and women in uniform eliminated key al Qaeda figures, and we eliminated or cut some duplicative and wasteful government programs. We have a lot more to do. And we also passed legislation to work on our illegal immigration problem.

Mr. Speaker, this is going to be a great year. We are going to build on the successes of 2005, and we are going to act on the issues that matter to our constituents. Let's get to work.

MEDICARE PART D AND THE DONUT HOLE

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, the gentlewoman was energized in talking to her constituents and encouraged by it, but I guess she didn't talk to any seniors about Medicare part D.

I have the unfortunate privilege of probably representing the first victim in the United States of America of the so-called donut hole. You don't know what the donut hole is? They wanted to pretend that you could preclude Medicare from negotiating lower drug prices, subsidize the pharmaceutical and insurance industries, and do all this for $400 billion. Of course, it turns out it will be more like $800 billion; but in order to get there, they had to create this weird construct. After you pay your payments, your premiums, and all that, you get to a certain point, around $2,000 or so, where you have to pay everything for the next $2,850.

This constituent doesn't have $2,850. The pharmaceutical companies eliminated the compassionate drug programs because they said, hey, these people can get this great Federal benefit. This means, in all likelihood, if we can't get this woman some help, she will die. Medicare part D. I guess she didn't talk to her constituents about that.

RADICAL ZEALOT

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the Iranian president is up to his old tricks again, recently claiming that God has put him on a divine mission to have nuclear weapons. This bizarre banter comes from the same sinister man who called for the destruction and devastation of Israel. This is more than disturbing. Iran's commander in chief is obviously a saber-rattling zealot who puts world security in turmoil.

Mr. Speaker, the President of Iran is defiant and determined to lead his country in a dangerous direction. He supports organizations that kill Americans, like the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, and encourages the use of violence against Israel. Hopefully, the people of Iran see the destructive behavior of their president and want to bring about a free and stable Iran that wants to be a part of the community of nations.

A nuclear-armed Iran is a dangerous and deadly threat to the Middle East and all of the Free World. We must keep America as well as the rest of the world safe from this radical reactionary outlaw with his ridiculous ambitions. This is a matter of world security.

That's just the way it is.

FISCAL YEAR 2007 BUDGET

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise because I believe working-class Americans deserve a Federal budget which is compassionate, decent, and provides hope to the American public.

President Bush's budget for fiscal year 2007 fails on all counts and provides insufficient funding for one of our Nation's greatest investments: its health.

Despite the confusing and poorly implemented new Medicare prescription drug benefit program, President Bush's budget cuts Medicare by $35 billion in the next 5 years, it cuts funding for public health programs by $126 million, and puts more families at risk of food and security by cutting more than $706 million in assistance.

Even with the growing problem of health care disparities and lack of insurance for communities of color, the budget slashes the Office of Minority Health Programs by 20 percent.

To our children, to those battling high health care costs, and to the uninsured, this budget, in my opinion, is not compassionate and it doesn't provide the American public with hope.

Americans deserve better. We must not inflict this pain on the most vulnerable populations in our country.

WAR ON TERROR AND BUDGET REQUEST

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as my stepson, Douglas Lehtinen, and his fiancee, Lindsay Nelson, wrap up their mission in Iraq, where they have been serving as Marine officers flying F–18s, I want to thank all of the brave men and women who wear our Nation's uniform for their commitment and the service that they are performing. I am pleased that the President's budget submitted to Congress this week provides more funding for the protection of our troops overseas.

The budget also provides the necessary funds to win the war on terror and enables our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan to defeat the enemy and protect our liberties. The budget calls for funding that will help our military transform itself to face current and emerging challenges.

Whether conventional military threats to our security interests or unconventional ones from terrorists and their supporters, we must be prepared for what tomorrow brings. Thank you, Mr. President, for supporting our troops.

FISCAL YEAR 2007 BUDGET

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have always been told that budgets are a way of reflecting priorities. And if that is the case, then the budget documents that I have seen are indeed frightening.

The proposed budget I have seen will serve to widen the gap between the rich and the poor, cut vital health services for people who need them the most, and increase the cost of higher education.

I had hoped that the budget this year was going to be something different, but I am afraid it is the same old soup warmed over, the same old lemon with a new twist, and same old trickle-down theory of economics. I hope that we will tear it apart and send it back.

SALUTING THE SOUTH CAROLINA LEUKEMIA AND LYMPHOMA SOCIETY

(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, in 2006, over 1,850 South Carolinians will be diagnosed with leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, or melanoma. Unfortunately, this devastating statistic is reflected in communities throughout our Nation.

While families struggle to cope with these serious diseases, the South Carolina Leukemia and Lymphoma Society is fighting to find cures and improve the quality of life for patients and their families. By focusing their resources on research, patient services, professional education and advocacy, a dedicated group of volunteers and staff are making tremendous progress every day.

Today, I am honored to recognize the South Carolina Leukemia and Lymphoma Society for its service. As blood cancers continue to threaten the lives of our family members and friends, I would like to encourage my colleagues and all Americans to join in this important fight.

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

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET CUTS FEDERAL FUNDING FOR METHAMPHETAMINE PROGRAMS

(Mr. BAIRD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of local communities in my State and throughout this country that are fighting a terrible battle against methamphetamine, its production and use. And I rise to express grave concern about the impact of our President's budget proposal on that fight.

Let me share with you some troubling figures. The President of the United States has proposed to cut COPS funding by $376 million, he has proposed to cut the Meth Hot Spots program by $23.5 million, the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program by $353 million, and he has proposed to completely eliminate Byrne grants.

Now, I can tell you that when I go back home and I talk to my sheriffs and police officers and treatment specialists, they tell me meth is a catastrophe in our communities and we must fight it. Regrettably, this President's budget cuts the funds we need to prevail in that fight.

We need to restore those funds, and we need to emphasize to this administration that we have terrorists operating right here at home in our communities, and methamphetamine is their weapon of choice.

HONORING CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 657, honoring the contributions of our country's nearly 8,000 Catholic schools. Catholic schools provide an invaluable service to our country and offer excellent academic instruction to their students.

Take, for example, St. Leo the Great Catholic School in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. St. Leo was recently named a No Child Left Behind nationally recognized blue ribbon school for its academic superiority. It was one of just 10 North Carolina schools to receive this award and was the only school in the entire State to achieve this recognition.

Not only do Catholic schools provide excellent academic preparation, but they also mold students into upstanding citizens who are strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities.

For this, I am proud to join many of my colleagues in congratulating our Nation's Catholic schools, students, parents, and faculty for the key role they play in promoting a brighter and stronger future for America.

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FISCAL YEAR 2007 BUDGET

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the budget the President unveiled this week takes from the poor, gives to the rich, and leaves all of us in a worse fiscal mess.

At a time of war, when our soldiers are risking their lives halfway across the world, where is the call for shared sacrifice? Do millionaires deserve $50 billion in tax cuts, paid for by reducing services for the lowest-income families? Can we afford to extend tax breaks for the wealthiest 1 percent when our fiscal obligations include spending over $1 billion a week in Iraq, the rebuilding of the gulf coast, and protecting the homeland from terrorist threats?

Instead of responsibly budgeting for these costs, we are in a fiscal free-fall, giving breaks to those who need it the least while slapping away the hands of those who need help the most.

This administration is the most fiscally irresponsible in U.S. history, responsible for the four largest annual deficits ever. We have gone from a projected 10-year surplus of $5.6 trillion in 2001 to a projected deficit of $3.3 trillion, a reversal of $9 trillion.

Mr. Speaker, this budget lacks compassion, is fiscally irresponsible, and does not reflect the priorities of this great Nation.

THE PRESIDENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2007 BUDGET

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the President's budget. As a physician who used to take care of a lot of Medicare patients prior to my election in 1994, one of the first things I look at in the budget are the Medicare numbers, after I look at the NASA numbers and a couple of other things.

Members of this body need to know, and the American public, that the President's budget calls for a 15 percent increase in Medicare spending. You may be surprised to hear that because the press is talking about Medicare cuts. Indeed, Democrats are talking about Medicare cuts. You even heard that on the floor today.

It is projected to go from $396 billion to $457 billion in 2007, and by 2011 to grow to $587 billion. Where is the cut? There is no cut. The President is trying to slow the growth of this entitlement program, which is unsustainable in the future unless we can enact significant reforms. God bless us if we are unable to do that.

This is, in my opinion, the right thing to do for the President, and he needs to be commended. And for those who mischaracterize this as a cut, they need to start telling the truth.

THE BUDGET

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, red ink, record budget deficits mount every year. On top of it, America has also been racking up record trade deficits this year, more imports than exports every single day. These twin deficits are stifling real economic growth for our country as we sink deeper and deeper into debt.

Every year, with all the unfair trade agreements that have been signed, the red ink just keeps getting deeper. We are hemorrhaging America's good jobs, with fewer people working at good jobs to create real wealth. It is no surprise we have fewer resources to pay off our debts.

At the same time, the United States becomes more and more beholding to foreign interests that are financing these deficits. We are not only giving them our money, we are giving them our future and paying them hundreds of billions a year in interest. Is it any surprise that retailing of foreign goods is now America's biggest business?

Federal Reserve's former chairman Alan Greenspan warned that this relentless deficit growth cannot persist. How long will it be before we put a foreclosure sign on our U.S. Department of the Treasury? What an embarrassment for a Nation founded in independence.

THE BUDGET

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

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the President for submitting a budget proposal that will meet America's needs while maintaining fiscal accountability and responsibility. He understands that if you are going to ask everybody to tighten up the purse strings, you have to be at the front of the line.

The American people don't expect us to agree on everything, but as Members of this great body they expect us to stop complaining about the issues before us and start working together to find solutions for our children and our grandchildren.

I hope someday I am down here debating the Government Waste Reduction Act, which would slow the growth of government by 5 percent and reduce the deficit by an estimated $510 billion over 5 years. But until then, I will look forward to working with my colleagues on the Budget Committee, Republicans and Democrats alike, as we move through this process.

In submitting this budget, President Bush has set the tone and given Congress a great starting point. It is now up to us to act.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN VIRGINIA SMITH

(Mr. OSBORNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1