

helpful they have been, \$1 billion for Turkey which their ambassador says is a unilateral act on the part of the United States of America. They have not asked for it and they do not want it, but we are going to give them that billion. We are going to borrow it, and give it to them.

Billions to rebuild Iraq including 6,000 schools. Universal health care is going to be implemented in Iraq. We already have a request for a proposal online from the United States Government to provide that.

What about here at home? What about our schools? What about the 44 million Americans that do not have health care? Not a penny of emergency spending in this bill for them. And then finally we have of course port security, first responders. Where are the funds we need to defend our country and where is the money the airline workers have been waiting for? For 18 months we promised them they would get money next week, 18 months ago.

“PORKER OF THE WEEK” AWARD

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, Boston's Big Dig and Virginia's Mixing Bowl are characterized by cost overruns and boggled timelines. The Big Dig in Boston has turned into one of our biggest boondoggles. The project which already costs more than twice as much as it did to build the Panama Canal was estimated in 1985 to cost \$2.6 billion. Eighteen years later the project still is not completed and the costs are more than \$14 billion and are expected to go to \$18 billion. So also the cost projections for the Mixing Bowl have tripled with the latest estimate approaching \$1 billion. Lax oversight and consistently low estimates of cost and money have also hampered the completion date which was slated for 2007. That slipped.

These projects represent huge investments by State, local, and the Federal governments, and Americans have the right to expect Federal projects to be well managed and completed on time and on budget. Because the Federal Highway Administration has done little to stem the runaway spending on these two projects, it gets my “porker of the week” award.

TRIBUTE TO KAREN L. ROBINSON

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very good friend of mine and Costa Mesa's mayor, Karen L. Robinson. Mayor Robinson was recently appointed as a judge of the Orange County Superior Court, making her the first black woman appointed to our county bench.

Robinson currently supervises five attorneys as the litigation counsel coordinator for the California State University System, and she also serves as a judge pro tempore, presiding over small-claims cases for the county's municipal and superior courts.

Robinson's appointment as a judge is not the first time that she has made history. In 2000 she was named to the Costa Mesa City Council and in 2002 was named mayor. Both are firsts for an African American in that city in Orange County.

I would like to congratulate Robinson on her outstanding achievements and all of her contributions to our community, and I know that she will have even more successes in her career, and I wish her the best.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE NAVAL RESERVE

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, seven carriers and air wings are deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I want to focus on a Carrier Reserve Squadron being assigned to Carrier Air Wing Eight aboard the USS *Roosevelt*. The Squadron is Strike Fighter 201, VFA-201, flying the F-18 Hornet. They are part of the 11th Carrier Air Wing, Carrier Air Wing Reserve 20, headquartered in Atlanta.

This is the first naval reserve F-18 squadron ever mobilized aboard a carrier with an active duty wing, and 201's combat record demonstrates the capability of our reserve air crews. Since October VFA-201 mobilized over 100 Reservists transitioning to the F/A-18 Alpha Plus and deployed aboard USS *Theodore Roosevelt* in January.

Every aviator has crews and combat experience of over 1,000 flight hours, many logging more than 2,000 hours in type. Reservists of 201 provide leadership to the wing in strike planning, flight execution, and carrier operations. Their experience in operations around the world and in adversary tactics aid Air Wing readiness. This reserve squadron's boarding rate and landing grades exceeded all other active duty Air Wing Eight squadrons.

Early in the morning of March 23, the “hunters” of VFA-201 made history carrying out our initial strikes and destroyed a communications complex south of Baghdad. The pilots, sailors, and jets are performing magnificently. Morale is high and they are continuing to operate Air Wing Eight in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Naval Reserve TACAIR is alive, underbudget, and on target. This success story is what our Naval Air Reserve squadrons bring to the table in time of war: experience, peacetime active duty support, and surge capability. The Reservists are our best and brightest. They form the backbone of a low-cost military insurance policy America needs.

ADDRESSING HOMELAND SECURITY

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership today is bringing up a spending bill primarily to pay for the war, and I certainly understand it and will support it; but they have precluded the Democrats from adding and actually addressing in a better way the issue of homeland security. We know that after 9-11 we have to do a lot more to protect problems at home, whether it be water utilities or railroad opportunities or our ports and cargo coming into ports. And what the Democrats have been saying over and over again is that this bill that comes up today, and basically the Republican leadership in general are not doing enough to look at the problem of homeland security.

We were told that we could not bring up an amendment that would have added money to pay for these various functions here at home. They should have allowed us here to do this. It is not fair to not let the Democrats who are a minority, but not a minority by much, to have the opportunity to debate and bring up a bill that would put more money to address these problems whether it is tunnels, whether it is your local water supply, whether it is helping with grants for local firefighters or police so that they can better respond and understand what to do in case of a biological or chemical attack. This is what my constituents are telling me that they are very concerned about. Of course they are concerned about the war, and we have to finance the war operations against Iraq. But we also have to be concerned about what happens here. I saw what happened in the aftermath of the attack on the World Trade Center. We are not prepared. Let the Democrats bring up that amendment and address the problem of homeland security more effectively.

FISCAL YEAR 2003 SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING BILL

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I have come before the American people today to express my deep concern over the situation affecting our domestic airlines. Today we will be voting to appropriate a supplemental budget. Within this budget there will be much needed, in fact, critical funding for our troops who are currently engaged in combat with Iraq. This funding bill will also include payments to our domestic airlines to help fund security measures in response to the September 11 attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I support both components of this supplemental spending