technology; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. MCHUGH, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SCHROCK, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. SAXTON, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. REYES, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. KLINE, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. BACA, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. EVANS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. FILNER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. HILL):

H. Con. Res. 486. Concurrent resolution recognizing and honoring military unit family support volunteers for their dedicated service to the United States, the Armed Forces,

and members of the Armed Forces and their families; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. FROST, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. BELL, Mr. STENHOLM, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. HALL, and Mr. REYES):

H. Con. Res. 487. Concurrent resolution recognizing Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport on the occasion of its 30th anniversary; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. WAXMAN (for himself, Mr. MCHUGH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CLAY, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. SNYDER):

H. Res. 755. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Week and recognizing the importance to the Nation of residents of long-term care facilities, including senior citizens and individuals living with disabilities; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 104: Mr. FROST, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. McNULTY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 480: Mr. QUINN.
H.R. 502: Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire.
H.R. 504: Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 717: Mr. WEINER.
H.R. 852: Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 857: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
H.R. 979: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 996: Mr. SCHROCK and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 1043: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. MORAN of Kansas.
H.R. 1057: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 1117: Mr. FLAKE and Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida.

H.R. 1118: Mr. PORTER.
H.R. 1214: Mr. TURNER of Ohio.
H.R. 1231: Ms. MAJETTE.
H.R. 1328: Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 1422: Mr. JOHN.
H.R. 1428: Mr. BERRY and Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia.

H.R. 1433: Mr. BROWN of Ohio.
H.R. 1440: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 1470: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 1524: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 1684: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 1688: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1708: Mr. PORTER and Ms. MAJETTE.
H.R. 1726: Mr. PICKERING and Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 1755: Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina.
H.R. 1783: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 1859: Mr. LANTOS.
H.R. 1863: Mr. BISHOP of New York and Mr. CHANDLER.

H.R. 2034: Mr. GORDON.
H.R. 2180: Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 2181: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 2247: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 2318: Ms. HERSETH.
H.R. 2505: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 2671: Mr. HYDE and Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire.

H.R. 2763: Mr. PAUL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, and Ms. BORDALLO.

H.R. 2851: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 2863: Ms. PELOSI and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 2944: Mr. PAUL.
H.R. 2959: Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. GORDON, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. PETRI.
H.R. 2963: Mr. ISSA.
H.R. 2967: Mr. GREENWOOD and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 2974: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 2986: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 3052: Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire.
H.R. 3063: Mr. OLVER and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 3142: Mr. HOBSON, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 3193: Mr. KOLBE.
H.R. 3369: Mr. HOSTETTLER and Mr. CANTOR.
H.R. 3459: Mr. HOEFFEL.
H.R. 3474: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mr. GUTNECHT.
H.R. 3488: Mr. BELL.
H.R. 3539: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 3595: Ms. WATSON.
H.R. 3780: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 3858: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. HYDE, and Mr. CHANDLER.

H.R. 3881: Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 3974: Mr. BUTTERFIELD and Mr. WYNN.
H.R. 4000: Mr. HOSTETTLER.
H.R. 4026: Mr. DICKS, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, Mr. SPRATT, and Mr. LEACH.
H.R. 4097: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York and Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 4119: Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida and Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 4169: Mr. RAHALL, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. CHANDLER.

H.R. 4192: Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MEEHAN, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. STARK, Mr. BACA, and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 4204: Mrs. BIGGERT.

H.R. 4217: Mr. MARSHALL and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 4307: Mr. KELLER.
H.R. 4316: Mr. STARK.

H.R. 4341: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, and Mr. CHANDLER.
H.R. 4343: Mr. CANTOR, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. GOODE, and Mr. BOOZMAN.
H.R. 4358: Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania and Mr. ROHRBACHER.

H.R. 4430: Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H.R. 4433: Mr. COX, Mr. SCHROCK, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 4440: Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. DOOLITTLE, and Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire.

H.R. 4445: Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. WATT, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 4491: Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. FROST, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. GORDON, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Mr. PICKERING.

H.R. 4502: Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. HAYES, Mr. GORDON, and Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 4530: Mr. HERGER and Mr. BOOZMAN.
H.R. 4561: Mr. DEUTSCH.
H.R. 4575: Mr. CLAY, Mr. HOLT, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. PASCRELL, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 4578: Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. KIND, and Mr. GONZALEZ.
H.R. 4585: Ms. CARSON of Indiana and Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 4605: Mr. DAVIS of Alabama.
H.R. 4610: Mr. LEACH, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BACHUS, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. LAMPSON, and Mr. OLVER.

H.R. 4616: Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 4633: Mr. ISAKSON.
H.R. 4655: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4656: Mr. FROST.
H.R. 4662: Mr. RENZI.
H.R. 4664: Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 4670: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 4676: Mr. FILNER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. PITTS, Mr. WYNN, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. WATSON, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. GREENWOOD, and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 4710: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. WATSON, Mr. OWENS, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. WATERS, Mr. HOLT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. FILNER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Ms. SOLIS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. KUCINICH, and Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 4718: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 4765: Ms. LEE.
H.R. 4769: Mr. MARKEY and Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 4799: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. PORTER, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. BALDWIN, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H.R. 4823: Mr. OWENS and Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 4887: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 4894: Mr. FARR.
H.R. 4897: Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. LEE, Mrs. MALONEY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. HOLT, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. FILNER, Mrs. TAUSCHER, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 4905: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 4914: Mr. PETRI and Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 4917: Mrs. BLACKBURN and Ms. BALDWIN.

H.R. 4925: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 4926: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 4968: Mr. WHITFIELD, Mrs. NORTUP, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, and Mr. CHANDLER.

H.R. 4978: Mr. BOUCHER, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HOEFFEL, and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 4992: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 4993: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 4994: Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. OBERSTAR, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. ANDREWS, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 4995: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.J. Res. 44: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.
H.J. Res. 56: Mr. MARSHALL and Mr. LINDER.

H. Res. 373: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. SERRANTO, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. WATERS.

H. Res. 556: Mr. GILCHREST.
H. Res. 596: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PLATTS, and Mr. KLECZKA.
H. Res. 722: Mr. BASS, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. TERRY, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. GORDON, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr.

DOGGETT, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. FARR, Mr. FROST, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. ROSS, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. HALL, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. SNYDER, and Mrs. MYRICK.
H. Res. 751: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS—
ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

The following Member's name was withdrawn from the following discharge petition:

[Omitted from the Record of July 22, 2004]

Petition 8 by Mr. EDWARDS on House Resolution 584: Frank W. Ballance, Jr.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 5006

OFFERED BY: MR. TANCREDO

AMENDMENT NO. 1: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:
SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel to carry out the provisions of section 1011 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-173).

H.R. 5006

OFFERED BY: MR. GARRETT

AMENDMENT NO. 2: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:
SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to send or otherwise pay for the attendance of more than 50 Federal employees at any single conference occurring outside the United States.

H.R. 5006

OFFERED BY: MR. PAUL

AMENDMENT NO. 3: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:
SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to create or imple-

ment any new universal mental health screening program.

H.R. 5006

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT NO. 4: In title II, in the item relating to "CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION-DISEASE CONTROL, RESEARCH, AND TRAINING", in paragraph (2) of the first proviso, insert after the dollar amount (relating to the National Center for Health Statistics surveys) the following: "(increased by \$2,500,000)".

In title II, in the item relating to "NATIONAL CENTER ON MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES", insert after the dollar amount the following: "(increased by \$1,500,000)".

In title II, in the item relating to "CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES PROGRAMS", insert "(decreased by \$4,000,000)" after the aggregate dollar amount and insert "(decreased by \$4,000,000)" after the dollar amount in the tenth proviso (relating to competitive grants to provide abstinence education).