

It is my pleasure to join with the Collinwood High School community and the citizens of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring this group of Hall of Fame inductees for their remarkable achievements. I encourage them to continue to demonstrate outstanding professionalism and leadership and thank them for the contributions they have made to their communities.

PRECIOUS LITTLE TIME REMAINING TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL IRAQ

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, it was a year ago that President Bush landed on the USS *Abraham Lincoln* and pronounced that major combat operations in Iraq had ended. The banner strung across the command tower of the carrier read "Mission Accomplished", and the President's words that evening gave the American people, and the families of those in Iraq, that our men and women would soon be coming home.

If this was a perfect world, our President's made-for-TV excursion would have made the perfect Hollywood ending to mercifully short war. Sadly, this is not a perfect world. War is never perfect, it is messy. It is grotesque, and it does not end on any schedule but its own.

The month that marked the year anniversary of announcing the end to major combat operations has been the bloodiest of the war. Since May 1, 2003 over five hundred men and women have been killed, including Private Holly McGeogh of Taylor, Michigan, killed when her vehicle hit a roadside bomb. Almost three thousand more have been injured. Many of our returning young men and women will have an even tougher fight ahead of them as they adjust to life in a wheelchair or with a prosthetic limb.

I say this, not to heap criticism on a situation where young men and women are risking their lives. I say this because one year after the tyrant was toppled we still have a long way to meet our goals. The men and women stationed outside Fallujah and Najaf can tell you that major combat is still a fact of life.

Today we have little more than eight weeks before we turn some measure of sovereignty to the Iraqi people. And much like a college student trying to cram before finals, our Iraq policy is now at a fever pitch trying to right the wrongs of a poorly planned reconstruction effort. General Eisenhower once said, "In preparing for battle I have found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable." Sadly, today we are watching the results of cavalier planning.

The arrogant manner in which pre-war criticism was dismissed is tragic in hindsight. General Shinseki's belief that it would take 200,000 more troops to provide post-war security led to his unceremonious dismissal. Presidential economic adviser Larry Lindsey estimated the war would cost at least \$150 billion, rather than pay for itself as Vice President CHENEY asserted, led to his forced resignation. The wholesale dismissal of the Iraqi army created hundreds of thousands Iraqis unemployed with bitterness towards the US as

their only severance. Ironically, it's has been the dismissed generals who have tried to foster the tenuous truce in Fallujah.

Mr. Speaker, I voted against giving the President the authority to go to war in Iraq. Yet once engaged in battle, I believe we must do all we can to bring the troops home safely, provide them with the equipment needed to keep them safe, and to have a plan to bring them home. We have had none of these?

For all the vaunted leadership of this White House, with all accusations thrown around by their allies in Congress that impugn the patriotism of those that might question the President, our military is bearing the brunt of their poor planning. The hollow rhetoric from the President and his allies has not put more troops on the ground, has not brought more countries into the coalition, has not unburdened America of the costs of the reconstruction, and has not brought our brave men and women home to their families. Challenging terrorists and insurgents to, "Bring it on" is not a policy; it is a substitute for bravery that threatens our soldiers in the field.

This April has been the deadliest month of combat we have had since the Vietnam War. We all hope and pray that the months ahead will not be so brutal. I am not asking that President present the Congress and the American people with a detailed plan of how long we will be there; how much it will cost; who will take charge; and a myriad of other questions. I know that in war a plan can easily be overtaken by events. What I ask, one year after his now infamous speech, is that he just be honest with us. Respond to our questions, put our soldiers before other concerns, and level with us. We are a great nation, the Congress is a great institution and the voice of the people. We have precious little time remaining to ensure a successful Iraq.

It is my hope, that a year from today, that we can mark the end of this bloody month as the true turning point for the future of a free, prosperous, and democratic Iraq.

BI-PARTISAN REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FAIR FEDERAL COMPENSATION ACT OF 2004

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, for the first time, I am not alone in introducing a bill for a federal contribution to address the District's structural imbalance. I am grateful to my Republican and Democratic colleagues who, in generously joining me today, have made this the first structural imbalance bill to have critical bipartisan regional support. Their sponsorship is particularly valuable because these are the members of Congress who know the District best because they are from the region—Government Reform Chair TOM DAVIS, Appropriations Subcommittee Chair FRANK WOLF, Congressional Black Caucus Chair ELIJAH CUMMINGS and Representatives JIM MORAN, CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, and ALBERT WYNN. Montgomery County Council Executive Doug Duncan has authorized me to say that he supports the bill as well. These Members recognize the importance of federal support to

compensate the District for federally imposed requirements in order to forestall another fiscal crisis in the nation's capital, while the District itself continues on the path of improvement of its finances and services that the Congress has acknowledged.

This bill ranks as one of the most important I have introduced during my seven terms in Congress. Because of its significance, I have delayed introducing other bills this year until I achieved bipartisan support in order to make the Fair Federal Compensation Act my first bill of 2004. Without this bill, the long-term viability of the District of Columbia is at risk. This risk arises from a structural imbalance caused by expenditures rising faster than revenues. Notwithstanding this dangerous situation, the District is able to balance its budget every year and avoid operating deficits by maintaining tax rates and debt that are among the highest in the nation. District of Columbia Chief Financial Officer Natwar M. Gandhi has issued forecasts that show that in the out years, the structural deficit will overtake the city's diminished and inadequate tax base, not because of overspending by the D.C. government but because of the cost of federal requirements and statutes imposed on the District.

Today's bill is different from structural imbalance bills I have introduced in the past. This bill has as its predicate a May 2003 Government Accounting Office (GAO) report, which made three major findings—the first concerning the size of the imbalance, the second concerning its federal origin, and the third regarding the unavailability of options internal to the D.C. government.

First, the GAO confirmed that the District has a structural imbalance that it found is between \$470,000,000 and \$1,100,000,000 annually, the first determination that is based on a precise methodology for valuing, documenting and calculating the imbalance. This congressional report confines two prior privately commissioned reports that arrived at similar conclusions, a 2002 McKenzie study commissioned by the Federal City Council (an organization of regional and local business leaders) and a Brookings Institution study under the leadership of former Congressional Budget Office Director, Alice Rivlin, who also served as a chair of the former D.C. Control Board (Financial Management and Assistance Authority).

The GAO's second finding was that D.C.'s structural imbalance is caused by federal mandates and is therefore beyond the reach of D.C. government officials and taxpayers. The federal government retains 42 percent of real property, the most valuable in the city, for its own use; requires the city alone to provide costly state services, such as special education, although the District is not a state and lacks a broad state tax base; requires the District to provide services to more than 200,000 federal employees, who earn 66 percent of the income produced here; and prohibits taxation of federal workers to help pay for these services. These costs to the city trace directly to the federal government and only the federal government.

The GAO's third finding is that the only two options available to the District government are raising taxes and cutting services, each of which the GAO said it could not recommend. Rather, the options are to "change Federal procedures and expand the District's tax base or provide additional financial support and a

greater role by the Federal government to help the District maintain fiscal balance," according to the GAO.

The bill I introduce today is based on these three GAO findings. The bill offsets part, though not all, of the annual structural imbalance, by providing for an annual federal contribution of \$800 million. These funds are to be deposited into a D.C. infrastructure support fund that cannot be used for operating expenses but only for the specifically stated infrastructure purposes.

The bill removes some of the harm to the District's investment bond rating and the resulting high interest payments by requiring that federal contribution funds go only to the District Infrastructure Fund to be used exclusively for infrastructure and for debt service, most of which is debt from infrastructure costs. The focus on infrastructure is deliberate because the District's infrastructure is used by the entire region, where 80% of the vehicles originate and includes Metro, used overwhelmingly by regional residents. Regional complaints about the District's roads, bridges and tunnels are justified, but there is no reasonable hope of repair and maintenance if the District's taxpayer-raised budget is the only source. The focus on debt service is calculated to reduce the District's debt, the highest per capita in the country. With some relief from the structural imbalance through a federal contribution, the District will gradually be able not only to reduce its debt but also to lower the high tax rates that the imbalance forces on D.C. residents and businesses. This bill also takes into account past federal contribution failures. This bill does not allow the contribution to wither away by a failure to increase gradually with inflation but provides for annual increases tied to the Consumer Price Index.

In 1995 Congress came to grips with the reality that a city whose structure assumes it is a state although it lacks a broad tax base can no longer be responsible for the full set of costs shouldered by states. However, Congress relieved the District of the cost of some but not all state functions and left the unique federal structural impediments described in the GAO report. The District has made remarkable progress by maintaining balanced budgets and surpluses every year despite adverse national economic conditions and by improving city services. It would be tragic for Congress to allow this progress to be retracted because of uncompensated federal burdens. This bill allows the District to avoid great risks and to continue to build fiscal strength.

#### RECOGNIZING RANDAL G. HOBBS

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Randall G. Hobbs, Senior Auditor for the United States Department of Agriculture, the Great Plains Region, in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mr. Hobbs has been responsible to the Inspector General for development of policies and for providing leadership, supervision, and coordination of audit activities relating to the Department's programs and operations. The Regional Inspector General for Audit plans, di-

rects, and supervises the performance of all auditing activities. Senior Auditor Hobbs has played a major role in all of these activities.

Mr. Hobbs began Federal service with the Internal Revenue Service in January 1979. He then accepted a position as a regulatory auditor with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission in March 1979 and worked there until September 1983. In April 1984, Randall Hobbs began his career with OIG as an auditor in the Great Plains Region in Kansas City, Missouri.

During his career, he was recognized for using advanced audit techniques, pioneering efforts in controls over automated systems, and in leading audits in various USDA agencies. Mr. Hobbs, who became a Certified Public Accountant in the State of Missouri in 1984, was invaluable as OIG began to become heavily involved in financial statement audits in the early 1990s. Mr. Hobbs worked on financial statements audits of the Farmer's Home Administration (now part of Rural Development).

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Mr. Hobbs for his outstanding career and wishing him well in retirement.

#### HONORING THE WORK OF THE PLEASANT VIEW RELIEF SOCIETY AND THEIR GROUP VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP AWARD

### HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of a group of women from Utah's Third Congressional District for their dedication to helping children that have been victims of abuse. On Wednesday, May 5, 2004, the Pleasant View Relief Society will be honored at the National Children's Alliance annual luncheon with the Volunteer Group Leadership Award of 2004.

Working with the Utah County Children's Justice Center, this group, now affectionately known as the "Teddy Bear Ladies," has created over 10,000 handmade teddy bears for distribution to children receiving social services as a result of severe abuse. What started as a simple service project has now turned into a labor of love for these giving women. Not only do the Teddy Bear Ladies donate their time and money to this worthy project, but they also help give these children a fresh start after years of abuse.

What is remarkable about these ladies is not just their work, but also the ladies themselves. These dedicated volunteers range in age from the early 20s to mid 90s. Some of the younger volunteers thread needles for the older members of the group. Not even illness can stop the Teddy Bear Ladies from their work. One woman continued to sew teddy bears while suffering from severe headaches as a result from a brain tumor.

The Teddy Bear Ladies from Utah County represent what all Americans should strive to be: caring, dedicated, giving and compassionate. Through volunteering their time and talents, they are making a real difference in one Utah community.

#### HONORING MR. JUAN ARCELLANA

### HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Juan J. Arcellana (Jay) in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to the State of California. He has served the people of the state for over twenty-five years, and has been with the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board for the last sixteen of those years. I would like to take this time to highlight his many achievements and to extend public recognition and commendations to him for his professional and civic leadership over these many years.

Jay has been the Chief Administrative Law Judge for the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board for eight years, and is currently serving as both its Chief Administrative Law Judge and Executive Director. Jay has served with the utmost distinction as President of the National Association of Unemployment Insurance Appeals Boards.

Jay has spent an entire career dedicated to serving the unemployed and disabled citizens of California. He is particularly proud of his efforts to enhance the accessibility of the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board administrative hearing process, and ensure prompt consideration and action on their appeals.

Jay has received numerous commendations for his professionalism, expertise, hard work, extraordinary effort, and spirit of cooperation over the years, and it is certainly well deserved. Jay has personally touched the lives of many people throughout his career, giving many an employment opportunity allowing them to demonstrate and develop their individual talents.

Jay is married to Betsy Arcellana, and this marriage has been blessed with three sons, Jason, James and Jonathan. Today I call on my colleagues in Congress to join me in thanking Jay Arcellana for his longstanding and continued commitment to the Californians that need his help the most.

#### TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

### HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise one of the most under appreciated professions in our society: teachers. In doing so, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude for their often thankless, but noble efforts.

To quote Cicero, "What nobler a profession, or more valuable to the state, than that of a man who instructs the rising generation." Teachers, next to parents, are the most influential people in the lives of our children. Like parents, they prepare students for the future. Teachers serve as role models, mentors and friends. They strive to work with parents and guardians so that the full potential of each child may be realized.

Mr. Speaker, teaching has never been an easy job, and it hasn't gotten easier in recent years. Currently, the people to whom we entrust our children must teach in classes so