

NOT VOTING—11

DeGette Honda Solis
Diaz-Balart, M. Kucinich Turner (TX)
Doggett Murtha Watson
Granger Rahall

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON) (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1623

Messrs. HINOJOSA, SANDLIN, and BELL changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. INSLEE changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 23 on H.R. 743, the Social Security Protection Act, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the next vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2004

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 3783.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3783, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 421, nays 0, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 24]

YEAS—421

Abercrombie Bilirakis Burr
Ackerman Bishop (GA) Burton (IN)
Aderholt Bishop (NY) Buyer
Akin Bishop (UT) Calvert
Alexander Blackburn Camp
Allen Blumenauer Cannon
Andrews Blunt Cantor
Baca Boehlert Capito
Bachus Boehner Capps
Baird Bonilla Capuano
Baker Bonner Cardin
Baldwin Bono Cardoza
Ballance Boozman Carson (IN)
Ballenger Boswell Carson (OK)
Barrett (SC) Boucher Carter
Bartlett (MD) Boyd Case
Barton (TX) Bradley (NH) Castle
Bass Brady (PA) Chabot
Beauprez Brady (TX) Chocola
Becerra Brown (OH) Clay
Bell Brown (SC) Clyburn
Bereuter Brown, Corrine
Berkley Brown-Waite, Cole
Berman Ginny Collins
Berry Burgess Conyers
Biggert Burns Cooper

Costello Houghton Nadler
Cox Hoyer Napolitano
Cramer Hulshof Neal (MA)
Crane Hunter Nethercutt
Crenshaw Hyde Neugebauer
Crowley Insole Ney
Cubin Isakson Northup
Culberson Israel Norwood
Cummings Issa Nunes
Cunningham Istook Nussle
Davis (AL) Jackson (IL) Oberstar
Davis (CA) Jackson-Lee Obey
Davis (FL) (TX) Olver
Davis (IL) Jefferson Ortiz
Davis (TN) Jenkins Osborne
Davis, Jo Ann John Os
Deal (GA) Johnson (CT) Otter
DeFazio Johnson (IL) Owens
DeLahunt Johnson, Sam Oxley
DeLauro Jones (NC) Pallone
DeLay Jones (OH) Pascrell
DeMint Kanjorski Pastor
Deutsch Kaptur Payne
Diaz-Balart, L. Keller Pearce
Dicks Kelly Pelosi
Dingell Kennedy (MN) Pence
Dooley (CA) Kennedy (RI) Peterson (MN)
Doolittle Kildee Peterson (PA)
Doyle Kilpatrick Petri
Dreier Kind Pickering
Duncan King (IA) Pitts
Dunn King (NY) Platts
Edwards Kingston Pombo
Ehlers Kirk Pomeroy
Emanuel Kleczka Porter
Emerson Kline Portman
Engel Knollenberg Price (NC)
English Kolbe Pryce (OH)
Eshoo LaHood Putnam
Etheridge Lampson Quinn
Evans Langevin Radanovich
Everett Lantos Ramstad
Farr Larsen (WA) Rangel
Fattah Larson (CT) Regula
Feeney Latham Rehberg
Ferguson LaTourrette Reyes
Filner Leach Reynolds
Flake Lee Rodriguez
Foley Levin Rogers (AL)
Forbes Lewis (CA) Rogers (KY)
Ford Lewis (GA) Rogers (MI)
Fossella Lewis (KY) Rohrabacher
Frank (MA) Lipinski Ros-Lehtinen
Franks (AZ) LoBiondo Ross
Frelinghuysen Lofgren Rothman
Frost Lowey Roybal-Allard
Gallegly Lucas (KY) Royce
Garrett (NJ) Lucas (OK) Ruppberger
Gephardt Lynch Rush
Gerlach Majette Ryan (OH)
Gibbons Maloney Ryan (WI)
Gilchrist Manzullo Ryan (KS)
Gillmor Markey Sabo
Gillmor Marshall Sánchez, Linda
Gingrey Matheson T.
Gonzalez Matsui Sanchez, Loretta
Goode McCarthy (MO)
Goodlatte McCarthy (NY)
Gordon McCollum
Goss McCotter
Granger McCreery
Graves McDermott
Green (TX) McGovern
Green (WI) McHugh
Greenwood McInnis
Grijalva McIntyre
Gutierrez McKean
Gutknecht McKeon
Hall McNulty
Harman Meehan Shaw
Harris Meek (FL) Shays
Hart Meeke (NY) Sherman
Hastings (FL) Menendez Sherwood
Hastings (WA) Mica Shimkus
Hayes Michaud Shuster
Hayworth Millender Simmons
Hefley McDonald Simpson
Hensarling Miller (FL) Skelton
Herger Miller (MI) Slaughter
Hill Miller (NC) Smith (MI)
Hinchey Miller, Gary Smith (NJ)
Hinojosa Miller, George Smith (TX)
Hobson Mollohan Smith (WA)
Hoeffel Moore Snyder
Hoekstra Moran (KS) Souder
Holden Moran (VA) Spratt
Holt Murphy Stark
Hoolley (OR) Musgrave Stearns
Hostettler Myrick Stenholm

Strickland Tierney Waxman
Stupak Toomey Weiner
Sullivan Towns Weldon (FL)
Sweeney Turner (OH) Weldon (PA)
Tancredo Turner (TX) Weller
Tanner Udall (CO) Wexler
Tauscher Udall (NM) Whitfield
Tauzin Upton Wicker
Taylor (MS) Van Hollen Wilson (NM)
Taylor (NC) Velázquez Wilson (SC)
Terry Visclosky Wolf
Thomas Vitter Woolsey
Thompson (CA) Walden (OR) Wu
Thompson (MS) Walsh Wynn
Thornberry Wamp Young (AK)
Tiahrt Waters Young (FL)
Tiberi Watt

NOT VOTING—11

DeGette Kucinich Renzi
Diaz-Balart, M. Linder Solis
Doggett Murtha Watson
Honda Rahall

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1632

So (two thirds having voted in the favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 24 on H.R. 3783, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

□ 1633

COMMENDING LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY TIGERS FOR WINNING 2003 BOWL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME AND COMMENDING SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY JAGUARS FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING 2003 SBN BLACK COLLEGE NATIONAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time for the majority leader or his designee to call up House Resolution 496; the resolution be considered as read; and the previous question be considered as ordered on the resolution to final adoption without intervening motion except (1) one hour of debate and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, and as the designee of the majority leader, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 496) commending the Louisiana State University Tigers football team for winning the 2003 Bowl Championship Series national championship game, and commending the Southern University Jaguars football team for winning the 2003 SBN Black College National Football championship, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of House Resolution 496 is as follows:

H. RES. 496

Whereas the Louisiana State University Tigers football team won the 2003 Bowl Championship Series national championship game, defeating Oklahoma University by a score of 21-14 in the Nokia Sugar Bowl at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans, Louisiana, on January 4, 2004;

Whereas the Louisiana State University football team won the Southeastern Conference Championship, defeating the University of Georgia by a score of 34-13 in the Southeastern Conference Championship game at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Georgia, on December 6, 2003;

Whereas the Louisiana State University football team won 13 games during the 2003 season, more games than in any other season in Louisiana State University history;

Whereas the Louisiana State University football team won 5 games against nationally ranked opponents during the 2003 season;

Whereas the Louisiana State University football team set 8 school records during the 2003 season;

Whereas in 2003 the Louisiana State University football team was first in the Nation in total defense, allowing only 252 yards per game, and scoring defense, allowing only 1 team to score more than 20 points in any game during the season;

Whereas Louisiana State University football head coach Nick Saban was named the National Coach of the Year by the Associated Press and the Football Writers Association of America;

Whereas 4 players—Chad Lavalais, Corey Webster, Skyler Green, and Stephen Peterman—were named first-team All-Americans;

Whereas offensive tackle Rodney Reed was named a National Scholar-Athlete by the National Football Foundation and was named first-team Academic All-American;

Whereas quarterback Matt Mauck threw 28 touchdown passes during the 2003 season, a Louisiana State University single season record, and was named second-team Academic All-American;

Whereas running back Justin Vincent was named most valuable player of the Southeastern Conference Championship game and the Nokia Sugar Bowl;

Whereas the Southern University Jaguars were named the 2003 SBN Black College National Football Champions;

Whereas on December 13, 2003, in front of 31,617 fans in Birmingham, Alabama, the Southern University football team defeated Alabama State University by a score of 20-9 to win the Southwestern Athletic Conference Championship game and Southern University's 19th Southwestern Athletic Conference title;

Whereas the Southern University football team beat Grambling State University by a score of 44-41 to win the 2003 State Farm Bayou Classic and a trip to the Southwestern Athletic Conference Championship game;

Whereas the Southern University football team finished the 2003 football season with a 12-1 record;

Whereas the Southern University Jaguars' football head coach, Pete Richardson, earned his 5th conference title in his 11th year of coaching at Southern University;

Whereas Southern University coach Pete Richardson was named Coach of the Year by the Southwestern Athletic Conference;

Whereas Southern University quarterback Quincy Richard led the most effective of-

fense in Black college football this year and was named Offensive Player of the Year by the Southwestern Athletic Conference;

Whereas 4 Southern University football players have been named to the 2003 SBN Black College All-American Team, including quarterback Quincy Richard, offensive linemen Arnold Sims and Miniya Smith, and defensive back Lenny Williams;

Whereas the Southern University football team was the most efficient and dominant football team in the Southwestern Athletic Conference in the 2003 season; and

Whereas over 1,000,000 devoted fans attended the top 30 Black college football games in the 2003 season: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Louisiana State University Tigers football team for winning the 2003 Bowl Championship Series national championship game;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all the players, coaches, and support staff who were instrumental in helping the Louisiana State University football team during the 2003 football season;

(3) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make available enrolled copies of this resolution to Louisiana State University for appropriate display and distribution to the coaches and members of the 2003 Louisiana State University football team;

(4) commends the Southern University Jaguars football team for winning the 2003 SBN Black College National Championship;

(5) recognizes the achievements of all the players, coaches, and support staff who were instrumental in helping the Southern University football team during the 2003 football season; and

(6) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make available enrolled copies of this resolution to Southern University for appropriate display and distribution to the coaches and members of the 2003 Southern University football team.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHN), for purposes of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 496.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a particular note of pride to speak on behalf of two fine athletic achievements from institutions both domiciled within the great city of Baton Rouge.

It began last fall when LSU set eight school records during the 2003 season. They won 13 games during that season, more games than in any other season in Louisiana State University history. They won the Southeastern Conference championship, defeating the University of Georgia by a score of 34 to 13 in the Southeastern Conference championship game at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta

on December 6, 2003. This was followed by a terrific game and a victory in the 2003 Bowl Championship Series for the national championship, defeating Oklahoma University by a score of 21 to 14 in the Nokia Sugar Bowl on January 4, 2004.

Let me say a word about the excellent Oklahoma team and the manner in which their athletes competed. There was no giving up until the final whistle blew. It was a terrific game to watch.

But I want to express great appreciation to the young men of the LSU football team for their commitment to excellence and their hard work in pursuit of this championship. As a result of this effort, they were first in the Nation in total defense, allowing only 252 yards per game, and scoring defense, allowing only one team in a game to score more than 20 points. As a result of this outstanding effort, Coach Nick Saban was named the National Coach of the Year by the Associated Press and the Football Writers Association of America, and Chad Lavalais, Corey Webster, Skyler Green and Stephen Peterman were all named first-team All-Americans.

At the same time, as amazing as this accomplishment was for any athletic program, located just across the city is the great Southern University, also within the Sixth Congressional District of Louisiana.

They ended their football season, finishing with a 12 and 1 record, defeating Grambling State University in an exciting game, 44 to 41, to win the 2003 State Farm Bayou Classic and the right to go to the Southwestern Athletic Conference championship game.

On December 13, 2003, in front of 31,617 fans in Birmingham, Alabama, the Southern University team defeated Alabama State by a score of 20 to 9 to win the Southwestern Athletic Conference championship game and Southern University's 19th Southwestern Athletic Conference title, consequently were named the 2003 SBN Black College National Football Champions.

This is an extraordinary occurrence, when two programs of such excellence achieve national prominence and bring home the national championship.

Although there has been some discussion about the manner in which this championship was arrived at, I would be quick to point out that this resolution is the first such resolution to be considered on the House floor, and appropriately so, because I believe, without doubt, LSU and Southern University are first in the Nation in football excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first let me thank my good friend and colleague from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for introducing this resolution, and, of course, thank him for extending me the time.

I am very proud to stand up here today to congratulate two national

championships from the same city. I think that is an accomplishment that we all in Louisiana, and certainly the Congressman from Baton Rouge, should be very proud of.

As the gentleman mentioned, on January 4, down in the Louisiana Superdome in the Sugar Bowl, which was the BCS national championship, the LSU Fighting Tigers, my alma mater, defeated the Oklahoma Sooners in the Bowl Championship Series national title. The Tigers did the State proud by bringing home the first national championship in 45 years, Mr. Speaker; and I think that is a proud accomplishment.

However, LSU, as the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER) has mentioned, is not the only collegiate football team to excel this year. The Southern University Jaguars gave the fans throughout the country something to cheer about when they were recognized in the Sheraton Poll as the 2004 Historical Black College National Championship, completing the dual national championships from two universities from the same town.

The Southern Jaguars completed an impressive 12 and 1 season, including a very exciting football game in the Superdome in the Bayou Classic and also the Southwest Athletic Conference title championship game.

Mr. Speaker, but this was more than just about two football games. I am very proud to stand up here and congratulate the athletic programs of both universities, but this was also an opportunity to showcase the academic excellence of both of those universities. I am very proud of that.

LSU chancellor, Mark Emmert; Southern University chancellor, Ed Jackson; the LSU football coach, Nick Saban; the Southern football coach, Peter Richardson; all the students; the great fans from Louisiana should all be proud and join us in recognizing this wonderful accomplishment of the two national championships from my home State. I am very proud to stand here and congratulate them.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Chairman TAUZIN).

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, this is a very important resolution, because it recognizes a most unusual event in our Nation's sports history, when two college teams in the same town, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, not a big metropolitan town like Los Angeles or New York or what have you, but a small southern capital city, when two universities in that town achieve the ranking of number one in the Nation, national championships, both the Black College National Championship with Southern and the NCAA championship with the LSU Tigers, that is a remarkable event.

I missed the LSU game, by the way. My friend from Crowley should know

the fact I spent the night in Crowley Hospital in fact attending to a problem I was having that night and missed the game, and my wife had to tell me who won the next morning.

But I did watch the replay, and the gentleman is absolutely right, it was an amazing game. Unfortunately, I stayed there with my two tickets, knocked out for the evening, and did not see the game. But when I saw the replay, I realized how tough a game it was.

Oklahoma was a great team. The Oklahoma Sooners were supposed to be the "team of the century" as they began their season, stumbled with Kansas State, and again faced an incredibly improving LSU team under Nick Saban. Coach Richardson with the Southern team had an amazing run of great victories to a national championship as well. What an outstanding year Baton Rouge, Louisiana, had and our State of Louisiana had in these two national championships.

The most remarkable thing, of course, is the way these two coaches have brought these players along. If you watched the season of these two teams, you saw coaches really working with young men and bringing them along, both athletically and in many other ways, making great men of them as they proceeded through their schedule. When the end of the season came, they were all much better than when they started, both academically, athletically and in so many other ways.

I should also tell you one of my best friends in this world is a former Member, Bill Brewster. You should know that last Friday Bill Brewster went through open heart surgery here in Washington, D.C. He had five bypasses, and he is back at his desk today. He is doing great; he has recovered.

But I called him up when I knew he was going into that surgery, since he is from Oklahoma and he was a Congressman from Oklahoma, to offer him some LSU surgeons, since we had learned to cut up on Oklahoma pretty good in the stadium in New Orleans. He had a good laugh and said, "You are going to break my stitches. Don't do that, please."

The bottom line is we had a great year. The coaches and players at LSU, my son is an LSU senior right now, as you and I, all of us are LSU graduates, he is a senior now at LSU, and the thrill of those students, I know at LSU and Southern, to watch their team achieve such great heights is an inspiration for all those young people. They are going to be better students. They are going to be better people because they went through a great year, and they saw what hard work, determination and just gutting it out means in terms of winning a great victory the way the teams won those victories.

So, again, our great congratulations to the LSU Tigers and the Southern Jaguars, our great appreciation to the coaches and their staffs and the students and those folks who run those

two great institutions, and our congratulations to the fans of our great State, who stuck with our teams through some hard times until this great year we experienced.

So, again, thank you for bringing this resolution forward, Richard, and again congratulations at Mardi Gras time to the State of Louisiana.

"Laissez les bon temps rouler," let the good times roll.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from North Louisiana (Mr. MCCRERY).

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman bringing this resolution to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I am a graduate of LSU Law School, so, of course, I am very proud of the LSU Tigers and their national championship this year. But I have to tell you not only LSU graduates are proud of the LSU Tigers. LSU is an institution in Louisiana that exceeds just the confines of the campus and the student body and the alumni. Everybody in Louisiana takes great pride in watching the LSU Tigers play, so, of course, the State is just very excited still about the national championship.

Southern University, the Jaguars, have a long history of great football teams, this year, of course, winning the national championship for Black Colleges. So Baton Rouge, as the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) pointed out, is the home of two national champions, and we all of us in Louisiana, north Louisiana and south Louisiana alike, are very proud of those two schools and our capital of Baton Rouge.

I took my two boys and my wife to the Sugar Bowl; and just to give you some idea of the excitement that was generated by LSU, my two boys, who are 10 and 8, I have never seen them get so excited about anything, whether it is Christmas morning or birthday presents. These guys were excited. Just throughout the stadium, people were excited about what was going on in our State and with our football team, the LSU Tigers.

□ 1645

So it was a great victory not only for LSU but for everybody who lives in Louisiana and who enjoys watching the LSU Tigers play football. The same thing I am sure for the alumni fans, children of graduates of Southern University. So, all in all, this year we just could not have asked for a better ending to the football season at both Southern and LSU.

So I thank the gentleman for bringing this resolution to the floor.

I commend the coaches of both schools and the players. I want to particularly point out Nick Saban's performance not only on the football field and not only on the sideline but before the cameras. In every interview leading up to the Sugar Bowl, I think Coach Saban was extremely gracious in his

comments about the BCS and who might be the eventual champion, who should be and what game. He never, ever got cross-wise with the press. He never stuck his nose up and said LSU ought to be here or there. He just said, look, we are just going to play the game and see what happens; and whatever game they tell us to go to and play, that is where we will go and play. I thought he exhibited a great deal of character and class in that whole time period leading up to the game.

So congratulations to Coach Saban for a fine performance on the field and off the field.

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I have the gentleman from New Orleans, Louisiana, (Mr. JEFFERSON) who is on his way to also join in this celebration of two national championships.

Of course, I am very proud of being not only an alumnus of that great institution but also for being present at the game. It was an incredible game. It was a defensive game. Of course, Coach Saban always said, and borrowed a line from many famous coaches, that defense wins national championships. Of course, the 21-to-14 score at the end of the game I think reiterated the fact that the defense indeed did win this national championship.

I am actually looking forward to the 2004 season with the BCS to ending up very similar to this year, but the only difference is it will happen in Miami and not New Orleans.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I wish to read into the RECORD additional commendations that are certainly appropriate. I recognize that Coach Saban was named the Associated Press Coach of the Year. I would like to also recognize the Southern University Coach, Pete Richardson, who was named Coach of the Year by the Southwestern Athletic Conference, as well as having young men named to the SBN Black College All American Team, including quarterback Quincy Richard, offensive linemen Arnold Sims and Miniya Smith, and defensive back Lenny Williams. So the achievements and recognition coming to both universities, their football leadership, and the members of the team have been extraordinary.

It is with great pleasure that I participate in this discussion this afternoon and note, as I did a few moments ago to the gentleman from Louisiana, that this is also the first resolution to be considered in the House on this matter. Although there appeared to be controversy, I do not consider it so. There was merely discussion about the efficacy of Louisiana State University being named number one as a result of some expressed concerns about the BCS. Those concerns only became apparent when the calculations turned out the way they did at the end of the day. Many people were quite happy to

abide by the BCS scientific analysis as long as LSU remained in third position.

So I just wanted to enter into the RECORD that once again, with the consideration of this resolution, LSU is moving forward in first place through the legislative process.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As the gentleman mentioned, I happen to be, I guess notwithstanding anything else, a big fan of the BCS. I believe that it is a system that is maybe far from perfect, but I am very supportive of the theory of what it is all about. It puts to strength the schedule and also puts the games, who you play, and not just how many points you score. And I think that, in the end, it was very close. It was in the decimal points.

But I also want to congratulate the University of Southern California, who had a very excellent season and ended on a very positive note. But the BCS, I think we will hear lots of controversy about it, but I think it worked. I think it was something that is far from perfect, as I mentioned before, but it is something that is needed in college football, and we are moving towards that.

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

Mr. JOHN. I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that when we start a political campaign as hopeful candidates to be elected to Congress, we set up a standard of rules, we conduct the campaign, and we finalize the campaign based on those pre-determined sets of rules. Rarely do we get engaged in a discussion about changing the rules during the course of the campaign.

I think, although I had some differences myself with the way the BCS calculations were to ultimately be determined, once the BCS was put in place, win or lose, we had to abide by those rules until that season was over.

Now next season may bring us new opportunities to talk about perhaps playoff opportunities. Some were interested in seeing a playoff game between LSU and USC. I would personally have enjoyed that to a great extent.

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, it is also just interesting to note that all of the conferences across the NCAA signed off on those rules before the season started, so we must play by those rules.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Orleans (Mr. JEFFERSON), my friend and colleague.

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I hope the Nation can appreciate this bipartisan effort here that is being made to bring to the attention of those

who are still unconvinced that LSU is the undisputed national champion of college football. I hear no objection to that on this floor from any of my colleagues, because it is a fact.

I am very proud that this event that established LSU as the undisputed national champion was held in my home district in New Orleans in the Super Dome. It was a rousing crowd and a wonderful event; and, of course, the right team won.

I am also here to say for Southern University how proud we are of that university. That is a school to which I went some 35 years ago now, from which I graduated before law school and which I hold very close to my heart. Southern University has won the National Black College Championship Award for this year. So two schools from Louisiana, both from Baton Rouge, from the biggest district have distinguished themselves and therefore brought honor on our State and I believe for our entire Nation.

We ought to be very proud of them. They not only distinguish themselves in football, as my colleagues know. They have wonderful records of accomplishments in academia, which is their major function. They graduate as athletes, and they do a wonderful job all the way around.

So Louisiana is in the spotlight tonight for something that is very, very good. All of us are proud of them, Republicans and Democrats across this country. We are proud of our schools and proud of what they stand for and proud of the tradition that they represent, the best of competition in college football. This year that competition being rewarded in the fact that both of them are undisputed national champions in their respective fields of operation.

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to offer this resolution for consideration by the House. I look forward to its final adoption and, more importantly, next season.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today to congratulate the Louisiana State University Fighting Tigers football team for winning the 2003 National Championship and the Southern University Jaguars for being named the 2003 SBN Black College Football championship. Both of these schools brought great excitement to the people of Louisiana, including myself, and undoubtedly deserving champions.

As I watched the game in the Superdome I knew I was watching something special, a part of history that folks in Louisiana would be proud of for a long time. LSU defensively dominated Oklahoma on its way to a 21-14 victory over the heavily favored Sooners to bring the national title back to Baton Rouge for first time since the "Chinese Bandits" secured it in 1958. Led by coach of the year Nick Saban, the Tigers won a school record 12 games this year and their 9th Southeastern Conference Championship beating arch rivals Ole Miss, Auburn, Alabama, and Arkansas by a combined score of 130-48.

The Tigers got outstanding performances from several players during the season. True Freshman Justin Vincent was named the most valuable player of the Southeastern Conference Championship game against Georgia, where he rushed for 201 yards and the Sugar Bowl where he ran for 117 yards with 1 touchdown.

LSU's defense led by first team all-American Chad Lavalais ranked number 1 in the Nation this season in scoring defense allowing only an average of 11 points per game and only yielding more than 20 points in 1 game. The defense was the difference in the National Championship game as Defensive End Marcus Spears intercepted a Jason White pass and ran it back for what turned out to be the go ahead touchdown.

But this is not the only title that now resides in Louisiana. The Southern University Jaguars defeated Alabama State University 20–9 to win their 19th Southwestern Athletic Conference title and become the SBN Black College Football National Champions.

Under the guidance of Pete Richardson, this year's Southwestern Conference coach of the year, the Jaguars earned their 5th conference title in Coach Richardson's 11 year tenure and defeated Grambling State University in a 44–41 shootout to win the annual Bayou Classic held in the New Orleans Superdome.

Southern Quarterback Quincy Richard was named the Offensive Player of the year and was named to the SBN Black College All American Team, along with offensive lineman Arnold Sims, Miniya Smith, and defensive back Lenny Williams.

It is an honor to congratulate both these teams on a memorable and historic season that will forever bring great pride to each University and the people to Louisiana.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Without objection, the previous question is ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS FOR AMTRAK

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon with some good news and bad news for Amtrak. I congratulate Amtrak for having the highest ridership ever experienced in the Nation's intercity passenger rail service in its 32-year history. In my region of the Pacific Northwest, we have seen ridership increase 520 percent since the inception just 10 years ago of service between Eugene and Seattle and on to Vancouver, BC. It has had massive improvements in its infrastructure; very, very exciting.

The bad news is that, despite all of this progress with Amtrak, we have a proposal from the administration that would break it apart, it would privatize it, it would lease out its assets and

abandon some of its routes, which would jeopardize the very existence of this important transportation mode. It would place heavy financial burdens on the States to fund what is essentially a national system, the only country in the world that has abandoned its commitment to rail passenger service.

I sincerely hope, Mr. Speaker, that this Chamber will once again rise to the support of a strong intercity rail passenger system, support Amtrak, support the new leadership there under President David Gunn, and provide a service that the American public desperately wants.

LIABILITY REFORM MEANS HUGE SAVINGS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of discussion in the past couple of days about the Medicare bill that we passed at daybreak on November 22 of this past year, and a lot of that discussion has centered around the fact of was that prescription drug benefit \$400 billion over 10 years or was it \$500 billion over 10 years.

The fact of the matter remains, whether it is \$40 billion or \$50 billion a year over the next 10 years, Mr. Speaker, there is an equal amount of money that could be saved right now, this year, in the Medicare program if we would simply pass the liability reform that this House took up over a year ago.

Mr. Speaker, in my home State of Texas, we recently passed a constitutional amendment to allow the same type of caps on noneconomic damages in medical liability suits; and we have seen medical liability insurance prices fall in our State. But, more importantly, the cost of defensive medicine is estimated by a study out of Stanford University to be \$50 billion a year. That is the same amount of money that the prescription drug benefit will cost at the higher estimate from Health and Human Services.

Mr. Speaker, if Texas has passed a law we might say, why do we think the Nation needs a law? Just because of that reason: because of the cost to the Medicare system. Mr. Speaker, we could generate that savings tomorrow if we could urge our colleagues in the other body to take up that bill.

GENERAL DAVID H. PETRAEUS JOINS RANKS OF AMERICA'S GREAT MILITARY LEADERS

(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, America has a long tradition of producing great generals; and Major General David Petraeus, the Commander of the 101st Airborne Division, has joined

the ranks of America's great military leaders. Like his predecessors, Generals Washington, Patton, and Eisenhower, to name a few, he has spent a career defending our Nation and bringing freedom to people all over the world.

I have been to Iraq and I have seen General Petraeus' leadership firsthand, and the awards and distinctions that he has received in his career are not empty. The true meaning behind each of these commendations is crystal-clear when you meet the men, women, and children who would have lived a lifetime of terror under the old Iraq had the General of the 101st Airborne from Fort Campbell not helped lead Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is an example of why the American military is so great. He is a true leader.

Today, we join the newly-free people of Iraq to thank him for his dedication to our Nation and our belief that no people should be denied freedom.

□ 1700

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The Chair will recognize Members for Special Order speeches without prejudice to possible further legislative business.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WARMING OF THE EARTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, what I would like to do this evening is give the Members some ideas of a phenomenon that is occurring in the oceans that is clearly observed by the scientific community that is having an effect on the Earth's climate.

Ocean currents that flow throughout the entire world stabilize the heat balance on the planet so that the northern