

On July 24, I introduced H.R. 2864, the Reforming, Accelerating and Protecting Interstate Design Act, otherwise known as the RAPID Act. This bill would allow large transportation systems to be built in less time and to save transportation funds by allowing roads to be built in commonsense increments as they are needed.

CONGRATULATING THE ST.  
JOSEPH BALLET COMPANY

(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 offer my congratulations to the St. Joseph Ballet Company from Santa Ana, California, which was honored last night for being one of 18 organizations across the United States and Mexico to receive the 2003 Coming Up Taller Award.

This award recognizes outstanding community arts and humanities programs for their work with the underserved youth and for providing them with learning opportunities and a way to serve our communities.

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I am very proud that one of the recipients of this prestigious award comes from my district, because St. Joseph is more than just a dance program. They have been teaching children about dance, self-discipline, and the importance of academic excellence for over 20 years. They give children a sense of accomplishment. They help motivate them in all aspects of life, and they seek to provide children with an education that goes beyond the standard core curriculum. I am very pleased that because of their hard work they have been nationally recognized with this wonderful award.

SAVING ENERGY AND TAXPAYER  
MONEY

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

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, as the cold of winter approaches also comes homeowners' concern for rising heating costs. It is important that the Federal Government take some leads in helping to deal with the supply and demand issues.

The Federal Government is the largest single user of energy in the world, spending \$10 billion per year for its buildings. Despite past efforts, however, energy consumption is still too high, using old, inefficient technology. Only nine agencies since 1929 have reported energy savings in trying to save costs. The Alliance to Save Energy estimates at least 1 billion in taxpayer dollars is still being wasted. Some estimates are higher. For example, military bases can save millions in energy

costs by replacing old, failing boilers and heating systems with energy-efficient models.

The energy bill that will soon be taken up by the House will take an important step to increase energy efficiency by requiring a 20 percent energy consumption reduction in the next decade. This is a vital provision, one that will save mass amounts of taxpayer money, conserve energy, help save energy costs for our Nation.

Let us stop the waste and start conserving for our future.

WHAT IS THE PLAN TO GET OUT  
OF IRAQ?

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I came to the floor and told my colleagues about a young man from my district who was killed in Iraq and the conversation I had with his mother. Since then, two more Americans have died in Iraq. Yesterday, I asked Members to be silent and contemplate our lost men and women.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to ask the President for a plan for how we are going to get out of Iraq. Whatever threat Mr. Bush may have perceived from Saddam Hussein, whatever warehouses of weapons Mr. Bush believed were waiting to harm the United States, it is over now. We should plan to get out.

We should not spend the lives of young men and young women to privatize Iraq's economy. We should plan to get out. We should not spend the lives of young Americans to build sewers in Iraq. We should not spend the lives of young Americans to make Iraq into our vision of a model state. We should plan to leave. We are symbols. We are targets. We are sitting ducks. Send in the U.N. or some of the Arab states or NATO or whoever wants to go. Pay for it with American taxpayers' money as you sign it today, but stop paying for it with American lives. Plan, Mr. President, to get out.

HONORING AND THANKING THE  
VETERANS OF 7TH CONGRES-  
SIONAL DISTRICT OF TEN-  
NESSEE

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, we are coming up on Veterans' Day, and I rise today to honor and say thank you to the over 65,000 men and women who are veterans and constituents of Tennessee's Seventh Congressional District. I thank them one and all for their service, for their sacrifice, their valor and for their commitment to duty, which has been to stand vigilant, strong and to protect our freedom that we enjoy.

I also want to say thank you to our troops and to their families. Our Seventh Congressional District is home to many of the families from Fort Campbell, who are part of the 101st Airborne and the Special Operations Forces, and we are also home to many of the National Guardsmen and the Reservists and their families who are deployed and who are now defending freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

We appreciate their sacrifice. We thank them for the job that they are doing so very well.

LOOTING OF MUTUAL FUNDS

(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, 95 million investors have deposited \$7 trillion in mutual funds, the largest deposit of retirement savings in this country. They have deposited that money there in hopes of a bright retirement, building a nest egg that can support their family and their standard of living when they cease to work. These are hardearned dollars of American workers in every industry at every level. They were told to invest for the long term, \$7 trillion.

Now every morning the American worker wakes up to a new headline, where the powerful, the insiders, the elite, the criminals are looting those mutual funds, are skimming profits off of those trust funds to the detriment of the average investor, the average worker.

Mr. Strong, who runs the Strong Mutual Funds, who is worth \$800 million, set up an account for his daughter, for his wife and for himself and secretly looted the savings of American workers. Mr. Strong should go to jail.

DYNACORP CONTRACT TO TRAIN  
POLICE IN IRAQ

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, liberals who gave us Big Government should love the DynCorp contract to train police in Iraq. Almost all Federal contracts are sweetheart deals that hire former high-level Federal employees or retired military officers, but this police training contract just about takes the cake.

NBC News reported the night before last that we have already spent \$30 million on this deal and will in short order be spending \$800 million more. We will be spending, according to NBC, \$400,000 per trainer, counting salaries, benefits and expenses. No policeman in this country makes anywhere near this much.

DynCorp was so embarrassed they refused to comment because they knew there was no way they could justify the obscene profits and ripoff of the U.S.