

subsidies to drug companies. I am disappointed, as a matter of fact I am heartsick, that many seniors who desperately need our help will not save one dime on their medication bills under this administration's program.

#### ADMINISTRATION HAS FAILED EDUCATION

(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, when it comes to education, the administration's rhetoric is there, but it masks the reality. The administration waves a lot of papers and makes a lot of speeches, but they have failed education in America; and it is a required course.

Here are their test courses. The administration has an Education Secretary who calls the teachers' union "terrorists." The administration left every child behind when it grossly underfunded that essential education in the United States.

Today, we are celebrating and they are celebrating Cinco de Mayo, while they hide from the Hispanic community the fact that they have cut programs to promote staying in school, knowing that the high school dropout rate for Hispanics is four times higher than white students.

Come November we are going to enroll the President and the administration in a remedial rhetoric course to learn how to tell the truth.

□ 1030

#### HONORING GENERAL ZARAGOZA

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true hero who gave his life to free his country from foreign oppression. Ignacio Zaragoza Segun was born in 1829 near what is now Goliad, Texas, in my 15th Congressional District.

In 1862, French troops began to march to capture Mexico City. They met the Mexican forces at the city of Puebla in a battle that lasted the entire day of May 5, 1862. Under General Zaragoza's leadership, the vastly outnumbered Mexican Army forced the withdrawal of Napoleon III's Army, the premier army in the world at that time. French losses were heavy, but Mexican casualties were few. The costly delay in Puebla helped shorten the French intervention. It also helped preserve the American union, as it kept the French Army too busy to directly aid the Confederacy with troops during the U.S. Civil War.

General Zaragoza received a hero's welcome in Mexico City. While visiting his sick troops, he contacted typhoid fever and he died September 8, 1862, at

the age of 33. On September 11, 1862, President Juarez declared May 5, Cinco de Mayo, a national holiday.

Today, Cinco de Mayo is celebrated throughout Mexico and around the world, but I hope that as we celebrate this holiday, we remember the courage and sacrifice of this true hero.

#### EVENTS OF THE DAY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me acknowledge the heroes of Cinco de Mayo Day, and all of my constituents and friends who are celebrating this day.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to acknowledge this is the national day to prevent teenage pregnancy, and to be able to say that from 1990 to 2000, the decrease in teenage pregnancy is seen at 28 percent.

Let me also congratulate the family of Mr. Hamill, who is now celebrating his return, and I acknowledge that because many of his friends and coworkers are in my congressional district. To them I say, what a celebration, but we pray for other hostages.

But I am so sorry that I stand here today really to challenge the tragedy of what has happened in the Iraqi prisons, not because those line soldiers, who I know have done a disgraceful act, are the only ones now being chastised, but because this administration believes that cameo appearances on the television are the solution to the tragedy of what happened, that that will correct the face of America in front of the million of Muslims and Iraqi people.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the administration to come to this Congress and that there be full exposure to what happened, not in the back rooms of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence or some other committee, but in an open hearing of this Congress. Shame on this Congress if we do not demand a full briefing of what happened. It should not be behind the closed doors of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

#### EDUCATION IN AMERICA

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, it is crucial that we examine the progress America's public school systems have made.

It seems to me although we live in different times, many fundamental challenges still remain. I, along with my Democratic colleagues, believe education is vital for students, parents and for our country. America needs strong leadership in education, one that will make up for 50 years of broken prom-

ises and unfinished business. Broken promises, such as the President's failure to increase funding for schools that remain \$9 billion short, broken promises such as the President's failure to increase Pell grants for our college students while Pell grants remain the same for a third year in a row.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to education, the President shows up for photo-ops, he stands next to children and to teachers for a picture, but he does not show up nor does he stand up with them when it comes to improving schools in our Nation.

It is time for the President to be held accountable for promises made and promises broken. As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, it is time to stop leaving millions of our children behind.

#### DO NOT OVERLOOK TRUE MEANING OF CINCO DE MAYO DAY

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Mexican patriots who gave their lives fighting valiantly and successfully against an overwhelming French army on May 5, 1862.

Celebrated as Cinco de Mayo, the true meaning of this holiday has been too often overlooked. Many celebrate with festivals, singing and dancing, but it is more than a party, it is about a proud heritage, cultural tradition and the freedom that was won. We as Americans and Hispanics celebrated Cinco de Mayo not just to honor the courage of those fighting for freedom, but also for its significance to the American ideal of self-determination, respect, justice and equality for all individuals.

Today, the struggle continues on, but we must come together as one Nation and one unit to respect each and every one of us. I yield back the balance of my time as we celebrate Cinco de Mayo, all coming together as one Nation and one country.

#### MIDDLE-CLASS ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2004

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 619 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 619

*Resolved*, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4227) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend to 2005 the alternative minimum tax relief available in 2003 and 2004 and to index such relief for inflation. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; (2) the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in