

at any time on Wednesday, April 6, 2005, for the Speaker to declare a recess, subject to the call of the Chair, for the purpose of receiving in joint meeting His Excellency, Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine.

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

There was no objection.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I want to introduce to my colleagues someone that they may already know, Ida May Fuller. Ida May was the recipient of the first Social Security check ever issued. In 1940, the year Ida May began collecting, Social Security was a dream come true for retiring Americans.

For every Ida May, there were 42 younger workers contributing to her retirement. Ida May worked under Social Security for 3 years, paid in \$24 and got more than \$22,000 in benefits. Ida May Fuller got one heck of a deal.

Fast forward now to 2005, March 15, 2005, the day that my 15th grandchild was born, Keegan Riley Shaw. Today, there are only three workers supporting each retiree; and soon, it will dwindle to two.

If we do not act now to save Social Security, when Keegan walks across the stage at his college graduation, a diploma will not be the only thing he is handed. Try a \$600 billion-a-year tax hike. And when Keegan retires and goes to his mailbox to get his Social Security check, unlike Ida May, he will be opening a giant IOU.

I am fighting so that my grandchildren, and every grandchild in America, have a secure retirement, just like Ida May. Let us start talking about the next generation, not the next election.

PRIVATIZING SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, like most of my colleagues, I have recently spent time traveling through my district and listening to my constituents. The President's plan to privatize Social Security was the number one issue for many of my constituents.

Not everyone has the means or ability to prepare for the future, and none of us can protect our families against all the misfortunes that can sweep us into economic hard times.

Mr. Speaker, the President's plan to privatize Social Security is social insecurity, not social security. By forcing people, especially seniors, to rely on private accounts that fluctuate with the market, the President is gambling with our economic safety net. When

the market loses ground, as it has in the past year, the safety net for America's seniors could be yanked away, not only for the seniors, Mr. Speaker, but for the survivors and the children.

We need to make sure that Social Security will continue to provide the same safety net against poverty that it has for almost 70 years.

GRATEFUL FOR BEING HERE AND THE LEADERSHIP IN THE HOUSE

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, just like the gentlewoman from Texas, I returned from my district late last night.

On the plane ride up here, I could not help but reflect on how grateful I am to my constituents for allowing me the opportunity to serve here in Congress; and, Mr. Speaker, I also reflected on the fact that I was grateful for the leadership we have in this House. I am grateful for the leadership we have in the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), our majority leader.

The majority leader has his critics. None of us are without fault, but recently it seems we cannot pick up a paper without some half-truth or conjecture being put out there as fact. I guess the game plan is to heck with facts, just keep repeating it and eventually it will receive believability.

Mr. Speaker, our majority leader is a target because he is so effective. They cannot beat him in the arena of public debate. Their policies do not sell in the marketplace of ideas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to look back at 10 years of electoral defeats on the other side to prove the point. Well, if they cannot outwork him and outthink him, if people are not buying what they are selling, then the game plan apparently is to tarnish our majority leader, and maybe then they can change the equation.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for our majority leader, and I am grateful to be working with him. This rank-and-file Member will stand with him. I would rather be working with our leader than running with the pack.

KEEP THE TRUST IN SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I noted with interest my colleague from Florida talking about Ida May Fuller, the first recipient of a Social Security check January 31, 1940. I, too, think that she is a symbol of what this debate is about. The debate is about our commitment to assure that our seniors and disabled and widows and survivors are not subjected to a life of poverty.

We do have far fewer workers today than we had for each Social Security recipient. We also have far fewer de-

pendents today. In many households today there are more workers than there are dependents. We are changing, but this was part of a plan that was approved by President Reagan and Democratic Speaker Tip O'Neill to change the Social Security program in 1983 to build up a \$1.3 trillion surplus that will continue building up in the future.

We do not have a problem if we keep the trust in Social Security and use that surplus for what it is used for, rather than spend it on tax cuts for people who do not need it or other frivolous government spending.

I strongly urge that we keep the commitment to the Ida May Fullers of the future by using that money for what it was intended.

TOP PRINCIPALS IN GEORGIA

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor a few of Georgia's top educators. The following principals, Robin Lattizori of Mt. Bethel Elementary School, Angela Bailey of Mountain View Elementary School, Ron Wade of Centennial High School, Dr. Michael Johnson of Kell High School, and Dr. Edward Spurka of Roswell High School, all have been named one of the top 10 principals in Georgia by the State's PTA.

These principals do not just teach; they reach. They inspire students and teachers, and they encourage our kids and our teachers and our parents to work in concert, resulting in more of our young people expanding their horizons and their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, teaching is more than reciting material out of a textbook and hoping that students absorb the information, and being a principal is more than making certain the doors open on time. The love, dedication, and inspiration these leaders display on a daily basis set them apart. They are the energy behind the bright lights of our education system and are working to nurture tomorrow's leaders.

To each of them I send a hearty congratulations and thank you; but most importantly, your students, their parents, and the teachers thank you for the passion with which you do your job. Well done.

NEED TO REIN IN FEDERAL JUDICIARY

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the President signed into law a bill ordering courts to take a new look, a de novo look, at the Terri Schiavo case. In legal terms, this means that a court must approach a case as if they have no prior knowledge of the facts. In a death penalty case, a de novo order reopens the entire case, and the judge issues a stay on the execution.

Instead, in Terri's case, they took a cursory look at the case, did not issue a stay and affirmed her death sentence.

The problem here is not Congress; it is the courts. These judges abandoned Terri's humanity on a technicality, and they blatantly ignored the law that Congress passed.

Since when do judges get to ignore the laws of the land? The fact is that they have been doing it for a long time, in ways that should concern both sides of the aisle in this body.

When judges are viewed as above the law, as immune from accountability, we have ceased to be ruled by the consent of the governed, the people. We need to get courts under control before we slip further towards a Nation ruled by judicial fiat.

The problem is that though judges are the arbiters of legal disputes, they have become lawmakers just like us. We do not live in a land governed by judges. We live in a land governed by the people; and if we continue to ignore that, we have only ourselves to blame.

AMERICA SUPPORTS YOU

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, as Members return from their districts, I know many will have heard from their constituents who would want to do more to show their support for our men and women in uniform.

Like us in Congress, the Department of Defense has heard that call as well; and to answer it, they have put together a wonderful effort. It is called America Supports You.

A few weeks ago, I met with the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Alison Barber, to discuss the importance of letting our military men and women know just how much we in America appreciate the sacrifices they are making in this war on terrorism. That is what America Supports You is all about.

I would like to encourage my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans alike, to tell their constituents about this effort and to post a link on their congressional Web site to www.americasupportsyou.com. Everyone should take a few moments to send a message of encouragement and thanks to our men and women in the military and to their families and let them know how much we appreciate the efforts that they are making for peace and to fight in the war on terrorism.

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WTO AND U.S. SOVEREIGNTY

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the World Trade Organization has now

ruled the State of Utah cannot ban Internet gambling within its own borders. The WTO said if the ban was enforced, Utah would be impeding the rights of the small nations of Antigua and Barbados.

Who would have ever thought that Antigua and Barbados would have more control over what goes on in Utah than the people of Utah themselves do?

This is ridiculous. What have we come to? Utah State Representative Sheryl Allen commented on this ruling saying, "It's not just gambling. The States are losing their authority in a lot of areas."

Where are those people now who told us that membership in the WTO would not cause any loss of U.S. sovereignty?

Mr. Speaker, we had plenty of free trade before the WTO even existed, and we could do so again. At the very least, we should renegotiate the terms of our membership to allow our States to prohibit Internet gambling if they wish to do so.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT MICHAEL T. HIESTER

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is written, "If you owe debts, pay debts; if honor, then honor; if respect, then respect."

I rise humbly today to pay a debt of honor and respect to Army National Guard Master Sergeant Mike Hiester of Bluffton, Indiana. As I saw firsthand last December at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan, Hoosiers have made an extraordinary difference for freedom in Operation Enduring Freedom, and Master Sergeant Mike Hiester was a leader of men in that place.

On March 26, 2005, Mike lost his life while fighting to defend America in Afghanistan. His military vehicle with the 76th Infantry Brigade Army National Guard, Indianapolis, struck a land mine 30 miles west of Kabul, Afghanistan, claiming his life and the lives of three other Indiana Army National Guard.

At his home in Bluffton, Indiana, he was known as a loving husband and father, a member of the Bluffton Fire Department, and he will not soon be forgotten by this grieving community of Bluffton, which will say goodbye to him this week.

I also offer my deepest condolences to his wife Dawn; his two children Emily and Adam; and his parents, Tom and Kay Hiester; as well as his sisters Megan and Michele, and all those across northeastern Indiana and all of our State who cherish the memory of this hero.

Master Sergeant Michael Hiester is a hero whose service and sacrifice bolstered the hopes of millions of Americans and Afghans, and the memory of his sacrifice and service will forever be

emblazoned on the hearts of two grateful nations.

POPE JOHN PAUL'S DREAM FOR FREEDOM LIVES ON

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as the world mourns the passing of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, it is important to note that the struggle for which the Pope lived goes on today. I remember very vividly, back in June of 1989, being in Krakow, Poland, when we saw those active in the Solidarity movement clawing their way to freedom. We all know the outcome of that.

As we watched the Pope decline over the past several weeks and months, I had the honor over the Easter break to join with a bipartisan delegation of our colleagues to travel throughout the Middle East. It is interesting to note, as I said, that the Pope's dream is alive and well. The dream that Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, and today George W. Bush has is one that is encouraging people throughout the world to seek an opportunity to enjoy freedom.

While we were in the Middle East, we had the chance to go to Beirut, Lebanon, where we met with university students who stood in Martyr Square, and who said they are imprisoned today by the Syrians and that they are trying to claw their way to freedom. So the exact same message, Mr. Speaker, that came forth in 1989 in Eastern and Central Europe is alive and well today. Thank God this Pope lived.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE J. DENNIS HASTERT, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) laid before the House the following communication from J. DENNIS HASTERT, Speaker of the House:

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 23, 2005.

Hon. JEFF TRANDAHLL,
Clerk of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CLERK: Consistent with Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I write to record that I have been served with a civil subpoena for documents issued by the Circuit Court for Cook County, Illinois.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII of the Rules of the House.

Sincerely,

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair