

while relying on their wonderful sense of teamwork, which should be an example to all of us. Twice they rallied from double-digit deficits in both the round of 32 and the round of 8 against the Nation's top-ranked teams to accomplish this historic feat.

Members of the 2005–2006 Patriots include Tony Skinn, Jordan Carter, Makan Konate, Gabe Norwood, Tim Burns, Jesus Urbina, Lamar Butler, John Vaughan, Will Thomas, Chris Fleming, Folarin Campbell, Sammy Hernandez, Charles Makings and Jai Lewis.

Mr. Speaker, the George Mason University men's basketball team will be one to remember for the entire Mason community, from the student athletes who achieved this amazing feat, to the coaches, to the students and the entire Northern Virginia region.

I wish them the very best in this weekend's tournament in Indianapolis.

HOLLY'S LAW/RU-486

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month two more women died after using the abortion drug RU-486.

A premature death is always tragic. But the deaths of these women are even harder to bear because they simply did not have to happen.

We already knew RU-486 to be dangerous and life-threatening. These are not the first deaths linked to it. Yet, despite this knowledge, neither the drug's manufacturer nor the FDA, has been willing to pull it from the market.

Faced with this reluctance, Congress has the duty to take action.

We often hear advocates of abortion promote their cause in the name of women's rights and women's health. If they want to protect women, then they should add their support to H.R. 1079, Holly's Law, offered by my colleague from Maryland, Mr. BARTLETT. This common-sense bill would withdraw FDA approval of RU-486 and subject it to a thorough review to measure its health risk.

Mr. Speaker, we should act in the best interest of women's health. Let us pass Holly's Law.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA ON ITS FINAL FOUR APPEARANCE

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Florida Gators men's basketball team on their third Final Four appearance and the second in the past 5 years.

Now, at the beginning of the season, not much was expected of these young Gators. However, they rose to a number two national ranking on the strength of a 17-game winning streak,

and they continued that success through the post-season, winning the Southeastern Conference Tournament and then advancing to the Final Four with a 75–62 win over the top-seeded Villanova Wildcats.

Mr. Speaker, this Saturday in Indianapolis, the Gators will face the George Mason University Patriots whose Cinderella story has been equally inspiring. In recognition of this event, I have offered a friendly wager of a case of Gatorade to my colleague, Tom Davis.

Gatorade's creation in 1965 by Dr. Robert Cade at the University of Florida has marked the success of the University of Florida's athletic teams through the past decades and will hopefully aid in victory in the 2006 Final Four.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, when enrollment began for the new Medicare prescription drug plan last November, most American people heard only about what was wrong with the program. Now, after 3 months in the new program, have you heard the good news?

Last week, the Department of Health and Human Services announced that more than 27 million individuals are now receiving prescription benefits under the plan, when before they received none, 1.9 million new folks just in the last month alone.

As more seniors sign up, they are seeing the benefits of the new program. A recent report of the New York Times included comments from individuals who have signed up and seen their prescription drug costs drop dramatically.

One woman saw her monthly costs drop from \$476 to \$100 a month. A February HHS report announced that the average premium had fallen from an estimate of \$37 per month to \$25 per month in actual cost.

As this plan moves forward, Congress must make sure that flexibility exists to respond to patient needs. We should also share the good news because it is the right thing to do.

REMEMBERING CASPAR WEINBERGER AND LYN NOFZIGER

(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, I rise today to remember two great Americans, former Secretary of State Caspar Weinberger and former advisor and press secretary to Ronald Reagan, Lyn Nofziger. Both Californians, both true patriots and both World War II veterans, both dedicated public servants and both notable contributors to the Reagan revolution and legacy.

President Reagan's vision of peace through strength found the perfect ad-

vocate and architect in Secretary Weinberger. He rebuilt and revitalized a military that had suffered from underfunding and underappreciation. His success laid a foundation for the end of the Cold War and for the military might we rely upon today.

He recognized that a strong defense would not only secure the peace, but would protect our freedom as well. Cap said, "Peace alone is not enough. Peace can mean even slavery sometimes. Peace and freedom is what we have to have."

Lyn Nofziger is probably best known for his off-color humor and his dedication to his long-time boss, Ronald Reagan. As a spokesman for the Governor and the President, he communicated on behalf of the Great Communicator.

During the dark hours after the attempt on President Reagan's life, it was Lyn who relayed to the world Reagan's famous line, "Honey, I forgot to duck."

What Lyn valued most, though, was freedom and the pursuit of it. On his Web site, which is still up and where you can still read his musings, he said that he was a Republican "because I believe freedom is more important than government-provided security."

Mr. Speaker, these were remarkable men who so strongly valued freedom that they fought for it, and so fully believed in the promise of the United States that they gave voice and policy to a President who made our country more prosperous and our world more free.

We honor the service and tremendous contributions of Caspar Weinberger and Lyn Nofziger. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 23, 2006.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 23, 2006, at 1:56 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 83.
With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 28, 2006.

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, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 28, 2006, at 9:30 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1259.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, Speaker pro tempore Aderholt signed the following enrolled bills on Friday, March 17, 2006:

H.R. 4826, to extend through December 31, 2006, the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits;

S. 2275, to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out the National Flood Insurance Program;

S. 2320, to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes.

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 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.

□ 1430

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER ENFORCEMENT ACT

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4882) to ensure the proper remembrance of Vietnam veterans and the Vietnam War by providing a deadline for the designation of a visitor center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4882

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Enforcement Act”.

SEC. 2. SITE.

Section 6 of Public Law 96–297 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) SITE.—The visitor center authorized by subsection (a) shall be located in the open land in the triangular area between Henry Bacon Drive, NW, 23rd Street, NW, Constitution Avenue, NW, and the Lincoln Memorial.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days 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 gentleman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 4882, introduced by Resources Committee Chairman RICHARD POMBO, along with Ranking Member NICK RAHALL, Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN and myself, would locate the congressionally approved underground visitors center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on land adjacent to the Lincoln Memorial.

Chairman POMBO felt compelled to take this unusual action in direct response to what he and I and others believe is the unreasonable bureaucracy choreographed by the National Capital Planning Commission.

In November of 2003, the President signed the bill into law authorizing the creation of the visitors center. For 3½ years, this project has been under way with the National Park Service and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund having promptly met all requests for environmental and related information on the siting of the center. Yet, the commission demands more.

Last November, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and the National Park Service gave the commission an extensive traffic analysis and met other information requests for a December 1 meeting at which the commission was expected to approve the site. However, without any notice to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the commission removed the visitors center from the meeting agenda and requested an extensive and unprecedented environmental analysis.

There is no need for an additional analysis. In compliance with the Commemorative Works Act, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund commissioned a site selection study environmental analysis in June 2005 that recommended the most appropriate site, which is cited in H.R. 4882, as amended. Site A, as it is known, would not interfere or encroach on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial or other memorials

and protects the open space and visual sight lines of the National Mall as required by the authorizing legislation.

As a Vietnam veteran, I believe the visitors center is a long overdue complement to the most visited memorial in Washington, DC. While “the Wall,” as it has become known, certainly provides a visitor with an intense and solemn experience, it lacks personal context. Our brave soldier, sailors, and airmen desperately need something more, an experience that can help them heal while bringing closure. Their objectives were honorable and their sacrifice was exemplary. Yet their heroism remains unnoticed by younger generations.

As today’s participants in the military, young men and women, fight the war on terror, there is no better way to reassure them that America will honor their sacrifice, no matter what the Nation feels. The greatest thing that we can do to reassure them is to honor our Vietnam veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, as amended.

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

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

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

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join Chairman POMBO as an original cosponsor of this measure, along with the ranking member on our Parks Subcommittee, Representative DONNA CHRISTENSEN. We urge our colleagues to approve H.R. 4882.

While the fighting ended more than 30 years ago, our work as a nation to reconcile with all that took place during the Vietnam Era continues.

Just as the Revolutionary War gave birth to our liberty, and the survival of our Union through the Civil War and two World Wars gave us strength, the lessons of the Vietnam War can grant us wisdom; and while the emotions stirred by that war in the hearts and minds of Americans are many and varied, the journey this Nation has taken with regard to Vietnam resembles nothing so much as a journey of grieving.

We grieve for the fallen, for the bereft families, for the survivors and their painful scars, and for the wounds inflicted on the country and the people of Vietnam.

Mr. Speaker, the experts tell us that there are stages to the grieving process. In those 30 years, we have experienced them each in turn.

The process began with denial and with anger. For a time, we denied Vietnam its rightful place in American history as we denied those who fought and died their rightful place in the pantheon of American heroes. And Lord knows we have felt the anger. To our shame, we directed much of that anger at those who served.

We have also lived through what the experts call the bargaining phase. We