

SEA ISLAND G-8 SUMMIT TO
SHOWCASE COASTAL GEORGIA

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

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my home State of Georgia, which was selected this week as the site for the 2004 meeting of the eight major industrial democracies. This will be the largest single event that Georgia has hosted since its 1996 summer Olympics in Atlanta. The Sea Island summit will be held on June 8 through 10 of next year and provides an excellent opportunity to showcase coastal Georgia to the world. The economic impact alone to the State is estimated to be nearly \$200 million, and the preparations will bring jobs and opportunity to the entire area.

I would like to thank President Bush, Governor Perdue, and all the elected officials who worked hard to bring this event to Georgia. The beautiful cities of Savannah and Brunswick will welcome members of the media and all of the government officials with our special hospitality.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to welcoming the democratic powers of the world to my home State next year for a memorable Southern summit.

NATIONAL DEBT INCREASING

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

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, it has been 798 days since President Bush and the Republican Party embarked on their economic plan for our country. During that time, the national debt has increased by \$1,078,466,570,109. According to the Web site for the Bureau of Public Debt at the U.S. Treasury Department, yesterday at 4:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time the Nation's outstanding debt was \$6,718,791,956,467. Furthermore, in fiscal year 2003, interest on our national debt, or the "debt tax," is \$277,768,492,816 through June 30.

HONORING THE VALOR OF WALT
AND DONYELLE WILKINS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage and bravery of a newlywed couple from Greenville, South Carolina. This past Sunday, Walt and Donyelle Wilkins were flying to their honeymoon destination in the Bahamas when their commuter flight crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off Abaco Island.

Of the nine passengers and pilot aboard, Diane Parker Diaz of Jacksonville, Florida, and her 3-year-old niece, Dante Parker, did not survive. How-

ever, Diaz's two children, Andre Parker Diaz and Elisa Parker Diaz, were saved through the selfless efforts of Walt and Donyelle.

Disregarding immediate personal safety, the Wilkins couple stayed behind and held the children above them in the water as they treaded water for over an hour waiting for rescue.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking Walt and Donyelle Wilkins for their heroic act, continuing the tradition of the dedicated Wilkins family. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those who were involved in the tragic event.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

OPENING OF THE CLAY CENTER
FOR THE ARTS AND SCIENCES

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the recently opened Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences. My hometown of Charleston, West Virginia, has been eagerly awaiting the opening of this magnificent cultural and entertainment center over the course of the past 2 decades.

The center, which began as a far-fetched idea, progressed through arduous fund-raising and construction, finally opened its doors on July 12.

This impressive project would not have been possible without John McClaugherty's vision, as well as generous contributions by Lyell and Buckner Clay, the Clay Foundation and Clay extended family, the Benedum Foundation, the Maier Foundation, the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, the City of Charleston, Kanawha County, and the West Virginia State Legislature.

The Clay Center offers the combination of a first-class art museum, a 1,800-seat performing arts center, and state-of-the-art science center, complete with a 180-seat planetarium.

This outstanding center will undoubtedly enhance cultural, educational, and economic opportunities for West Virginians. I am proud to have this new center in my State and in my district, and I look forward to the wonderful opportunities that it will provide for West Virginia's future. I also would like to welcome all of America to visit the Clay Center.

THANKING TONY BLAIR

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we had the opportunity to hear Prime Minister Blair here in this Chamber; and I want to thank him for his straight talk, his compassion, his love of freedom, and the words he imparted to this Chamber.

He spoke from the heart about the dangers to the world and the impor-

tance to meet these dangers head on. He also spoke about the importance of the transatlantic relationship, which is really, I think, the world's next best hope to rid the world of dangerous tyrants and weapons of mass destruction.

The world is blessed by having firm, strong, committed leaders like President Bush and Prime Minister Blair. This country thanks them for their service, and we thank him for visiting this Chamber.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1472

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1472.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2754 and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2004

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, July 17, 2003, and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2754).

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2754) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, with Mr. ISAKSON in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of the legislative day Thursday, July 17, 2003, the bill is considered read for the first time.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON).

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to submit to the House for consideration the fiscal year 2004 energy and water development appropriations act.