

say that today, the first day perhaps in more than 2 weeks when we see the sun out in Washington, D.C., that Reverend Medina has come forward.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BECERRA. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I would simply like to join my friend in welcoming Reverend Medina, who has just informed me that he is a constituent of mine. We are very appreciative of the prayer and the very kind words.

Mr. BECERRA. I join with my colleague from California (Mr. DREIER) in recognizing that not only is he an able reverend but he is also a very important constituent. I thank the Speaker for this opportunity to express some thoughts for this 1 minute. I thank the reverend for making the trip to Washington, D.C., and bringing the sunshine with him.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 4, 2003.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a facsimile copy of a letter received from Ms. Ann McGeehan, Director of Elections, State of Texas, indicating that, according to the unofficial returns of the Special Election held June 3, 2003, the Honorable Randy Neugebauer was elected Representative in Congress for the Nineteenth Congressional District, State of Texas.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL.

Attachment.

ELECTIONS DIVISION,
Austin, Texas, June 4, 2003.

Hon. JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk, House of Representatives, The Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. TRANDAHL: This to advise you that the unofficial results of the Special Runoff Election held on Tuesday, June 3, 2003, for Representative in Congress from the Nineteenth Congressional District of Texas show that Randy Neugebauer won the runoff election.

The Governor will canvass the election returns no later than June 10, 2003 and will issue certificate of election to Congressman-elect Neugebauer.

I am enclosing a copy of the unofficial election results. As soon as the results are official, I will forward them to you along with the certificate of election.

Your truly,

ANN MCGEEHAN,
Director of Elections.

Enc.

	Vote total	% of vote	Early voting	% of early vote
Mike Conaway—Rep	27,959	49.48	14,582	50.90
Randy Neugebauer—Rep	28,546	50.52	14,067	49.10
Vote total	56,505	100.00	28,649	100.00

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE RANDY NEUGEBAUER OF TEXAS AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) be permitted to take the oath of office today.

His certificate of election has not arrived; but there is no contest, and no question has been raised with regard to his election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will the Representative-elect and the members of the Texas delegation present themselves in the well.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter. So help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the 108th Congress.

INTRODUCING THE HONORABLE RANDY NEUGEBAUER AS NEWEST MEMBER OF 108TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to introduce to the House of Representatives the fourth member to represent the 19th Congressional District of Texas, the 236th Texan to serve in the House, and 9,833rd U.S. citizen to serve as a member of the House of Representatives, the Honorable RANDY NEUGEBAUER, born on December 24, Christmas Eve, 1949, graduate of Texas Tech University, High Plains citizen, small businessman, banker, home developer, and the winner of a historic vote, I believe, by 700 votes. He will say that there were more people in Lubbock that wanted to vote than wanted to vote in Midland, Texas. He now represents both the Permian Basin and the High Plains. We are absolutely delighted to have you. You join such former Texans, Presidents like Lyndon Johnson and George W. Bush, Speakers like Jim Wright and Sam Rayburn, majority leaders like TOM DELAY and Dick Armey in this august body.

We are delighted to have you. Welcome to the United States House of Representatives.

MAIDEN SPEECH OF THE HONORABLE RANDY NEUGEBAUER AS NEWEST MEMBER OF 108TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. Only the people sitting on this floor understand what I am feeling right now. It is a privilege and an honor to be a part of history and to be with this body today.

I want to recognize my wife and my partner of 33 years who is up in the balcony there and my family. There is a scripture in Corinthians that says, "I am what I am by the grace of God." I am here today because of the grace of God. I understand that, and I look forward to working with you.

I have one regret. I would have really liked to have been here yesterday and voted on the partial-birth abortion. I would have voted an affirmative banning the partial-birth abortion. I am glad to see that you did that. It is a pleasure to be here.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to working with you. I am the new kid on the block. I am the 435th ranking Member of the House of Representatives. I bumped some people up today, and I know they are glad of that. We certainly appreciate the Texas delegation and other Members being here today. We look forward to doing good work for the American people.

Thank you and God bless you.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will take 10 one-minutes on each side.

RECOGNIZING ANTONIO ARGIZ FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUNITY

(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, today I stand in recognition of the wonderful contributions of a friend of the South Florida community, Mr. Antonio Argiz. Tony bravely journeyed to the United States from Cuba, without his parents, at the age of 8, thanks to Operation Peter Pan.

Determined to live the American dream, Tony attended Florida International University, where he earned his accounting degree. Recognized as an expert in forensic accounting, he was the first Cuban American appointed by the Governor to chair Florida's board of accountancy.

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Tony's passion for business is matched by his dedication to our community in South Florida. Tony serves as the cochair of the United Way of Miami-Dade and has served on the

statewide Florida Constitutional Revision Commission.

Tony is a loving husband and the father of three who continues to put passion in his every endeavor. He is a true inspiration and an exemplary Floridian.

Gracias por todo mi amigo. Thank you, Tony.

ENSURE HEAD START'S CONTINUED SUCCESS

(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 celebrate the 38th anniversary of the Head Start Program. As a former Head Start kid, I know firsthand the valuable, comprehensive education program that Head Start does for low-income families, and I celebrate the program's many achievements.

The Republicans, on the other hand, will celebrate Head Start's 38 years of success by pushing forward with the School Readiness Act. This legislation is not only a bad idea, it has the possibility of eliminating key services to nearly 1 million students by converting the Head Start Program to a block grant program. Block granting Head Start is a blockheaded idea that will undoubtedly hurt this very successful program.

One problem in particular with this plan is that States are already dealing with huge budget deficits, and they may be tempted to divert Head Start funds to use for other purposes. How would that improve the Head Start Program?

I urge my colleagues to celebrate Head Start's 38th anniversary by opposing this misguided legislation.

WHERE ARE IRAQI WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION?

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, Americans, indeed the whole world, are asking, why have we not found any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, the vast quantities of anthrax, small pox, serin, mustard gas and other agents, the nuclear weapons, or the near-nuclear weapons?

Congress has an obligation to the American people and to our men and women in uniform to conduct a full inquiry. I think the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence is the right forum to do that.

Now, the administration says that Iraq has had 12 years of practice in hiding; the weapons were there, perhaps, but were destroyed; or maybe they were there, but they were moved; or maybe they were not there, but could be constituted on demand. In any case, either there is something wrong, or the

intelligence was too vague and imprecise to track what has happened to them.

The President says we are going to find weapons of mass destruction. He may be right. But it seems to me that before the President sent our troops into battle and committed our Nation to this war, we should have had a very good idea of just where those weapons of mass destruction were so that we could secure them and track them.

STATE VETERANS CEMETERY FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

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

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, as our troops come home from Iraq and we look forward to D-Day's 60th anniversary, we all feel a deep and renewed sense of gratitude for our Nation's veterans. And as increasing numbers, like members of my own Hawaii's famed 100th Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team, pass on, we must also remember that one of our basic promises to them is to be buried with their comrades in our great national cemeteries, from Arlington to my own National Cemetery of the Pacific.

But increasing numbers of States, 17 at last count, have no Federal VA cemetery, or else those cemeteries are now full. These States must pick up an increasing burden, which is and should be the Federal Government's, and the reality is that, for these veterans, their final resting places are suffering.

Today I introduced a simple bill to raise the Federal reimbursement for veteran burials in State cemeteries where there is no Federal VA option from \$300 to \$750. This is only fair, and I ask for my colleagues' support.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO BOB HOPE

(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, at a very early point in my life, I was taught that you can celebrate your birthday the week before and the week after the actual date.

A week ago today, we all know that Bob Hope celebrated his 100th birthday. We are actually in the midst of the celebration of the 50th birthday of our colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

When I think about Bob Hope, he is someone who I have been privileged to know for many years and have had the opportunity to spend time with him and his wonderful wife Delores and their family. But I will tell you, even when you are in small company with Bob Hope, you cannot help but be in awe of an individual who is virtually unparalleled in his commitment to the United States of America.

A year ago we were able to honor him by naming the Chapel at the Veterans

Cemetery in West Los Angeles, with the help of his friends, Mary Jane and Charles Wick. There are countless people all over this world who have to continue to be indebted to Bob Hope for the great sacrifice that he has made and the happiness that he has brought to so many millions of individuals.

Happy birthday, Mr. Hope.

LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME AMERICANS TREATED DIFFERENTLY

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, Erin Doyel asked the question, "what about my kid?" Her kid in this case is Adrienne. Erin works as a financial administrative assistant. She earns \$12,675 a year. She goes to work every day. She is eligible for the child tax credit. In fact, she receives the child tax credit.

But what she will not receive is she will not receive the increase in the child tax credit that was passed this year, which would mean \$400 to families with children who are eligible. But the Republicans made a decision that people like Erin and her daughter Adrienne will not receive it because they earn between \$10,000 and \$26,000 a year.

These are families with children who go to work every day, but they will not be given the benefit of the tax cut, they will not get the increase in the child tax credit, they will not have an easier time supporting their family for all of the hard work they do at very difficult and low wages, because the Republicans made a decision that Erin and Adrienne will not be included.

That is why Erin Doyel from Vallejo, California, is asking, what about my kid? Why are we treated differently than the rest of America's families?

ENSURING AMERICA'S SECURITY FROM TERRORISM

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, we have heard it said it so many times that it risks becoming a cliché: Our Nation is engaged in a war against terrorism. If I may be permitted one more cliché: Money is the lifeblood of any terrorist organization.

The ability of the September 11th terrorists to move money through American banks without sending up any cautionary red flags was critical to their success and our national tragedy. People attempting to open accounts in this country without Social Security numbers ought to be seen as a giant, flashing red neon flag. That is why we must refuse to allow banks to accept as legitimate identification any foreign government-issued identification document in lieu of a Social Security number.