United States, including Clark Atlanta University, Duke University, Howard University, Brandeis University, Columbia University, Fisk University, Morehouse College, Princeton University and Williams College. John Lewis is the recipient of numerous awards, including the prestigious Martin Luther King, Jr. Non-Violent Peace Richardson Prize, the NAACP Spingarn Medal. John Lewis is also the recipient of the John F. Kennedy “Profile in Courage Award” for lifetime achievement and the National Education Association Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Award.

As a student, John Lewis organized sit-in demonstrations at segregated lunch counters in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1961, John Lewis volunteered to participate in the Freedom Rides, which were organized to challenge segregation at interstate bus terminals across the South. Lewis risked his life and was beaten severely by mobs for participating in the Rides. During the height of the Civil Rights Movement, from 1963 to 1966, Lewis was the Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), which he helped form. SNCC was largely responsible for the sit-ins and other activities of students in the struggle for civil rights. Lewis, at the age of 23, was one of the planners and a keynote speaker at the historic “March on Washington” in August 1963. In 1964, John Lewis coordinated SNCC efforts to organize voters’ registration drives and community action programs during the “Mississippi Freedom Summer.” The following year, Lewis led one of the most dramatic nonviolent protests of the Movement. Along with fellow activist, Hosea Williams, John Lewis led over 600 marchers across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama on March 7, 1965. Alabama state troopers attacked the marchers in a confrontation that became known as “Bloody Sunday.” That fateful march and a subsequent march between Selma and Montgomery, Alabama led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This is an appropriate tribute to a man who has dedicated his life to promoting human rights and I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation. Thank you.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE AND FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 16, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3289) making emergency supplemental appropriations for defense and for the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Chairman, today we are debating this Administration’s request for an $87 billion bailout occasioned by its failed planning—or lack of planning—for the post-war Iraq. We are asked to pass this $87 billion despite the fact that the Bush Administration has not articulated a coherent and workable underlying strategy to accomplish our mission and bring our troops home safely and soon. It is either unwilling or incapable of doing so.

The only way Congress can ensure for the American people that such a strategy exists and that it has a reasonable chance of success if by using its power of the purse. We are dealing with an Administration that already has a nearly $400 billion Department of Defense budget and that has already received one supplemental appropriation for some $63 billion. Yet it fails to explain how or why our forces had tens of thousands of men and women without the proper Kevlar breast plates. Humvees without proper armor, and rancid water for 80 percent of the troops or how those conditions continued, even after they knew in June that people were dying and being injured.

In addition, the Administration, in its zeal to get all the money now so it will not have to come back in 2004’s election year to report to the American people, insinuates that a vote against this bailout is a vote against our troops and a vote to “cut and run.” Nothing could be further from the truth. The Administration’s own figures show that this is just another dissembling of the facts. According to the non-partisan Congressional Research Service, the Pentagon can stay in Iraq another 6 months without an additional penny in funds. But we have been prevented from seeking accountability from this administration as it asserts a need for “emergency funds.”

Mr. Chairman, this Congress has a moral and practical responsibility to modify and condition these funds, and it is time to reject this “rubber-stamped blank check,” and insist on the alternative that the Democrats want to put forward, but the majority and the administration have prohibited it from seeing the light of day.

We must work to re-align the funds for necessary equipment and quality of life matters that the Administration failed to do; reform the Contract provisions to eliminate cronyism concerns—like no-bid, cost plus Halliburton deals; eliminate outrageous and unnecessary projects and over spending that comes at the expense of domestic needs; consider other funding options to leverage U.S. investments, entice foreign cooperation and have it share some costs through its oil reserves. We should do all this—and foremost, we should only approve this bailout if the Administration presents a coherent and workable underlying strategy to accomplish our mission and bring our troops home safely and soon.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for votes on Monday, October 20, 2003, due to a scheduling conflict in my district. Had I been present, I would have cast my votes as follows:

regional or multijurisdictional plans, to encour-
ge more true across the board interoperability.

Our Nation’s public safety agencies’ com-
munications should not be at the mercy of Congress’ funding whims. This issue is too im-
portant to require public safety agencies, year
after year, to wonder what the annual funding
might be. Instead of dedicating funds from the sale of
spectrum, we will ensure that funding will be
set aside, no matter what happens in the an-
nual appropriations process.

I look forward to working with my fellow
members of the Energy and Commerce Com-
mmittee, Chair and Ranking Member DINGELL in moving this legislation so that we can
help our Nation’s public safety agencies
perform their important missions.

Mr. Speaker, the words we say are “Chazak! Chazak! v’nitchazayk!” Be strong!
Be strong! And may you be strengthened! Mr.
Speaker, I ask all of the Members of the
House to stand and join me in offering Temple Emanuel a hearty yasher koach, and best
wishes for the next 50 years.

HONORING LUIS A. FERRE

HON. ANIBAL ACEVEDO-VILA
OF PUERTO RICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today
to bring to your attention a great loss suffered by the people of Puerto Rico today.
This morning the radios announced the pass-
ing of a great man, former Governor Luis A. Ferre. The people of Puerto Rico mourn this
loss and celebrate his life. The former Gov-
ernor embodied the finest Puerto Rico has to
offer and he served Puerto Rico well. He
was a true man of principles. With his death, Puer-
to Rico says good-bye to one of the latest
Puerto Ricans of a generation that overcame
great challenges to convert Puerto Rico to a
prosperous, modern and developed Island.
Ferre governed from 1968 to 1972, an era
of great economic development for the island.
He was a very popular leader. One of his
great contributions to the modern Puerto Rico
was the creation of the Environmental Quality
board, the Departments of Natural Resources
and Housing, and the Tourism Company. He
also created the Youth Affairs Office. He was
a true visionary.

As a politician, musician, successful busi-
nessman and philanthropist, he demonstrated
the characteristics of a great Puerto Rican.
Unfortunately, he has left the Earth today, but
I know he has a privileged place in the hearts
of all Puerto Ricans and in Heaven. My
thoughts and prayers and those of my family
are with his wife, Tiody Ferre and his family.
May God carry you in the trying time.

HONORING LUI S A. FERRE

HON. ANIBAL ACEVEDO-VILA
OF PUERTO RICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 21, 2003