

disrupt bipartisan support with a bunch of political cheap shots. The U.S. spends nearly three times as much on R&D as the second-place country, Japan. And more money is spent on R&D activities in the U.S. each year than the rest of the G-7 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom) combined. The United States also holds strong leads in specific sectors. For example, the U.S. produces 32 percent of the entire world output in high-technology products. Technology products also account for a very large share of U.S. exports, thereby making a positive contribution to our overall trade balance (source: National Science Board Science and Engineering Indicators, 2004).

A Record To Run From. Finally, Senator KERRY likes to attack President Bush for "not having a record to run on." But while the President indeed does have a strong science and technology record, it is worthwhile for us to examine Senator KERRY's record on science and technology as a member of the Senate for the past two decades. A review of floor statements posted on Senator KERRY's web site show that, over the past 4 years, he's only mentioned science four times in floor statements. Further, even though Senator KERRY is a member of the influential Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, he has not introduced any legislation during this Congress on science and technology issues. Science, research, and innovation are vital to our country's future. Senator KERRY hasn't shown leadership on science and technology during his two decades in the Senate. Now he is dividing what has been bipartisan support for science and technology. Mr. KERRY, it is not good for science and it is not good for our country's future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GERLACH). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONGRATULATING DR. MELVIN STEELY ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, tonight I want to acknowledge the retirement of Dr. Mel Steely, a history professor and former colleague of then Professor Newt Gingrich. Dr. Steely is ending a 40-year career as a professor at the State University of West Georgia.

Born during Roosevelt's America May 9, 1939, Melvin Thomas Steely grew up in Cedartown, Georgia. With an interest in history, Dr. Steely aspired to teach, attaining both a master's and doctorate degree in history from Vanderbilt University. He taught at Lambuth College in Jackson, Tennessee before moving to West Georgia College to teach Modern European History in 1964.

Dr. Steely was the kind of a professor who would have no part of grade infla-

tion, and a grade of "A" in his classroom was well-earned. Despite how much he may have cherished the student, there was no fast track to success in his courses. Much like life, he believed you have to work and learn in order to achieve success.

Although he was a member of many professional organizations, Dr. Steely's contributions as President and lobbyist for the American Association of University Professors earned him both the Sumberg and the State Akin awards. He has worked in political campaigns for both parties. He has served as the faculty adviser to the West Georgia College Republicans for 24 years and continues to this day to serve as Speaker Newt Gingrich's biographer and curator.

Along with the many students he influenced over a 40-year teaching career, Dr. Steely's most significant accomplishment and legacy will be as the director of Georgia's Political Heritage Program. In 1985 he started an audio/video collection of famous Georgia political leaders in an effort to preserve our State's political heritage. Moderated by West Georgia history professors, the collection includes rare interviews with former governors, lieutenant governors, United States Senators and Members of the United States House of Representatives.

The political heritage archive also collects the political papers of Speaker Newt Gingrich and House interviews with all but two former Georgia governors since World War II.

Other significant individuals featured in this collection include Governor Jimmy Carter, Governor Lester Maddox, Governor and current United States Senator ZELL MILLER, United States Senator Herman Talmadge and Ambassador Andrew Young.

Beyond politics and history, Dr. Steely is involved in numerous civic organizations, including the Moose and Elks clubs, the Kiwanis Club, the Boy Scouts, the Methodist Church and Governor Sonny Perdue's Civil War Commission. With his wife, two daughters and five grandchildren, Dr. Steely should have no problem keeping busy outside of his continued involvement with the West Georgia Political Heritage Program.

On behalf of the constituents of Georgia's 11th Congressional District, I appreciate Dr. Steely's service to our community and his help in preserving Georgia's history. I wish him well, and may he find many new adventures in his retirement.

CARING FOR OUR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) is recognized for half the time until midnight as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, we are here this evening to discuss an issue

that I believe should be one of the highest priorities in the budget, one of the highest priorities for Members of Congress and one of the highest priorities for our government. We are here this evening to discuss caring for our veterans and their families. We are here on the floor to show them the respect they deserve.

Since the beginning of our Nation's history, our veterans have answered the call to duty with dignity, with courage and with great honor. These brave men and women have never flinched in the face of danger and as we speak on the floor this evening, a new generation of veterans is being made in Iraq and Afghanistan. Like all Members of this body, I pray for their safety and hope that they may return home to their loved ones as soon as possible. Like the veterans before them, these brave men and women deserve our respect, our gratitude and our care, not just while they are in harm's way but also when they come home and take off the uniform. There are so many issues facing our veterans community now that we must address so that the VA can care for the needs of our newest generation of heroes. I believe we must encourage all veterans to enroll within the VA so they can fully understand the need within our communities. There is a program in my home State of Maine called Operation I Served which is working to identify and enroll as many veterans as it can. I believe this is a noble effort and one that I fully support. I personally ask all veterans to enroll in the programs.

Mr. Speaker, one of my greatest concerns when I came to Washington was to give over 150,000 veterans in my State a stronger voice on the issues that are important to them. I have been honored with being ranking member on the House veterans benefits subcommittee. During my time on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I have learned a great deal from the full committee ranking member the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) and from the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the chairman. The bipartisan effort of our committee has resulted in the passage of good legislation, including improved veterans education benefits, the enhanced self-employment opportunities and improvement in home loans and adapted housing benefits. The housing veterans' affairs committee has achieved a great deal for veterans because of the bipartisan spirit with which it pursues issues important to veterans and their families. Unfortunately, that bipartisan desire to care for veterans does not reach into the administration's budget request. Veterans in this country are all too aware of the growing mismatch between the demands for veterans services and the funding allocation to supply these services. Some would have us address this issue of mismatch by decreasing the demand for VA services by limiting access to certain veterans or by increasing copayments to those veterans. I believe this is absolutely the