

But the hard questions go back to why the other studies are fundamentally flawed. Why were those questions not asked? Again, they left out the underestimated transition costs, they have used a so-called typical household, and the fact that they look at exceptionally high projections for market returns. Those are the questions we need to send back to our children.

I would also say, I am not giving up on our children, our sons and our daughters. They see the benefit to their parents or, in some cases, their grandparents. They understand that their parents are being able to pay for their education. They are able to help them buy that first home, because their parents' parents are not reliant on them for their everyday household needs. I think that that is very important.

So if we just let them kind of capture back in, look around and see the benefits social security has provided in their own family, in their own family today, and then look at friends who might have had a loss of a parent, or if they have had somebody who has been on disability at an early age, they can truly look and see what this program has provided. I hope we will continue to do these kinds of things, to continue to bring these issues to the American people.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) has been great, and I have enjoyed this, I say to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT).

Mr. DOGGETT. I thank both Members for their continuing work on this topic.

I would just summarize in these closing minutes and say that the first thing is to put social security first. We say, save social security first. Do not engage in a bunch of new spending programs. Do not dissipate the surplus with some politically-motivated changes in the tax code. Use the resources that are available at this great time in the American economy to see that social security is saved first.

Then second, it is a matter of our working towards a bipartisan agreement. I believe that we can do that in a constructive way. We must do that. We should move forward immediately with the President's program and see how we can make it even better to preserve this very valuable system.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK EARLE McCAMMOND, AN EAGLE SCOUT FROM CARTERET COUNTY

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this is not an easy time for young children in America. Mixed messages from our society about morality and the value of truth can confuse an already difficult time for our Nation's children.

When so many young people today are finding destructive means to cope

with everyday frustrations and concerns, I am proud to bring to Members' attention an outstanding young man from the Third District of North Carolina who has taken positive steps to ensure a bright future for himself and his community.

At just 14 years of age, Patrick Earle McCammond recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. The Eagle Scout rank is the highest rank in scouting. In fact, only about 2.5 percent of Boy Scouts ever achieve Eagle Scout. It is an accomplishment reserved for young men who incorporate the principles in the Boy Scout oath and the Boy Scout motto in their daily lives, and earn 21 merit badges in areas ranging from community service and leadership to physical fitness. Patrick not only handled and met these standards, but he far surpassed the minimum requirements. In all, Patrick has earned a total of 55 merit badges, with more in the works. That is more than double what is required.

He has also received a number of honors and awards within Boy Scouts in his community, which include the Arrow of Light, World Conservation Award, International Catholic Awareness Medallion, and the High Adventure Patch.

While achieving this rank itself is an accomplishment, Patrick has literally dedicated his youth to helping his community. When I learned of Patrick's achievements at such a young age, I certainly was impressed. But only when I learned about a project he developed for his community did I fully recognize the impact of scouting on Patrick's life and his future.

One additional requirement for Eagle Scout is the completion of a service project to benefit a religious institution, school, or community. We have a strong military presence in North Carolina. In the Third District alone, which I have the privilege to represent, we have four military bases with 77,000 retired veterans and another 10,000 retired military. Knowing this, Patrick created a website designed to assist the veterans in his Carteret County community.

Mr. Speaker, there are many young men in the Third District of North Carolina like Patrick who have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, and even more who will in the future. As their congressman, I am proud of each and every one.

What makes Patrick McCammond's efforts special to me is his concern for our veterans. No matter what age, we as a Nation must never forget the men and women who have served this Nation to protect the freedoms we enjoy today.

Patrick paid tribute by taking steps to research, create, and implement his project. First he worked with computer professionals and area veterans' organizations to develop the website, which he named carteretvets.org. He obtained technical and financial support from

local businesses in order to print informative guides he designed to publicize the website. He worked with his fellow scouts and classmates to check the site to ensure it was complete, and to check for flaws.

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Finally, he led demonstrations to introduce his complete project to local veterans groups. Hundreds of veterans across the country have now visited and benefited from Patrick's web site.

Outside of his life as a member of the Boy Scouts, Patrick serves as the eighth grade class representative to his school student council at Annunciation Catholic School. He maintains a B average in his studies and is a state-level swimmer on the Carteret Currents swim team.

Patrick also serves as one of the 32 students who were selected from hundreds in the entire State of North Carolina to be a First Flight Ambassador for the Class of 2003, First Flight Centennial.

Mr. Speaker, in today's society it is easy to lose sight of the values of honor, integrity, and character, yet they are the foundations that make our citizens and our Nation strong.

I would like to thank the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Little League, and all programs and organizations within our communities that work to help teach our children values and help them to recognize their own potential.

Mr. Speaker, Patrick McCammond exemplifies all that is good in the youth of America today. I am proud of him and the example that he is setting for his peers by taking pride in his family, his faith, and his country. In his actions and in his deeds he, and all who participate in Scouting, reflect the values and spirit of community service that will build the future leaders who will make us all proud.

OBVIOUS BENEFITS OF A CONSERVATIVE, HUMANITARIAN APPROACH TO GOVERNING IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SCHAFFER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, before I start, let me just invite all of our colleagues who are watching and following the floor proceedings on the Republican side who have been looking forward to this evening's special order as an opportunity to showcase and feature a number of the successes of the Republican Conference here in Congress.

Our agenda is one, of course, of fighting for lower taxes, fighting for strong national defense, insisting that we find methods to secure and safeguard the Social Security Administration, and creating and providing the world's best education structure. I want to talk about the obvious benefits of a conservative, humanitarian approach to governing in America.