for former soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who risked their lives to protect our freedoms and this legislation is another step towards meeting that sacred obligation.

The inclusion of $417 million for VA medical care is a responsible and absolutely necessary action that this Congress must take. Again, I want to commend Chairman YOUNG, and Subcommittee Chairman WALSH, for once again demonstrating their commitment to America's veterans.

2002 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FURTHER RECOVERY FROM AND RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4775) making supplemental appropriations for further recovery from and response to terrorist attacks on the United States for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes!

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Chairman, all members of Congress were ready to debate and pass a supplemental budget in support of the war effort, and for other emergencies. We have been shocked by the addition of a section which raises the national debt ceiling by 750 billion dollars. This giant expenditure without debate is designed to protect the massive Republican tax cut for the rich. This legislation represents a gross abuse of power.

Mr. Chairman, this gross abuse of power must be challenged. The Republican juggernaut is out of control and they must be exposed in the eyes of the American people. Through an undemocratic, autocratic process under the camouflage of parliamentary tricks, the Republicans are staging an economic coup using a tax cut to permanently place the rewards of our economy in the hands of the corporate elite. The supplemental budget process is being abused to protect and enshrine the tax cut for the rich. It is a clear statement that the Republicans claim the nation's resources for the benefit of the rich alone.

Republicans are declaring, that the constitutional infrastructure established by the founding fathers and nurtured by succeeding generations belongs only to the rich elite. The Republicans are seizing for themselves alone all of the wealth that flows from American scientific and technological achievement; from military research and testing; from grants for domestic research. All the wounds and battlefield deaths of American heroes in all the wars are now deemed to be for the sake of only the rich. A massive tax cut for the rich accomplishes the clear purpose of leaving the treasury emptied of all funds that might be used for the benefit of the poorer ninety percent of the population. The Republican action makes more than 200 years of struggle for a more perfect union only for the comfort of the rich. By their actions related to the supplemental budget the Republicans confiscate America the Beautiful as America for the rich and powerful. Will these same rich and powerful recipients of the tax cut volunteer for the front lines if the war against terrorism is prolonged and a draft becomes necessary? Will those who have the most to lose step forward or will the draft again be a vehicle which forces the sons of working families to die to preserve the comforts of the rich? The public must be fully made to understand the cynical, selfish, cold blooded posture of Republican policy. Republicans never voted for social security, medicare or medicaid. Republicans refuse to raise the minimum wage. Currently, as well as in the past, Republicans do not hide their plot to strip the Federal government of programs that benefit working families and the unfortunate poor. More than a decade ago David Stockman wrote a book outlining the plot that Ronald Reagan could not quite complete. With this stealth effort to raise the debt ceiling without debate, the scheme to kidnap the Treasury is given new life. Despite the extra expenditures for the war against terrorism, there would be no necessity to increase the debt ceiling by 750 billion dollars if the Republican tax cut for the rich had not been rammed through in the first year of this session of Congress. Every Democrat has a duty to sound the trumpet and spread the word that an economic takeover, a fiscal coup is underway that will rob our Nation and make it impossible to provide a prescription drug, benefit; increased funds for education and school construction; and adequate day care and children's programs. Every voter must understand that this defiant Democratic initiated debate on the eve of Memorial Day is a landmark battle for the people against the selfish few.

2002 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FURTHER RECOVERY FROM AND RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4775) making supplemental appropriations for further recovery from and response to terrorist attacks on the United States for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Chairman, I come to the floor tonight to voice my utter disgust for what we as Members of Congress, representatives of our great nation, have to do here tonight. We as representatives of our constituencies must voice that we will not stand by idly and let a few destroy everything America's workers have diligently worked for all their lives. Though we may not win this battle, which is rumored not to end until early in the morning, know that we, those who truly represent working Americans, will not stop fighting this legislative battle.

Over the last 15 months, we have experienced the worst fiscal reversal in our nation's history—with $5 trillion in projected surpluses over the next 10 years having disappeared. Last year, it was projected that publicly-held national debt would be completely paid off by 2008. And yet now, due largely to the economic plans put in place last year by the Bush Administration and Congressional Republicans, the publicly-held national debt is going up and not down. As a result, the country is now hitting the current statutory debt limit of $5.95 trillion.

But some of us, those who continue to fight for American workers, children, and seniors saw this coming. In face of a deteriorating economic picture, Democrats pleaded for Republicans to join us at an economic summit so we could put our country back on the path to long-term economic growth and opportunity. Instead of working towards this goal, our attempts were dismissed and now we have experienced a dramatic reversal of continued prosperity, a dramatic reversal of a growing hope to increase education spending, a dramatic reversal of saving seniors from loosing the money they put into social security, and a dramatic reversal of a decreased percentage of unemployed workers to a steadily increasing number of unemployed workers facing more hardships by the dozen.

Today, I stand here fighting a battle with my colleagues. A battle that calls for us to think twice about what we as a governing body will do if this legislation is passed. If the debt ceiling is raised we can no longer envision our plan to leave no child behind. We can no longer envision our plan to continuously provide social security to all of our seniors. We can no longer envision our plan to level off the current unemployment rates. The bottom line is that so much of what America stands for and yearns to become can be washed away with final passage of this supplemental appropriations bill that provides much more than what we can afford. We thought the tax cuts passed by the majority would slowly chip away at the American dream of so many, but we were in for such a surprise. Yes, there was much more in store. What was in store was this supplemental. Think about it. Think about the chipping away of our nation's future. Think about denying Americans what they deserve and have worked for all their lives. Think hard. Think if you want to take the blame for what will surely come. Once every Member in this governing body truly does this, each will know that we should not, cannot, and must not pass this legislation.

2002 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FURTHER RECOVERY FROM AND RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4775) making supplemental appropriations for further recovery from and response to terrorist attacks on the United States for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to thank the President, the Speaker, Chairman

YOUNG, Ranking Member OBEY and every Member of this House for fulfilling the commitment that was made to New York in the wake of 9/11. While there are many controversial issues in this supplemental, the funding for New York is not one of them. This bill fulfills President Bush's commitment to spend a minimum of $20 billion in New York to help my City recover from the devastating attack of September 11th , and for that I say thank you.

This disaster is like no other in our nations history. An urban area has been devastated due to an act of terrorism. Many federal agencies have stepped in to help New York recover including FEMA, HUD, Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Justice. And while we appreciate all they have done, I must ask the Members of this House to continue to stand with New York to ensure that the EPA does a proper environmental clean-up of indoor air and that FEMA continues to exercise maximum flexibility to help the individuals, families and institutions that continue to suffer as a result of 9/11. I must ask this House to be patient if the New York delegation needs to return in the coming months and years to ask that the money in this bill is reprogrammed or redirected to ensure it has a positive impact on New York. I must ask this House to understand that we are grateful for your support, for your generosity, and for your compassion, but please help us finish the job in a proper, efficient, and as cost-effective manner as possible.

Again, thank you to every Member of this House—New Yorkers look forward to your continued support.

2002 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FURTHER RECOVERY FROM AND RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4775) making supplemental appropriations for further recovery from and response to terrorist attacks on the United States for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Chairman, it is with great reluctance that I am voting in favor of this bill.

This supplemental left the Appropriations Committee with strong bi-partisan support after careful consideration and compromise by Members on both sides of the aisle. Then, the leadership presented us with a rule that adds four self-executing provisions which had not been subject to any debate by the Committee. All four of these additions are unrelated to the purpose of this supplemental, which was to meet immediate and critical funding shortfalls, most prominently those related to our military operations in support of the war on terrorism.

Of the four unrelated new provisions, the most troublesome is language which in essence allows increases to the government's debt ceiling without formal consideration by all Members of the Congress. This approach to our nation's fiscal crisis, which will soon be putting us in deficit spending, is unconscionable and irresponsible. Perhaps most disturbing is that the language being introduced is so open-ended, it could be construed as meaning that we will no longer have the opportunity to review debt ceiling changes in the future.

On the other hand, any further delay on passing the crucial funding provisions threatens the well-being of our courageous military forces who are currently dedicating themselves to our national defense in harsh and dangerous environments outside our borders. In addition, the measure provides much needed funding to crucial activities including: homeland security, Pell Grants, September 11th investigations, first responder health precautions, highway funding, the WIC program, and veterans' medical needs. Rather than hold these needs hostage to a partisan effort by the leadership to avoid putting itself on record over raising the debt ceiling, I am voting for this bill with the understanding that this is simply the first step in getting a bill approved and I remain hopeful this entire issue will be stripped from the legislation as it makes it way through the final process.

2002 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FURTHER RECOVERY FROM AND RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4775) making supplemental appropriations for further recovery from and response to terrorist attacks on the United States for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of Supplemental Appropriations Act. Congresswoman ROSA DELAURO and I would have offered an amendment to reclassify the hospitals in Connecticut's Fairfield and New Haven Counties into the New York City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Unfortunately, we were not able to offer this amendment, but I hope in the future we will be able to address this issue.

Fairfield County borders the New York state line and is only 30 miles from Manhattan. There are six hospitals in the county, four of which have been periodically reclassified on a temporary basis into the New York MSA.

Despite paying wages which are only 10 percent less than the wages paid by hospitals in the New York MSA, Fairfield County's wage index is 17 percent less than the New York MSA. The Fairfield County hospitals need to be on a level playing field with the New York hospitals to be able to attract and retain highlyskilled clinical staff.

Fairfield County is widely recognized as being part of the New York Metropolitan Area geographically, economically and socially. In fact, the Census Bureau counts Fairfield County in the same Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA) as New York City. This determination is based on population figures, commuting patterns, employment data, and the overall economic and social integration of the surrounding areas with the City. In fact, fully 11 percent of Stamford Hospital's labor pool resides in New York.

In addition, the Federal Reserve Bank, the Department of Labor, and the Bureau of Transportation Statistics all include Fairfield County with New York City for statistical purposes. A letter from Rae Rosen of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York states, ''A significant portion of Fairfield County commutes to New York City where a significant portion of the county's income is earned.''

The National Association of Realtors groups Fairfield County housing prices with other New York metropolitan area housing prices because the markets are similar in many ways and provide the housing for the greater New York metropolitan area labor market.

Mr. Chairman, by not reclassifying these hospitals, they are being penalized for efficiency. They have gone to great lengths to control costs, especially personnel costs by revamping their labor skill mix. However, rather than be rewarded for these cost-containment measures, Stamford, Norwalk and Bridgeport are penalized by the Medicare reclassification thresholds.

The six hospitals in Fairfield County are the type of hospital that Congress intended to help when it created the geographic reclassification process.

Mr. Chairman, I support this legislation and I would urge my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

2002 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FURTHER RECOVERY FROM AND RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4775) making supplemental appropriations for further recovery from and response to terrorist attacks on the United States for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise to strike the requisite number of words.

Support from Congress and the President has been essential in recent months in working to secure New York's recovery after 9/11.

The significant funds committed from Congress and the President are deeply appreciated by those in New York who were so personally affected by catastrophic terrorism.

But simply appropriating aid has proven far different than actually delivering these funds in a timely manner to the people who really need help in New York.

Sadly, Mr. Chairman, the agency charged with the disbursement of these funds FEMA—has on several occasions refused to help or stalled in helping specific people and institutions in New York, from the public school system, to utilities and private universities, to the