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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, May 9, 2005, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2005

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend James Brinkerhoff, Campus Minister, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, offered the following prayer:

Our Father in Heaven, surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket to You; they are regarded as dust on the scales. To whom, then, will we compare You? You are enthroned above all things, and so we acknowledge You and give You our praise and adoration.

Father, our Nation is woven into the tapestry of Your will. You have empowered our Nation; You have held us closely to Your heart; You have been gentle with us in times of crisis. And so it is with joy and confidence that we approach You today.

Father, please protect President and Mrs. Bush and continue to reward their hope in You. Please give strength to our men and women who are fighting overseas, and guard the hearts and minds of their families back home. Please empower the servants of this House, grant them times of renewal, and watch over their families. Father, remind us all that we are loved by You.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PALLONE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND JAMES BRINKERHOFF

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our guest chaplain, Mr. James Sanford Brinkerhoff. Jim has served selflessly as a campus minister on the Auburn University campus for 22 years, working with the Auburn Church of Christ and Auburn Christian Student Center.

Auburn University is the largest university in the State of Alabama and is therefore a crucial component of Alabama's educational system. Jim works very hard to ensure that, in addition to receiving outstanding education, Auburn students are exposed to the teachings of Jesus.

Through campus ministry, Jim has impacted the lives of many through counseling, teaching, service, and friendship. Students with whom he has worked now stretch across the globe with a common affection and respect for this man.

Jim is joined this morning by his wife, Mary, and their three children, Amy, Anna and Ben. I appreciate the prayer that Reverend Brinkerhoff offered this morning; and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS), who represents the Third Congressional District, and I are honored to have him as our guest in the United States House of Representatives, especially on this day as we celebrate the National Day of Prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The Chair will entertain up to 10 one-minute speeches per side.

WINNING THE WAR ON TERROR

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, our servicemen and -women are winning the war on terror. Yesterday, U.S. and coalition forces arrested al Qaeda's third highest ranking member.

Two years ago, the world saw the statues of Saddam Hussein come tumbling down as Iraqis celebrated their first taste of freedom in over a generation. Look at the progress Members may not have read about in the newspapers: 8.5 million Iraqis defied terrorists and voted in a historic election

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that was fair, transparent, and democratic. Iraq's National Assembly recently named the country's first democratically elected President in more than 50 years, and Iraqi security forces now number over 150,000 protecting their nation.

Mr. Speaker, I believe our President said it best. Before coalition forces arrived, Iraq was ruled by a dictatorship that murdered its own citizens, threatened its neighbors, and defied the world. And now because we acted, Iraq's government is no longer a threat to the world or its own people. Today, the Iraqi people are taking charge of their own destiny.

I rise to recognize the Iraqi people who have made such great strides and to thank our servicemen and -women who risk their lives every day to protect our freedom.

WAKE UP, AMERICA

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, instead of bringing our troops home from Iraq, today our majority party is advocating sending billions more to Iraq to keep our troops there indefinitely. Instead of winding down operations in Iraq, today the administration will receive money to help build permanent bases in Iraq. At a time when the American people are waking up to the disaster of the war in Iraq, this House is going to sleep. Wake up.

The administration manufactured intelligence to take us into war in Iraq. Wake up. The flower of America's youth is being sent to battles, spilling their blood to find weapons of mass destruction which did not exist. Wake up.

Mr. Speaker, $270 billion going for a war based on a lie while America's educational systems are crumbling, while 47 million Americans are without health insurance, while our inner cities have high unemployment, while oil companies are gouging Americans for $2 to $3 a gallon for gasoline. Wake up, my friends. Let us get out of Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, let us bring our troops home. Let us hold the administration accountable for the lies that took us into Iraq. Redeem the faith our Founders had in this House.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of strengthening one of the most important Federal programs, Social Security.

This past Monday, Vice President CHENEY graciously came to my district to talk to the good people of Georgia to talk about fixing Social Security for our future generations. At a town hall meeting at Campbell High School, one of the students stood up and said, Mr. Vice President, is Social Security going to be there for me when I reach retirement age. And the Vice President said, I hope so, son, but not unless we do something about it now.

I am really astonished my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are willing to put our children's retirement in jeopardy because they would rather use Social Security as a political weapon than an opportunity for bipartisan achievement.

Mr. Speaker, anyone can criticize and obstruct; but it takes a leader to do the heavy lifting on a serious problem as our President and Vice President have done. I urge my colleagues to keep up the good fight because our children and their children are dependent on us to save Social Security.

NATIONAL OSTEOPOROSIS AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, May is National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month. Osteoporosis and low bone density affect 44 million Americans over the age of 50, many of whom were unaware of the fact that they have osteoporosis and, therefore, were unable to take steps to prevent it.

Like many Americans, I had no idea I was at risk for developing osteoporosis. I thought I simply had bad posture, and it never occurred to me to be screened for osteoporosis. Yet when I was running for Congress in 1998, I was diagnosed with this disease. Fortunately, within 10 months of the diagnose with proper treatment I was able to stop my bone density loss and my bones actually began to strengthen again.

Because of my personal experience with osteoporosis, I am committed to ensuring that my fellow Americans are aware of the importance of early detection and prevention. Men and women can reduce their chances of developing this disease. I encourage everyone to see your doctor, get screened for osteoporosis. It is a very silent, but very deadly, disease.

MAKING PROGRESS ON THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, since May of 2003, more than 3 million new jobs have been created and Americans have gone back to work. We have had 22 straight months of job growth. Last month alone, more than 110,000 Americans found jobs.

Clearly, our economy's growth is as a result of the pro-growth agenda of the President and this Republican Congress. By focusing our efforts on allowing the American people to keep more of their own money and working to remove the negative economic effects of our legal system, the Republican Congress continues to show its commitment to America's economy and working families.

However, our work is not done. We need to get an energy bill signed into law. This would create 500,000 new jobs. We need to make the tax relief permanent and hold down government spending. Over the past 100 days, House Republicans have demonstrated that we are dedicated to promoting policies that better the economy. And for the sake of our families who are counting on us, I hope we can count on our friends in the Senate to follow our lead.

PROVIDING UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today there are more than 45 million Americans living without health insurance. In my home State of California, there are almost 6.5 million people without health insurance, and that is 300,000 more than when President Bush took office. This is a tragedy and a disgrace. It is time for us to act.

The Family Care Act, the Medicare Access Act, and the Small Business Health Insurance Promotion Act will help cover more than half of the uninsured, but that is not enough. All Americans should have access to quality health care, and that is why I will be reintroducing H.R. 3000, the United States Universal Health Service Act.

In the wealthiest country in the world, no one should be without affordable and accessible health care. Today this House votes on $82 billion more to continue to wage war and occupy Iraq, a total now of over $300 billion; and we cannot even provide health care for all Americans. It is a shame and disgrace that our priorities are so misplaced.

JOINT EFFORT WITH PAKISTAN WINNING WAR ON TERROR

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, as we were reminded with a thudding explosion on the streets of New York City at 3 a.m. this morning, we are a Nation at war. And so it is with particular pleasure that I rise to extol the arrest of Abu Farraj al-Libbi by Pakistani authorities yesterday in Pakistan. The capture of the third-ranking operative in al Qaeda is a momentous and significant event in the war on terror.

The President said, ''His arrest removes a dangerous enemy who was a direct threat to America and a critical victory in the war on terror.''

Stephen Hadley, the national security adviser, said he was not only doing operations, but was also into finance and administration; and he calls it a ''real accomplishment.''

As I learned when I visited Pakistan last December, and let us be clear on this point, while Pakistani authorities are to be commended for the third-ranking member of al Qaeda, let us make sure that we know as Americans it was a cooperation with American forces and American intelligence personnel on the ground in Pakistan that made that possible. A joint effort with Pakistan is winning the war on terror.

ABUSE OF POWER

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, Tuesday morning I gave a constituent a lift to the airport in Seattle going to the airport on my daily commute to Washington, D.C. I asked him what his feelings were, if any, about what is happening in Washington, D.C.

He said he is bothered by what he perceives as the abuse of power that is going on here in Washington, D.C. I asked him what he meant by that. It was very interesting because sometimes we do not know if people are paying attention to what is happening here, but he itemized a list of things that he was concerned about.

He was concerned about trying to do away with this checks and balance system that we have in our Federal judicial system. He was concerned about the attack on the independence of our courts. He said he was concerned about the attack on one of the checks and balances we had in the U.S. Senate in the filibuster that was so successful in keeping a stable democracy.

And he said, and this really surprised me, he said he was concerned about the abuses going on in this Chamber in trying to change the ethical rules just to protect one Member. He basically said, something smells.

Mr. Speaker, he is right; and I urge my colleagues to stop this long train of abuses of power in Washington, D.C.

□ 1015

MRS. FLORENCE TREPP

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I come to floor of the House of Representatives to congratulate my good friend and wonderful Nevadan, Mrs. Florence Trepp on her 80th birthday. This very special lady has dedicated much of her life to public service and various charitable causes, including working with abused children. Most notably, Florence has been an active supporter of the Parasol Community Foundation. A foundation founded by her son Warren in 1996, the Parasol Foundation is a unique organization promoting philanthropy, collaboration and volunteerism in the Lake Tahoe area. This foundation has been successful in ensuring that local charities with common or similar missions work together to improve their community and achieve their goals.

Florence Trepp's dedication to her community and to her family stands as a role model for all of us. So, Florence, from all of us who admire you, from all of us who love you, and from the United States Congress, happy birthday.

SHIRLEY QUEJA

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

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Shirley Queja, a dear friend and undeniably one of the most dependable and dedicated individuals on Capitol Hill.

Shirley is retiring after 27 years of service to the Congress—first for Senator Spark Matsunaga, then for my husband, Bob Matsui, and finally for me during my first 2 months here in this Chamber.

Shirley possessed an uncommon dedication to her work, always prepared, and never leaving anything to chance. She was always poised, even under the most trying of circumstances. And as all of the members of the extended Matsui family can tell you, she just might have one of the biggest hearts in town.

To her loving and patient husband, Irv, and her beautiful and intelligent daughters, Clarissa and Cassie, thank you for sharing Shirley with our family. And, Shirley, please know that Brian, Amy, Anna, and I will always have a special place in our hearts for you.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in celebrating the career of this consummate professional and extraordinary person.

IN RECOGNITION OF JESSICA EGGIMANN

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, with the continuity of a congressional session, there is a normal shuffling of staff positions. Today, it is with mixed emotions that I announce the departure of Jessica Eggimann.

For the past year and a half, Jess Eggimann has had one of the most difficult jobs on Capitol Hill—serving as a scheduler in my office. Due to her professionalism, dedication and strong work ethic, she has managed my hectic schedule with exceptional efficiency and patience, fulfilling the recommendation of Congressman JEFF MILLER, her hometown Member of Congress.

Although I am sad to see her leave, I am thrilled Jessica has been selected to work with the firm of Copeland, Lowery, Jacquez, Denton & White. Jessica is a person of high integrity and competence, and I am confident she will excel in her new position.

Jessica Eggimann is one of two daughters of Gail and the late Craig Eggimann of Pensacola, Florida. She is a credit to the people of South Carolina and Florida, and I wish her Godspeed.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

LOBBYING REFORM

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, a constant stream of headlines in recent weeks has opened the public's eye to the all too cozy relationship between lawmakers and professional lobbyists. Professional lobbyists have become a virtual ''back office'' for Congress, serving as travel agents, employment agencies and authors of legislation. We have had a debate on campaign finance reform that ultimately set the rules between donors and candidates. Now we need a similar debate and legislation on how to distance the People's House from the professional lobbyists on K Street.

The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MEEHAN), the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and I have drafted the Lobbying and Ethics Reform Act. Our bill creates a code of official conduct for congressmen; closes the revolving door by requiring former Members and staff to wait 2 years after they leave Congress before lobbying the institution; ends the practice of lobbyists serving as congressional travel agents by arranging lavish junkets for Members; and requires lobbyists to disclose their past connections, previous Hill employment and financial activities on a public database.

Mr. Speaker, when that gavel goes down, it should open the People's House, not the auction house for special interests. Only through lobbying reform can we restore the integrity of the Congress and regain the public's trust.

PRIMARY PREVENTION

(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, we are all concerned about the high cost of health care. Americans can take action to reduce costs by taking better care of themselves, and the Federal Government should play a lead role in helping out.

For example, obesity-related diseases have annual costs of $100 billion. Yet 7

out of 10 adults are overweight and obesity rates among children have doubled in the last decade. Diseases associated with a lack of physical activity amounted to a yearly cost of $76 billion. The direct and indirect medical costs of smoking are $138 billion per year, and the costs of alcohol abuse are about $184 billion in one year.

Businesses that educate people about healthy lifestyles can reduce health care costs. Companies like Motorola, Caterpillar and Johnson & Johnson have saved $1 to $4 in benefits for every dollar spent on these programs.

The Federal Government should lead by example and leverage Federal resources to promote preventive health care solutions to educate the public on health risks and personal responsibility to prevent these avoidable conditions and health care costs.

Want to learn more? I encourage my colleagues to visit my Web site at murphy.house.gov to learn more about these issues.

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MEXICAN HOLIDAY OF CINCO DE MAYO

(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, today Americans and individuals will observe the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo with celebrations and festivities. But sadly, most Americans do not know what we are really celebrating. That is why I have introduced H. Con. Res. 44, which recognizes the historical significance of Cinco de Mayo.

Cinco de Mayo is the anniversary of the date in 1862 on which the Mexican army, outnumbered, defeated the French in the Battle of Puebla, because they believed in the values of freedom and liberty, the same values that we celebrate today in the United States.

Today, that same spirit is evident in Mexican-American culture, and we pay tribute to that great spirit on Cinco de Mayo. Latinos have fought in all of America's wars, beginning with the Revolutionary War. They have given their lives, the ultimate sacrifice, for the freedoms that we enjoy here today. Many Latinos are fighting and dying today in Iraq. The foundation of our Nation was built by people from many nations and diverse cultures that were willing to fight and die for freedom.

We observe today Cinco de Mayo. Let us remember what it stands for and why many individuals have given their lives for this day.

ROBERT HUGHES

(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, Dunbar High School, Fort Worth, Texas, for the last almost half century, their men's basketball program has been guided by Coach Hughes. That is why I rise this morning to recognize the service and commitment of Robert Hughes of Fort Worth, Texas. Mr. Hughes, Coach Hughes, is our Nation's all-time winningest high school men's basketball coach and dedicated 47 years of service to coaching and educating students, helping them to succeed not only on the court, but also in life.

As Coach Hughes retires this year, we will no longer be measuring his wins on the court but the wins, the lives, he has helped create off the court. In taking time to teach his students, Coach Hughes chose not only to teach them about health and basketball, but about values and self-esteem as well. The loyalty with which Coach Hughes has served his students and Dunbar High is a testament to his passion for seeing every child succeed in life.

It is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize a man who has been a leader to so many throughout his lifetime. The legacy of Coach Hughes, on and off the court, shall serve as an inspiration to all those who wish to pursue their passion and make a difference in the lives of who they meet.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, last weekend, the President finished his 60 stops in 60 days tour. He traveled to a lot of places, but I wish he had come to my district because my district and my constituents would have told him, in no uncertain terms, that privatizing Social Security just does not cut it.

I have here over 3,000 petitions that were submitted to me by Rosalind Peterson and Becky Curry on behalf of the residents of three of my counties—Lake, Mendocino and Sonoma. They speak for people all along California's north coast who know that privatization will do three things: it will worsen the solvency of Social Security, it will lead to benefit cuts for everyone, and it will cause an explosion in our already record level national debt and our deficit.

My constituents know that Social Security is the most successful Federal program in our Nation's history. We need to strengthen Social Security to make sure it is solvent for future generations, but privatization is not the answer.

My constituents know that, and given the nationwide opposition to the President's privatization scheme, his constituents know it, also.

FIRST 100 DAYS OF CONGRESS: SUCCESSFUL

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share good news with the American people. We are beginning to see signs that the economy is clearly on the road to recovery. In fact, since May 2003, more than 3 million Americans went back to work. We have had 22 straight months of job growth. Last month alone, more than 110,000 Americans found jobs.

Clearly, the economy's growth is a direct result of the pro-growth agenda of the President and this Republican Congress. By holding the line on fiscal responsibility in the budget and passing pro-growth bills such as the death tax repeal and the bankruptcy bill, Republican Members continue to show their commitment to America's economy.

However, other steps must be taken to ensure our economy continues to grow. Today I urge my colleagues in the Senate to give Americans some relief at the pump by passing the energy bill, which would create 500,000 new jobs and begin the end to our dependence on foreign oil. It has programs that allow us to depend on our own resources, and that is the American way.

Over the past 100 days, House Republicans have demonstrated that we are dedicated to promoting policies that better the economy and help families out there who are counting on us. I hope that we can count on our friends in the Senate to follow our lead.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE WAR IN IRAQ

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, President Bush and the Republican leadership in the House are asking us today to vote again on a huge appropriations bill to fund the Iraq war without any oversight. I do not understand how we can be asked to vote on another huge appropriations bill to spend money in Iraq, and yet we do not have any oversight, any hearings to determine what the costs are and what the money is being spent on.

Yesterday I talked about how there have been renewed reports about how our soldiers are not properly protected. There is no exit strategy. What are the overall costs of this war? And what does it mean when we continue to go into deficit and do not have money to pay for domestic programs without having an exit strategy or even any defined strategy of what our goals are in Iraq?

As was mentioned earlier today by other speakers, we know that we went into Iraq for the wrong reasons. The weapons of mass destruction were never found, were never there. Yet no one within the Bush administration or within the Republican leadership basically tells us what the reason is, why we are remaining, how long we are going to be there or what the cost is going to be.

I do not think we should be voting on this bill today until we have answers to those questions.

FIRST 100 DAYS OF CONGRESS

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

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, in the first 100 days of Congress, my Republican colleagues and I have worked to make America safer. Since the tragic day of September 11 when our country suffered a painful blow to its heart, we have persevered to make sure every American feels secure and knows our freedom will always be protected.

We continue to take strides in the war on terror, here at home and abroad. Our country will not yield to our enemies who lack humanity and principle. As our selfless soldiers move forward and yield freedom and choice overseas, it is critical that they have the most up-to-date protective gear available. In the supplemental appropriations, we designated funding to do just that.

In the REAL ID Act, we implemented the 9/11 Commission's recommendations. By applying critical driver's license reforms and stringent border protection, we ensure that licenses cannot be used by terrorists as a gateway to travel documents, weapons or firearms.

Mr. Speaker, we live in a Nation, a great Nation of liberty. I am privileged as a new Member to vote for these important pieces of legislation protecting our homeland, and I look forward to what our majority will accomplish in the coming days.

THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

(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, today we have a very stark example of what is dysfunctional about the Republican's running of this House. We have done nothing about the livable wage that we all believe in. We have done nothing about providing health insurance for the people in this country. Forty-five million have nothing. We have done nothing about the housing prices and problems in this country. We have done nothing about cleaning up the environment. In fact, we continue to be addicted to oil and all we do is pass a bill that gives more money to oil and to coal.

Now, we are not dealing with the problems of the American people. Instead today what we are doing is continuing to pursue the Bush war of folly in Iraq. He has spent $200 billion of our money so far. He says, ''Please give me another 80. I don't know what I'm going to do with it, but I'm going to keep spending it over there.''

□ 1030

The electricity is not up in Iraq. The sewer system is not in up in Iraq. The telephone system is not up in Iraq. He cannot fix it there or here.

This is a bad bill, and it ought to be voted against.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1268, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND TSUNAMI RELIEF ACT, 2005

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 258 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 258

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1268) making Emergency Supplement Appropriations for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

SEC. 2. The chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized, on behalf of the Committee, to file a supplemental report to accompany H.R. 748.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) is recognized for 1 hour.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday the Committee on Rules met and reported a rule for consideration of the conference report on H.R. 1268, the Emergency Supplemental Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief Act, 2005. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and provides that the report shall be considered as read. Additionally, it authorizes the chairman of the House Committee on the Judiciary to file a supplemental report to accompany H.R. 748.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1268, the emergency supplemental appropriation, is intended to fully fund our forces overseas and at home. It helps to ensure the full funding of the important accounts which have been depleted during our global war on terror and our effort to assist the Iraqi and Afghan people in their efforts to establish functioning democracies in their countries.

Additionally, the bill includes important funding for Afghan reconstruction and counter-terrorism assistance, counternarcotics efforts, international food aid, and relief to address the terrible tragedies resulting from the massive tsunami that struck the Southwest Pacific and Indian Oceans in December of 2004.

Mr. Speaker, additionally, this rule provides important increases in coverage for the servicemembers' group life insurance and increases coverage for individual soldiers from $250,000 to $400,000. It also increases the one-time death benefit from $12,000 to $100,000. While neither of these benefits can ever replace the lives of brave American service personnel lost in action, they can assist their families through the hard times they will face while recovering from the loss of their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 258 allows us to fully debate the important issues surrounding the war on terror. Just yesterday we saw on the front page of The Washington Post a graphic photograph that captured the terrible effects of the war on an innocent victim and the courage and compassion of the American soldiers who are engaged in the battle. We should keep this image in mind as we commence the debate on the conference report today. More than any words I could ever utter, that picture illustrates the nobility of our effort, the valor and decency of our soldiers, and the evil and fanaticism of our enemies.

Many may wish to raise policy issues in this debate. That is certainly appropriate. Others may want to discuss issues that, however important, are superfluous to the war on terrorism. Mr. Speaker, I believe in this discussion we should focus our remarks on what truly counts. We have committed 170,000 of our servicemen and -women to fight terrorism and advance the cause of freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan. We owe them our full support in the battles they wage on behalf of the American people and the cause of liberty. This rule and the underlying bill represent the efforts of Congress to keep that solemn commitment to the sons and daughters of America.

Mr. Speaker, to that end I urge support for the rule and the underlying bill.

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

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

I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I think we can all agree that supporting our young men and

women in uniform is a priority for each and every Member of this House. Whether we are Democrats or Republicans, whether we have agreed with the Bush administration's reasons for going to war in Iraq or opposed them, we all want the United States to be successful in the Middle East.

We may disagree on how we overcome the challenges that lay before us, just as our Founding Fathers hoped and expected we would. But all of us here are patriots, and all of us come to the table with our best intentions in mind.

Our troops in uniform throughout Afghanistan and Iraq have consistently performed their duty with courage and great integrity. It is incumbent upon us here in the people's House to honor those sacrifices in the only real way we can, by providing leadership for this Nation that is as principled and as courageous as each of our fallen soldiers.

We have a responsibility to live up to their example and have the courage to perform our duty with integrity. We must insist on accountability and honesty in this government, and we, too, must always be accountable and honest.

But I fear that in this body, in this Congress, we have not risen to that challenge. Yesterday, while walking through the Senate halls, I saw a picture of Senator Harry Truman conducting a meeting of the Truman Commission, and under that picture there is a statement that says that the Truman Commission saved the taxpayers of the country millions of dollars during the Second World War by ferreting out waste and corruption in the American war effort. And let me remind my colleagues that Senator Truman was investigating his own administration.

The commission's purpose was to maximize every dollar we had to spend, to ferret out corruption and mismanagement, and to infuse a sense of accountability into the American war machine. By all accounts they were successful in their noble endeavor. Their good work saved many American lives by ensuring that our tax dollars were spent on where they needed to be spent, on winning the war. One more helmet, one more bullet, one more tank, it made the difference.

And yet we in this Congress do not have the courage to insist on the same level of accountability today that our forefathers saw fit to employ over 60 years ago.

When this same supplemental was brought before the House earlier this year, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) offered an amendment that would have established a select committee to follow up on a very disturbing report which had been released from the Inspector General's office. The report indicated that $9 billion of money spent on Iraqi reconstruction was unaccounted for. And for those who are counting out there, that is 9,000 million dollars. We heard reports of payroll checks covering employees who did not exist and firms being compensated for providing security for flights that never took off. We even heard a report that a Pentagon contract for the development of bulletproof armor was given to a former army researcher who never delivered a single piece of armor.

These types of incidents squander precious resources, waste time we do not have, and, worse, they place our American soldiers' lives at risk. But the majority in the House defeated our attempts to bring a measure of accountability into the process. And today, 9 months later, that $9 billion is still missing and none of those incidents I have just mentioned have been investigated, none of them.

And still today we have no Truman Commission of our own to speak of and no language in this conference report that will create one. The question I have for my colleagues today is, why not? Surely the leadership of the House understands that missing $9 billion of taxpayer money could benefit our troops had we the sense to go and look for it. And without any oversight commission to investigate and prevent the issues of taxpayer dollars by the Pentagon or some unscrupulous government contractors, how can we be sure that the $82 billion check we are cutting today on behalf of the American taxpayers will actually reach its destination or be used to protect our troops in the line of fire? After all, it is our young men and women in uniform who pay the price for the inability of this body to enforce any standard of accountability.

But this is not the only failure of accountability we see here today. All one had to do was open a newspaper this morning and read that Dr. Ahmed Chalabi, who was honored by sitting there with the first lady in the State of the Union Address, has been named the deputy prime minister of the country and the acting oil minister in the provisional government in Iraq. Do I have to remind this House that just months ago Dr. Chalabi was under intense scrutiny for feeding the U.S. Government bad intelligence, which ultimately led us to invade Iraq? Do I have to remind my colleagues that just months ago Dr. Chalabi was suspected of passing U.S. intelligence to the Iranian Government? Can anyone possibly explain how this man has been allowed to accept such a high-ranking position in the Iraqi provisional government?

We know what should be in the bill: language to create a modern version of the Truman Commission so we can ensure that men like Chalabi do not undermine the war and reconstruction effort, place American soldiers at risk, and rob American taxpayers blind as we continue to pump more and more money into Iraq.

But now I want to touch on what should not be in the bill. The majority believes in instituting a national identification card program for the country, which is in the legislation. Creating a national identification card is serious business and could have profound implications for all Americans. It should be debated on the floor openly with opportunity for ample discussion and amendment. Instead, the leadership has shoved this extreme measure down our throats as part of the supplemental, knowing full well that many Members would never support the measure in its current form but will be forced to vote for it because we want to support our troops. That is not accountability; that is arrogance.

How dare they hide behind our men and women in uniform as the brave souls risk their lives every day to protect us from danger. How could the leadership of this body use them to protect themselves and their agenda from debate, from democracy, and accountability? This is just the latest example of misuse of power.

Members should be aware that the rule contains a section that authorizes the Committee on the Judiciary to file a supplemental report on H.R. 748, the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act. Members may recall that during the markup of H.R. 748 in Committee on the Judiciary last month, five defeated Democrat amendments were included in the committee report with descriptions that blatantly and grossly mischaracterized the amendments. While the rule will provide for a supplemental report to be filed, it does not require or direct the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary to apologize to the authors of the amendments, nor are we sure that it will never happen again.

So just as the leadership concedes the issue and recognizes action must be taken, they are still not accepting the responsibility. I am sure we are supposed to be grateful for this small token, but it would mean much more if those responsible for maligning our colleagues here in the House would accept the responsibility for their actions and fix the report.

I am going to support the conference report because I am supportive of my troops abroad, but it has to be noted that our brave men and women are being used as a tool to cover for the underhanded attempt to institute a national ID card, but also for last week's misguided use of power that maligned several of our colleagues. At the same time, they have failed to infuse the much-needed accountability into the process. This is not the principled leadership we owe the men and women the bill is supposed to protect. This is not courageous. We can do better. We owe our fighting men and women at least that much.

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

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

For the purpose of clarification, I want to quickly address the matter involving the supplemental report on H.R. 748, the Child Interstate Abortion

Notification Act. The purpose of this supplemental report is to change the description of certain amendments considered during the committee markup and process. It is my understanding that the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary has already prepared the supplemental report and shared its contents with the committee's ranking minority member.

I further understand that the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary is prepared to file a supplemental report immediately after the adoption of this resolution and also to place it in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This supplemental report will be part of the official legislative history of the bill and will amend the descriptions contained in the original report.

This supplemental report responds directly to the questions of privilege raised by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), both of which call for the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary ''to report to the House a supplement to House Report 109–51 that corrects the record by describing the five amendments with nonargumentative, objective captions.'' The text of the proposed supplemental report also includes additional dissenting views from the committee's ranking minority describing his disagreements with the interpretation of the amendments by the majority.

□ 1045

The filing of the supplemental report represents the regular order for correcting problems in earlier committee reports filed with the House.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, since September 11 of 2001, we have been a Nation at war. We are engaged in a worldwide war on terror, a battle against the forces of terror, terrorists who hate our freedoms, who hate democracy.

But the fact of the matter is that the forces of freedom are winning. We have liberated Afghanistan and brought democracy to that Nation for the first time in its history. Afghanistan has gone from a haven for terrorists to an ally in the War on Terror.

We have liberated Iraq. In January, we saw the dramatic results when the people of Iraq defied the terrorists and went to the polls to elect a new government. We saw another major step with the formation of a new democratic government in Iraq just the other day, and we have seen democratic movements break out in Lebanon. We have seen the Libyan government renounce terror and weapons of mass destruction, and we have seen the leaders of al Qaeda rounded up, including just yesterday, when the number three terrorist in that organization was captured in Pakistan.

Yes, war is difficult, but as we have found throughout our Nation's history, freedom is not free.

That is why we in Congress must take this step today and approve the emergency wartime supplemental. We have a responsibility to ensure that our men and women in uniform have the tools that they need to take the fight to the enemy, and we have an obligation to the families of those brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom and security to ensure that they are cared for.

We have an obligation to the newly democratic allies that we have to ensure that they will survive and not revert to repression and to terror.

We have a responsibility to keep the heat on the terrorists. They can run and they can hide, but not forever.

For those who say that we are spending too much on this war, I would ask what price do you put on freedom and on security?

I urge my colleagues to support the rule and this measure. We owe our troops, our allies, and the American people no less.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I expect this conference report to pass overwhelmingly. I am troubled, however, that the conferees failed to include the provision sponsored by Senator BYRD urging Congress to fund operations in Iraq and Afghanistan through the normal budget process.

Our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan are no longer unforeseen expenses; they are known, and they are anticipated. They should be in this budget. This bill is nearly $82 billion, bringing the total amount the President has received off-budget for Iraq and Afghanistan to nearly $300 billion in just 2 years.

We cannot keep digging ourselves into this deficit hole. Unless our policy changes, and I hope it does, these operations are going to be long-term. And even though no one at the White House or the Pentagon is willing to admit it, everyone in this House knows it. We have to get this spending back into the regular budget process so that it is paid for and does not bankrupt the Federal budget for decades to come. We should be paying these costs like grownups, not passing them on to our children and our grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am relieved that the conferees reinstated the President's ability to waive the restrictions on the economic aid for Palestine. I recently traveled to Israel and the Palestinian territory with our distinguished Democratic leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI). It became clear to me that what we need out of any agreement is not just a separate state for the Palestinians, but an economically viable State, where Palestinians can make a decent living, feed their kids, and live with dignity.

The House bill would have made it all but impossible for the U.S. to help create that kind of confidence in the future. At least now the President has some flexibility to show that the U.S. is willing to invest in a secure and dignified future for Palestinians and Israelis alike.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I cannot support this supplemental, because I cannot support any more money for the policy in Iraq. Over 138,000 troops are serving in Iraq, and I was there over the recess and had the privilege of meeting some of them. These men and women are in Iraq because of lies, because of deceit, and half-truths, and they deserve better than more of the same.

I cannot support ever-increasing funding for the war in Iraq without a clear understanding from this administration about when and how it will bring our own troops home. I am tired of the spin, I am tired of the lack of accountability, and I am tired of the lack of candor. I believe the time to stand up and call for that kind of clarity is now.

Every Member of Congress, liberal or conservative, Democrat or Republican, loves this country, supports our troops, and is doing everything possible to help military families make it through difficult times. This is not in question.

Our policy in Iraq, Mr. Speaker, is what is in question, and I, for one, simply cannot support it.

Mr. Speaker, I expect this conference report to pass overwhelmingly, but there are a number of issues in this bill that I find troubling.

First, I am troubled that the conferees failed to include the provision sponsored by Senator BYRD urging Congress to fund our military, security and reconstruction operations in Iraq and Afghanistan through the normal budget process.

Our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan are no longer unforeseen expenses; they are known and anticipated. They should be in the budget. This bill is nearly $12 billion, bringing the total amount the President has received off-budget from the Congress for Iraq and Afghanistan to nearly $300 billion in just two years.

Mr. Speaker, we can't keep digging ourselves into this deficit hole. Unless our policy changes—and I hope it does—these operations are going to be long term. And even though no one at the White House or the Pentagon is willing to admit it, everyone in this House knows it. We have to get this spending back into the regular budget process, back into the regular authorization and appropriations process, so that it is paid for and doesn't bankrupt the federal budget for decades to come.

We should be paying these costs like grown-ups—not passing them on to our children and grandchildren.

Second, I commend the conferees for providing funding to meet critical shortfalls in basic equipment for our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq, especially for the Army, the Marines,

and our National Guard and Reservists. I just hope this time the funding works and the shortfalls are met. This is not the first time the Congress has specifically provided funding above and beyond the President's request for body armor, up-armored Humvees, trucks, radios, and the like. But somehow, this equipment never gets to the men and women whose lives are on the line. So I thank the conferees for their work on this matter, and I just hope this time the equipment gets to where it's needed most.

Third, I strongly support the increased life insurance and death benefit payments for our troops, including our Guard and Reservists. But, Mr. Speaker, we could have done this over a year ago when my colleague from Arizona, Mr. RENZI, and I succeeded in doubling the death gratuity and restoring its tax exempt status. We would have done more, but we were told at that time, in no uncertain terms by the Pentagon, that increasing the benefit to $100,000 was unacceptable. So I am pleased to see this matter satisfactorily resolved.

Fourth, I am very disappointed that the conferees failed to include in the final conference report the Senate-approved amendment offered by Senator DURBIN to close the pay-gap for Federal employees who are National Guard and Reserve members and are now serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Representatives LANTOS, GRAVES, SHAYS and I have introduced H.R. 838, the HOPE at HOME Act, which would help close the pay gap for all activated and deployed Guard and Reservists, including those who work for the Federal government. Senator DURBIN's provision focused solely on Federal employees, which is the largest employer of National Guard and Reservists, and cost only $170 million over 5 years. Right, the Federal government praises those private sector employers that by their own choice do the right thing and make up the difference between a Guard or Reservist's civilian pay and their military pay. Rather than just praising others, I believe the Federal government should be a leader in closing the pay-gap, and I am angry that once again the Congress failed to take positive action on this matter.

Fifth, I am pleased that the conferees reinstated the president's ability to waive the restriction on the economic aid for Palestine. I recently had the privilege of traveling to Israel and the Palestinian territories with our distinguished Democratic Leader, Congresswoman PELOSI. It became clear to me that one of the most important things we need out of any peace agreement is not a separate state for the Palestinians, but an economically viable state. We need a Palestinian state where people can make a decent living, feed and care for their children, and live with dignity.

The House-passed bill would have made it all but impossible for the U.S. to help create that kind of confidence in the future. While the restrictions remain, at least now the president has the same flexibility to show that the United States is willing to invest in a secure and dignified future for Palestinians and Israelis alike.

And sixth, I strongly support the funding provided in this supplemental for the tsunami disaster relief and reconstruction, the international peacekeeping missions in Haiti and Darfur, Sudan, and for international food aid programs.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I cannot support this supplemental for two major reasons. The first is that it still contains the Real ID Act. The conferees did not increase the funding levels for border security, as they were instructed to do under the House-passed motion to instruct. Instead, the conferees have chosen to impose these highly restrictive, punitive measures that will burden our states and, I believe, fail to have any meaningful effect on stemming illegal immigration, but will do great harm to those immigrants fleeing persecution, regardless of how they come to our shores seeking protection.

But most importantly, I cannot support this supplemental because I cannot support any more money for the policy in Iraq. Over 138,000 American troops currently serve in Iraq. I had the privilege of meeting some of them when I was in Iraq during the Easter recess.

These men and women are in Iraq because of lies, deceit and half-truths. They deserve better than just more of the same.

I can no longer support ever-increasing funding for the war in Iraq without a clear understanding from this Administration about when and how it will bring our own troops home. I am tired of the spin. I am tired of the lack of accountability. I am tired of the lack of candor. I believe the time to stand up and call for that kind of clarity is now. For others of my colleagues, that time may come 2 years from now, or 4 years from now, or 6 years from now, or maybe never—but for me, the time is now.

Every Member of Congress, liberal or conservative, Democrat or Republican, loves this country, supports our troops, and is trying to do everything possible to help military families make it through this difficult time. This is not in question.

Our policy in Iraq, Mr. Speaker, is what is in question. And I, for one, can simply not support it.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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

I rise in strong support of the emergency war supplemental, and I commend in particular the new chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), and all the members of his committee, for masterful and disciplined work on this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, last year I traveled to Iraq and Afghanistan to meet with troops and local leaders. I witnessed firsthand the challenges and opportunities they face, and I can tell my colleagues with conviction that heroes and a future of freedom are being forged every day in Iraq and Afghanistan. And while much work remains, I am more confident than ever in the justice and the ultimate success of our cause.

And, Mr. Speaker, I remain confident that we here in Congress must do our duty, demonstrating the idealism and the perseverance of the American people, stand with the men and women serving in our Armed Forces, and speed the passage of this emergency supplemental bill without rancor or without delay.

The men and women who liberated Iraq and Afghanistan deserve our very best. They deserve the resources they need to get the job done and come home safe.

It was just this morning I received an e-mail from Dawn Heister, the courageous widow of Master Sergeant Mike Heister, who fell in Afghanistan along with four other Hoosiers just the day before Easter. The courage in her e-mail inspired and moved my wife and I to such an extent that I rise today and dedicate my humble efforts and my vote today in favor of this emergency war supplemental in the memory of Master Sergeant Mike Heister and his brave wife.

But just like our troops, the American people deserve the very best protection, and the gentleman from California (Chairman LEWIS) and the members of his committee, have succeeded in adding $635 million in budgetary resources for increased border security and enforcement, and this also is a critical advance in the war on terror. The money, just like what we will invest in Iraq and Afghanistan, will help hire, train, and equip and support an additional complement of over 500 Border Patrol agents and relieve current facility overcrowding.

We also will provide resources for training. It will provide the Department of Homeland Security with additional resources to train and hire criminal investigators and immigration enforcement agents, recognizing that the 9/11 Commission concluded that for the terrorists, travel documents are every bit as powerful and important as weapons. This legislation will require all States to prove lawful presence in the United States if their driver's licenses are to be accepted as a form of identification as a travel document to a Federal official, including Federal officials working at airports for the Transportation Security Administration.

So I say, we are doing our part to provide for the common defense. We are standing with our soldiers abroad as they fight on the front lines of the war on terror. But this legislation also importantly and urgently speeds additional resources to the fight here at home, with its increased complement of support for border security and travel security.

I applaud, again, the gentleman from California (Chairman LEWIS) and the House Committee on Appropriations for their disciplined and principled manner of approaching this legislation. I urge my colleagues to affirm their leadership with a yea vote, and I urge the passage of the emergency war supplemental.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Let me simply say that I intend to support this legislation when we actually get to it, but that does not mean I am happy with the contents of it.

There are clearly more than seven or eight items, major items that I find very problematic. But what I want to do at this time is to alert the House to the contents of the motion that we would make on the rule if the previous question is not adopted.

If the previous question is not adopted, we would be offering a request to establish a select committee such as the Truman Committee back in World War II to investigate and study the awarding and carrying out of government contracts to conduct activities in Afghanistan and Iraq. I would simply point out, all one has to do is to read the newspapers daily to understand how badly this is needed.

The Washington Post this morning has the most recent story: ''Audit of Iraq Spending Spurs Criminal Probe,'' and then it talks about opening a criminal inquiry into millions of dollars missing in Iraq after auditors have uncovered indications of fraud and nearly $100 million in reconstruction spending that could not be properly accounted for. The article goes on to say, the audit of U.S. funds found that the contract files were ''unavailable, incomplete, inconsistent and unreliable.'' Other than that, they were terrific. And the article points out that as a result, auditors have said the U.S. Government may have trouble making a case against contractors who overbill or do not do what they are supposed to do.

Now, we have been virtually begging on bended knee to get this Congress to establish a committee with teeth to look into this problem. We met with no success. I would point out that stands in stark contrast to what happened in 1941 when then Senator Harry Truman became aware of similar stories, and he saw to it that a committee was created in the Congress to investigate that situation. That committee held 432 public hearings and 300 executive sessions and issued 51 reports and saved the taxpayers a load of money.

I would also point out, that was a case where a democratic Congress was investigating a democratic administration, and no great harm was done to the republic in the process. A lot of good was done.

So I just want to urge Members to vote against the rule because, in my mind, this Congress is derelict in its duty and, in my mind, any Member of Congress who refuses to recognize how the taxpayers' dollars are being siphoned off every day by these operations, by these sloppy operations in Iraq, they are contributing to the fact that the taxpayers are being fleeced. They may not be wanting to do that, but that is the practical effect of their actions.

So I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, sooner or later, we are going to have this committee, because we are going to be stuck in Iraq for another 5 years, and we are going to see stories like this headline every week. It is about time we got around to setting up a cleanup brigade to deal with the problem before we are all acutely embarrassed by it.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I simply want to say that while I would urge support for the underlying bill, I would urge that the rule not be supported until we have had an opportunity for this House to meet its oversight responsibilities. We ought to be acting like a watchdog in this case. Instead, we are acting like puppy dogs. That is not going to help the taxpayer very much.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), the chairman of the Committee on Rules.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of not only this rule, but the conference report as well. I want to congratulate my colleagues, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), and I know we are going to be hearing from the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) in just a few minutes some very thoughtful remarks.

But I want to begin by saying that this is the first supplemental appropriations bill that our very good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) has brought to the House floor. And I take my hat off to him, as I know both Democrats and Republicans will, for the phenomenal job that he is doing as the new chairman of the Committee on Appropriations.

This bill is one which encompasses, as we all know, the very important aspect of ensuring that our men and women in uniform, as we are in the midst of the war on terror, including Iraq, have what they need. It also is focused on ensuring that we provide some relief to those who were hit so badly by the tsunami that took place at the end of last year. This also is, Mr. Speaker, a very great testament to the commitment that was made by the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) last fall.

□ 1100

I had the privilege of serving with a number of our colleagues as a conferee on the intelligence reform package, the implementation of the recommendations from the 9/11 Commission.

And we know that border security is a very important aspect of that. Those of us who were House conferees on the Republican side pushed very hard to make sure that we could deal with the driver's license issue, the asylum issue, and the effort to close the 3½-mile gap in the border fence which has been discussed here many, many times.

We had an amendment that was offered by our then former colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. Ose), to complete that 3½-mile gap. We worked very hard to ensure that when it came to the issues of driver's licenses, that we did not impose a mandate on the States. We simply said to the States, as is included in this measure, that if a State chooses to give driver's licenses to people who are here illegally, then those driver's licenses cannot be used for any Federal purpose: getting on board an aircraft, going into a Federal courthouse, applying for any Federal program.

So States are still free to do whatever they would like; but this provision is addressed, I think, very adequately, focusing on our security. Well, these issues that we discussed and tried to include in the 9/11 Conference last fall unfortunately were not able to be included because our colleagues in the other body chose to resist. And we had a commitment from Speaker HASTERT that the first must-pass piece of legislation would include the very important border security items which are so important for us.

And I am happy to say that Speaker HASTERT and Chairman LEWIS have included these provisions. I also wanted to compliment President Bush who has strongly supported the effort to include the Real ID Act in this measure. This is a very important first step towards dealing with the issue of border security. I am pleased, we are planning next week to hold hearings on H.R. 98, our goal of putting into place a counterfeit-proof social security card, so that we can also play a role in diminishing that magnet which draws people illegally across the border; and in so doing, we can allow the Border Patrol to focus their attention on the potential terrorist threat coming across our borders and other criminals.

And so we have got very important things that we are doing. No one knows whether this is a panacea. It is still a problem with which we have to contend, but the measures that are included in this supplemental appropriations bill are critical to dealing with that challenge that we face.

I thank my friends for their hard work on this. I generally congratulate the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and all who have been involved on both sides of the aisle in implementation of this important measure.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I wish I could give my full congratulations. I appreciate the leadership of our members of the Appropriations Committee; but might I say, Mr. Speaker, that there are a lot of Achilles heels in this particular legislation.

I will quickly say that my good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), talks about security.

And, frankly, this bill and the President's mark and budget cuts border security in half, cuts the ICE officers in half. So, really, there is no border security in this bill.

And then they try to patchwork immigration. Today I am going to introduce the Save America Comprehensive Immigration Act that really confronts the question that Americans are concerned about, getting in front of the immigration concern and not behind it.

The Real ID bill takes away Americans' rights, denies asylees the opportunity to come into this country where for years we have brought those that have been mutilated and raped. It is not a bill that confronts the values of America.

And then, of course, it is a back-door way to correct the abuse that was rendered in the Committee on the Judiciary characterizing Members' amendments that dealt with protecting children and providing rights to clergy and grandparents as having to do with a criminal act. There is no response to that, other than a back-door opportunity to clarify the Record.

Where is the apology? Why were these amendments mischaracterized in the first place? Particularly since the same amendments, dealing with clergy, dealing with taxicab drivers, dealing with grandparents and aunts and uncles, providing teenagers that opportunity to consult with them, were also in 2002, and never characterized as wrongly as they were characterized now.

This is a wool-over-your-eyes. Unfortunately, the tragedy in Iraq continues to grow, now almost 160 people killed in the last 4 days. When is the administration going to speak to the issue of a solution in Iraq. This bill does not answer the question.

Certainly we support our troops. We wish for them the best. These moneys are necessary, but they are clouded with a lot of baggage that does not help the American troops. This is a ''no'' on the rule, and this certainly is worthy of consideration of this appropriation that does not answer the concerns of Americans. While our soldiers are fighting, Rome is burning. This is a bad bill, and it is a bad rule.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the Rule in H.R. 1268, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, The Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief for 2005 purports to do and I thank the Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary for what Section 2 of the rule proposes to do. For Representative NADLER, Representative SCOTT, Ranking Member CONYERS, and me, Section 2 of this rule represents an effort to appease aggrieved Members of Congress. The cure is not complete, and I plan to offer a point of personal privilege to highlight this unfortunate action by the majority next week.

SECTION 2 OF H. RES. 258

Section 2 of the rule provides that ''The Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized, on behalf of the Committee, to file a supplemental report to accompany H.R. 748.'' While I thank the Gentleman from Wisconsin for his effort, unfortunately, this language is neither hortatory nor fully protective of the privileges offered by House Report 109–51.

PREVIOUS QUESTION ON RULE H. RES. 258

Mr. Speaker, we must include in the underlying conference report a concurrent resolution adding the Tierney-Leach accountability amendment.

The Tierney-Leach accountability amendment would create a Select Congressional Committee—based on the Truman Committee that existed from 1941 to 1948 during World War II—to investigate and study the awarding and carrying out of Government contracts to conduct military and reconstruction activities in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We must look to our history, Mr. Speaker, and look to the Truman Select Committee as a precedent for a select committee to investigate government contracting during wartime. In 1941, with the United States engaged in a major military build-up as part of World War II, Senator Harry Truman (D–MO) became aware of widespread stories of contractor mismanagement in military contracts. Senator Truman rightly called upon Congress to create a select committee to study and investigate contracting, which Congress did on March 1, 1941. From its creation in 1941 until it expired in 1948, the Truman Committee held 432 public hearings and 300 executive sessions, went on hundreds of fact-finding missions, and issued 51 reports. Throughout, the Truman Committee earned high marks for its thoroughness and efficiency and ensured that taxpayer dollars were being well-spent.

There is ample evidence of the necessity of a modern-day Truman Committee. Since 2003, numerous questions have arisen about U.S. government contracting in Iraq. From the start of our involvement in Iraq, questions have arisen about how contracts have been awarded, the size of those contracts, the quality of contractor work, and the use of taxpayers dollars.

Since 2003, there have been many examples of the misuse of American taxpayer dollars in Iraqi contracting. Nearly $9 billion of money spent on Iraqi reconstruction is unaccounted for because of inefficiencies and bad management, according to the Special Inspector General for the Iraqi Reconstruction. In one case, the Inspector General raised the possibility that thousands of ''ghost employees'' were on an unnamed ministry's payroll. Furthermore, a government contractor defrauded the Coalition Provisional Authority of tens of millions of dollars in Iraq reconstruction funds and little is being done to try to recover the money, according to the reports of whistleblowers. For example, the firm was paid $15 million to provide security for civilian flights into Baghdad even though no planes flew during the term of the contract.

Ensuring vigilant oversight of taxpayer dollars should not be a partisan issue. Vigilant congressional oversight of large sums during wartime should not be a partisan issue. The Truman Committee was created at a time when Democrats controlled the White House, the House and the Senate. A Democratic Congress was demanding careful oversight of a Democratic Administration. Democrats are pleased that this select committee is being cosponsored by a Democrat and a Republican—Rep. TIERNEY and Rep. LEACH.

We owe it to American taxpayers to oversee how taxpayer dollars are being spent. Billions are being spent in Iraq and Afghanistan. Indeed, according to CRS, this $81.3 billion supplemental appropriations bill being considered by the House is in addition to the $201 billion that the Department of Defense has received, since the 9/11 attacks, for soldiers deployed or supporting operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. What is in question is how taxpayer dollars are being spent, whether taxpayers are getting their money's worth, and whether the high-quality equipment and services that warfighters deserve and require are being delivered. A new Truman Committee would allow us to get the facts on U.S. contracting in both military and reconstruction activities and to fix whatever problems exist.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I oppose the rule.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the rule for the emergency supplemental appropriations act and the underlying bill.

In addition to the needed funds to sustain military operations and reconstruction efforts in the Middle East, this legislation contains two key provisions that I would like to highlight. The first is language that ensures that funds in the bill will not be used to cancel the multiyear contract for C–130J procurement.

Currently more than half the fleet of combat-ready C–130s is over 30 years old. Although their longevity is clearly a testament to the value of these critical aircraft, we should be very concerned that the C–130E and H models continue to age at alarming rates, putting our tactical airlift capability at risk in the near term.

In fact, several weeks ago, the Air Force announced that they are grounding much of the C–130E models because of severe fatigue in their wings, including a dozen that have been flying missions in and out of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, some of these planes were used in Vietnam, and we are literally flying their wings off in the Middle East. The Air Force has long anticipated the aging of the older models, which only makes it more remarkable that the multiyear contract to replace these planes has been carved out of the 2006 budget.

Mr. Speaker, because of the growing problem that the Air Force faces in its tactical airlift program, I support the C–130J language, and I would like to express my sincere thanks to the appropriations chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), and the conferees for retaining this language.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank the conferees for protecting the Real ID provisions of H.R. 1268. As our Rules Committee chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), just mentioned, this would establish and rapidly implement voluntarily regulations for State driver's licenses and identification document security standards.

It would increase the burden of proof of claiming asylum. It would synchronize terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and also facilitate the completion of the San Diego border fence.

These provisions were recommended by the 9/11 Commission, bipartisan, 10 members; and they are important for securing our borders from illegal entry and possible terrorist activity. Our immigration laws are in need of reform, and I believe these provisions are a positive step in the right direction.

So I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying bill.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am sad that a bill that the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) worked so hard on, which contains $82 billion, would still be more an example of how not to do business.

First of all, it is a testimony to the lack of planning on behalf of this administration for conducting the war in Iraq. They still could not give us, after 3 years of planning and activity, could not give a reasonable number in advance, to be able to budget properly, instead of putting together a supplemental effort.

It continues to give, in my judgment, too much money to the wrong people to do the wrong things. And we have been slow to, despite the attention of this Congress, the lavish amount of money and expressions of concern by individual Members to protect our troops, we have still been slow to meet their needs on simple things like armoring their vehicles.

But one of the worst things for me in this supplemental is that we have grafted onto it the Real ID Act. This element that we debated here contains what I think is the worst single example of legislative precedent in the 10 years that I have been here, where in order to deal with a 3½ mile gap in constructing a fence. For 10 years Congress and the administration has been willing to provide waivers for specific problems, where two administrations have been circling it, where rather than deal with the specifics and solve the problem, this legislation incorporates section 102 which waives all rules and regulations along not just this 3½ mile gap, but along the entire 7,514 border with Canada and with Mexico.

It is not just an environmental problem. It waives all rules, all regulations, all Federal standards for an indeterminate width along 7,500 miles, and vests it in the hands of the Homeland Security Department, hardly a paragon of efficiency and sensitivity.

Mr. Speaker, I would strongly urge my colleagues to take a hard look at this. You do not want to establish a precedent like this in Federal legislation.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT), my good friend.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, this supplemental bill is a good bill. I was privileged to go with my good friend, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), to Iraq. We visited with the troops. And some of the troops indicated that they got the satellite transmissions, some of the news. They had heard some of our friends on the other side of the aisle saying they were wasting their lives. They had heard some of newscasters saying that they were wasting lives.

But they said after the election they knew why they were there: they were setting a historical precedent in the cradle of civilization. They were doing good and they knew it, and they know it today. And we owe it to our troops to make sure that they have everything they need to make Iraq, or give them the opportunity to create that democracy.

In talking to Sunnis, the Sunnis were upset with their leadership that told them not to vote. They said, please, if you would just stand behind the Iraqi police and armed services to make sure we get one more chance to vote. One former general under Saddam Hussein said, if you will do that, I believe you will see 95 percent of the violence in Iraq go away.

Folks, this is historic, what we have undertaken; and it does not just help Iraq. It deals with terrorism around the world. It sends that message. It has already sent shivers throughout the Middle East, and it has helped us right here in America. That is why we are doing it. So we need to support that.

Also, I want to address one other thing that has been brought up. I have heard people on television, I have heard colleagues across the aisle, some folks I have great respect for, indicating that there is nothing in the Real ID bill that would have changed anything on 9/11.

And I have respect for some of these people that I have heard say that, and I wish that they would read the bill instead of just relying on talking points or something from the leadership. Because, if you look, under evidence of lawful status, which is required in order to have a driver's license that will be an acceptable form of identification to get on an airplane, it says, you cannot use a driver's license if it does not come from a State that makes sure you are in lawful status.

And if you are in a temporary status, it must be a temporary driver's license that says on there the same date your permit to be in this country expires. If we had had that in place on 9/11, then every one of the hijackers would have tried to get onboard an airplane with an invalid, out-of-date driver's license, and should have been stopped.

Folks, this goes in a number of directions, all coming together to help with the fight against terrorism. It would have helped on 9/11; it will help prevent 9/11s in the future. I would encourage everyone to support it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds to respond to the previous speaker and to remind him that the hijackers, many of them, had driver's licenses from the State of Virginia, and others had visas and passports. So I do not think this national ID card would have stopped them.

□ 1115

Also, if he is referring to Members on our side saying that we are not safer than we were on 9/11, I would report that was a government report saying that TSA has made us no safer than it was before.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND).

(Mr. KIND asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I do rise in support of the supplemental. I do believe that we need to provide our troops with the tools and the resources that they need to do their job safely and effectively.

I have had an opportunity on two separate occasions now, Mr. Speaker, to travel to Iraq to visit our troops in the field, and nothing has made me feel prouder to be an American than seeing our troops in action. They are well trained. They are well motivated. They are the best that we have to offer. I know we all hope and pray for the safety of their mission and their safe return home to be reunited with their families.

I also want to commend the troops and the families of the 1158 Transportation Unit and the 128 Infantry Guard Unit in western Wisconsin that are currently serving in the Iraq theater right now.

But I do have some concerns in regard to the supplemental. I do believe that we owe a higher responsibility to our troops and their families and our taxpayers by supporting more oversight and accountability in this bill, such as the creation of a Truman Commission that the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) has been advocating for some time. We need more accountability on how the money is being used or misused in Iraq right now. We need to fix that.

I also have a concern that we are not paying for anything. It is awfully easy to come to the House floor and puff ourselves up and claim that we are supportive of the troops, we are doing all of these nice things for them and the families when we do not have the responsibility to pay for it. $82 billion today, well over $300 billion and counting, all deficit financing and we are mortgaging our children's and grandchildren's future. This is exactly why the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and I offered an amendment to strip funding for the creation of an embassy in Iraq, not because we do not agree that one is necessary, but because we wanted to make the point

that that is not an emergency item. None of this is unexpected emergency circumstances, and, therefore, we need to start budgeting and practice fiscal responsibility again. Miraculously, the embassy is back in this bill, another $600 million, none of it paid for.

Finally, I am concerned that there is no objective criteria to measure progress in Iraq. During the Second World War, you could pretty much put pins on maps and see the progress of the front lines. You could do that in Korea. In Vietnam, we had body counts that did not work very well, nor was it an appropriate measure to use. Today we have no objective criteria for us to understand whether we are succeeding and making progress there. I think that's one of the reasons why public support is dropping. I think we need to get some type of criteria for ourselves, for the troops, for their families and for the American people.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to quickly respond to a couple of points that my good friend made. First, I would remind him that we did not pay for World War II or Korea or Vietnam out of current revenue. It is not unusual to finance wars in this particular fashion.

Second, as to the point on the embassy, I have been to Iraq four times and have met with our folks there and, frankly, I think they deserve the very best protection they can get as quick as we can get it. They are every bit as much at risk as people that wear the uniform of the United States. They are all volunteers. They have done a wonderful job representing our country. They deserve and need a safe place to operate out of. I am very glad that that particular measure was put back in during conference.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield ten seconds to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) to respond.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend's comments, but just to correct the historical record, you may recall in the 1960s, President Johnson did decide to pay for the war. There were some tax increases in order to support the ongoing military operation. It can be done. It should be done in this instance as well. We have been there for a couple years now. We are going to be there in future years. We need to start paying for this.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) for yielding me time.

Let me say as President Reagan used to say, Here we go again. Another supplemental spending bill for the war in Iraq and why?

Because time and time again, the Republicans refuse to spend one cent for this war in their sham budget, a budget every Democrat opposed this year and last year; because we need these so-called off budget bills to cover up the exploding deficits the Republicans have given, not to us, but to our children and grandchildren totaling $27,000 for every American.

We are going to need a death tax relief just to pay for the birth tax that our children and grandchildren will have to pay.

To add insult to injury, the Republicans have added to this must-pass spending bill for our troops the REAL ID Act. These provisions, which are supposed to make our country more secure, will do nothing but place more anti-immigrant restrictions making it harder for honest people fleeing religious prosecution from entering our country, and added a $100 million unfunded mandate onto our States. If this were in place, it would not have prevented the attacks of 9/11. That is purely false.

The 9/11 Commission has said they are unwarranted. It was added by the right wing extremist from the Republican conference. This legislation, which, again, the 9/11 Commission has called ''unwarranted,'' was added by the right wing extremists in the Republican caucus whose joy in bashing immigrants is exceeded only by their zest for tax cuts for the wealthy in this country.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY).

(Mr. TIERNEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose any rule that does not allow for consideration of an amendment to investigate the government contracts with regard to our operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This supplemental that we are talking about under the rule is $82 billion in additional spending, bringing it to almost $300 billion for spending on combat operations, occupation and support for our military personnel.

Congress rightfully is trying to meet its operational and technical and equipment needs of our troops. But it also has to ensure that these funds are properly managed and that they are monitored, and in that regard, we have been largely silent in this Congress.

We should make no mistake about it, there is more than enough reasons to be careful and to scrutinize the procurement process. The Center for Strategic and International Studies made an analysis and said as little as 27 cents of every dollar spent on Iraqi reconstruction has actually filtered down to projects benefiting Iraqis.

Taxpayers for Common Sense cited a KPMG study. It said that the Commander's Emergency Response Program, which is a program designed to allow U.S. military officers to quickly fund small reconstruction projects, maintain little documentation on how tax dollars were spent: 42 cases worth, $13 billion, where there were no contracts on file; 142 cases totaling $40 million, where there was no proof that the work was even done.

These are only a few of the examples. We have a situation where it is reported by BBC News that Transparency International warns that post-war Iraq reconstruction is in danger of becoming the biggest corruption scandal in history. They said there is evidence of high levels of corruption in post-war Iraq, and it is critical of the United States' handling of reconstruction programs. And they said they favor a small number of large firms who they awarded public contracts, and they were all too secretive.

We have report after report of Halliburton and other corporations not having enough oversight. The Wall Street Journal reports that the Pentagon auditors are questioning $212 million that Halliburton company billed Washington to deliver fuel to Iraq saying that it may well constitute overbilling. This criticism continues to go on about sole-source contracts and other issues that ought to be explored.

We can have substantive differences about the merits of the way we are conducting military policy. But there ought to be unanimous agreement in this Congress ensuring our role that taxpayer dollars are effectively and judiciously spent.

We should establish a select committee. That is why the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and I filed a Truman Commission measure that should be included as an amendment to this bill. It would put a select committee to study, among other things, the bidding, the contracting, the auditing standards, and issuance of government contracts, the oversight procedures, and the forms of payment and safeguards against money laundering, the accountability of contractors and government officials involved in procurement, and the allocation of contracts to foreign companies and small businesses.

Yes, we modelled it after the original Truman Commission. In 1941, that Truman Committee saved about $15 billion in taxpayer money; 432 public hearings; 1,800 witnesses.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have a right to have oversight done by this body. It is our job to do it. It is demanded by it. We should craft a rule that protects this amendment and ensures the public resources are safeguarded.

The Truman Committee was also unanimously respected for its focus on fact-finding and its refusal to succumb to partisan considerations. Mr. LEACH and I share that view and believe that congressional oversight of these huge sums should not be a partisan issue. Critics may say that there is no need to create

a select committee when Congress has standing committees to perform this role. Regrettably, those standing committees have not vigorously exercised their institutional oversight role. While Mr. SHAYS's Subcommittee on National Security has attempted to draw attention to this issue, the full Government Reform Committee has convened only four hearings on the Iraq contracting process.

Similarly, the House Armed Services Committee touched on this issue during a June 2004 Readiness Subcommittee hearing, however—beyond that—they have not pursued the issue. To that point, highlighting the need for such a select committee, the Ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, IKE SKELTON, has co-sponsored the bill from which this amendment is based.

Critics may disqualify this amendment on a technicality, suggesting it authorizes on an appropriations bill. To that, I would respectfully point out that there are other provisions of this bill—some of which strengthen the underlying text—that include authorizing language.

I would ask that this Committee craft a rule that protects this amendment and ensures that our ever-scarce public resources will be safeguarded.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) for yielding me time and for her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, as the daughter of a veteran, I want to first express my profound respect for our brave men and women serving in Iraq, but we are not helping these brave troops if we blindly sign yet another blank check for this unjust and unnecessary war in Iraq.

This $82 billion supplemental would bring the total war spending to over $300 billion. How can we sign off on another $82 billion check when the Bush administration has failed to provide the proper accounting of where the taxpayer money is going? How can we sign off on this check when our own government reported yesterday that another $100 million cannot be accounted for?

This is on top of the $9 billion from last year that is still missing. How can we sign this check if the Bush administration has offered no plan to bring our troops home?

Furthermore, are we safer today than we were before this unnecessary war started? Iraq is now a breeding ground for terrorists. We are less safe as a result of this war. Members know and I know. Before the invasion of Iraq, there was no connection between Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden. Still, this administration would have us also believe that adding the unrelated anti-immigrant provisions to this supplemental bill would make us safer, but the fact is REAL ID will do nothing to make us safe.

This administration has much to account for. They are cutting Section 8 for our seniors and our poor. They are cutting the budget for housing for people living with AIDS. They are cutting housing for the disabled. They are cutting Medicaid. When you look at $13.5 billion over the next 5 years for our veterans, they are cutting that. They are making the least of these pay for this war. That is wrong.

This is a whole new level of immorality that I have ever seen. This distortion of the facts with regard to Iraq and the fact that they told us that weapons of mass destruction were there, we know that is not the case. We know that. You know that. Yet another $82 billion to fund this war that has not made this country any safer. It has made us less safe.

When you look at what is happening in our own country, when you look at health care, when you look at the people out there in the street that are suffering, why do they have to pay for this war? I ask for a no vote.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I feel compelled to respond to some of the points my good friend, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) made.

Not helping our soldiers? A blank check? This bill is anything but a blank check. Let me read a couple of things in here. Just running down operations and maintenance, Navy, $3.4 billion; operations and maintenance, Marine Corps. There is line after line of great specificity my good friend, the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations was very careful in crafting a bill that will meet the needs of our personnel.

The immoral thing to do would be to commit 170,000 people to combat and not resupply them and not reequip them and not give them the things they need on a daily basis to not only be successful, but to provide for their own safety and security.

It is very legitimate to debate the war. Although I remind my good friend on the other side of the aisle, this body and the other body vote on a bipartisan basis to make the commitment in Iraq. I could read off name after name, including the distinguished nominee from the other body, of my friends on the other side of the aisle, a candidate for President last time, who voted in favor of this particular contest.

Having made that decision, once we place people on the line under fire and in danger, we owe it to them to provide them what they need. We can continue to debate policy. That is a very legitimate point, but I think it would it be the height of folly and irresponsibility to not fund people when they are in the field in action. Frankly, it would send the wrong signal to our adversaries, and more importantly, the wrong signal to our own men and women and their families. And not to support the rule, and certainly not to support the supplemental appropriations, I believe, would be a grave and terrible mistake for this country.

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

□ 1130

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire from my colleague if he is ready to yield back, then I will close.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. I certainly am prepared.

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

I will be asking Members to vote ''no'' on the previous question. If the previous question is defeated, I will offer an amendment to the rule to instruct the enrolling clerk to make an important addition to the conference report.

This addition will establish a select committee to investigate the awarding and carrying out of war-related contracts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Nearly $9 billion of money spent on the Iraq reconstruction is unaccounted for because of inefficiencies and bad management, according to the Special Inspector General for the Iraqi Reconstruction. Ensuring vigilant oversight of taxpayer dollars should not be a partisan issue.

I want to stress that a ''no'' vote on the previous question will not stop consideration of the emergency supplemental report. A ''no'' vote will simply allow the House to create a much-needed select committee to investigate government contracts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A ''yes'' vote on the previous question will prevent the House from establishing this important select committee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the amendment be printed in the RECORD immediately before the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, again, I urge a ''no'' vote on the previous question, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

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

The 9/11 Commission was constituted in order to tell the American public what we could do to avoid or stave off another attack like the one that occurred on 9/11. I rise in support of this rule taking up the conference report because I think the components that we have included, recommended by the 9/11 Commission, are vital for the purpose of national security for the United States.

Let us look at the consequences of the 19 hijackers who, by violating procedures with respect to identification, were able to shop from State to State, from California to Virginia to Florida, and obtain between them over 60 different types of IDs. I will remind the body that in terms of the aliases used

just by those 19 individuals, they used 364 aliases between them. So as a consequence, it was virtually impossible for authorities to follow or detect as they changed their identities, as they used these documents in order to rent cars, as they used these documents in order to take flight training lessons, to learn how to fly here in the United States, as they used these fraudulent documents even to board airplanes and crash them into the Twin Towers and into the Pentagon. We have to ask ourselves is there something we, as an institution, could do to make certain that this did not occur again?

The 9/11 Commission has laid out a strategy for a secure identification system, and basically what we are talking about is simply minimum standards so that all States know the rudimentary requirements to make certain that people are who they say they are. Because the 9/11 hijackers abused the process and went from State to State, we know for a fact that we need minimum standards.

We know that it only makes sense that when Mohamed Atta was given a visa that was valid for only 6 months but could use it to obtain a driver's license that was valid for 6 years, that, in fact, we were not tailoring our laws to fit our national security concerns.

There are other provisions as well, the reform of amnesty, the completion of the border fence, the expedited approval. But as we look at the border security issue with respect to completion of the border fence, I talked to a border agent who had stopped an individual originally from Kyrgyzstan who had trained in Afghanistan, who had trained there in Jihad, at the fence. What this particular border guard told me was that there is a 3-mile gap in that triple barrier fence, and it was within that area of that gap that this individual tried to come into the U.S. and was apprehended and returned.

I think we need to give our border security personnel the assets that they have requested. We need to help them do their job, and the completion of this triple barrier fence will achieve that objective because it is in the interest of national security.

I think it is proper we bring it up and include it in this bill.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Let me take the time I have remaining to just say that we are not doing what the 9/11 Commission asked. They wanted us to negotiate with our States on whether they wanted to do this or not; and what we have done is impose upon the States, without any hearings or any discussion with them, from top down, an unfunded mandate requiring them to change their driver's license at our whim. So this is not that at all. We are, in fact, undoing what the 9/11 Commission said.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman's time has expired.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I would like to say that I believe we have had a good debate on the rule today. I believe the importance and timeliness of this legislation could not be more self-evident. This bill has been carefully crafted and worked in a way to ensure that our service men and women receive the best supplies and equipment when they go to war and that those supplies and equipment are replenished and replaced in a timely fashion.

Finally, I would ask Members to recall that this is a vote about our willingness to support our service men and women, not about other policy issues. The men and women serving our cause in Iraq ask for nothing more. In good conscience, we should give them nothing less.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying legislation.

The material previously referred to by Ms. SLAUGHTER is as follows:

PREVIOUS QUESTION FOR H. RES. 258—RULE ON CONFERENCE REPORT FOR H. R. 1268 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND TSUNAMI RELIEF ACT, 2005

Strike all after the resolved clause and insert:

''That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1268) making Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

SEC. 2. The chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized, on behalf of the Committee, to file a supplemental report to accompany H.R. 748.

SEC. 3. (a) A concurrent resolution specified in subsection (b) is hereby adopted.

(b) The concurrent resolution referred to in subsection (a) is a concurrent resolution

(1) which has no preamble;

(2) the title of which is as follows: ''Providing for Corrections to the Enrollment of the Conference Report on the bill H.R. 1268''; and

(3) the text of which is as follows:

At the end of the (conference report) bill add the following new title:

TITLE —

SEC. 1. There is hereby created a select committee on the model of the Truman Committee to investigate the awarding and carrying out of contracts to conduct activities in Afghanistan and Iraq and to fight the war on terrorism (hereinafter referred to as the ''select committee'').

SEC. 2. The select committee is to be composed of 15 members of the House, to be appointed by the Speaker (of whom 7 shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the minority leader), one of whom shall be designated as chairman from the majority party and one of whom shall be designated ranking member from the minority party. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the select committee shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. The select committee shall conduct an ongoing study and investigation of the awarding and carrying out of contracts by the Government to conduct activities in Afghanistan and Iraq and to fight the war on terrorism and make such recommendations to the House as the select committee deems appropriate regarding the following matters:

(1) bidding, contracting, and auditing standards in the issuance of Government contracts;

(2) oversight procedures;

(3) forms of payment and safeguards against money laundering;

(4) accountability of contractors and Government officials involved in procurement;

(5) penalties for violations of law and abuses in the awarding and carrying out of Government contracts;

(6) subcontracting under large, comprehensive contracts;

(7) inclusion and utilization of small businesses, through subcontracts or otherwise; and

(8) such other matters as the select committee deems appropriate.

SEC. 3. (a) Quorum—One-third of the members of the select committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business except for the reporting of the results of its study and investigation (with its recommendations) or the authorization of subpoenas, which shall require a majority of the committee to be actually present, except that the select committee may designate a lesser number, but not less than two, as a quorum for the purpose of holding hearings to take testimony and receive evidence.

(b) POWERS.—For the purpose of carrying out this resolution, the select committee may sit and act during the present Congress at any time and place within the United States or elsewhere, whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned and hold such hearings as it considers necessary and to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses, the furnishing of information by interrogatory, and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers documents, and other things and information of any kind as it deems necessary, including relevant classified materials.

(c) Issuance of Subpoenas—A subpoena may be authorized and issued by the select committee in the conduct of any investigation or series of investigations or activities, only when authorized by a majority of the members voting, a majority being present. Authorized subpoenas shall be signed by the chairman or by any member designated by the select committee, and may be served by any person designated by the chairman or such member. Subpoenas shall be issued under the seal of the House and attested by the Clerk. The select committee may request investigations, reports, and other assistance from any agency of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the Government.

(d) Meetings—The chairman, or in his absence a member designated by the chairman, shall preside at all meetings and hearings of the select committee. All meetings and hearings of the select committee shall be conducted in open session, unless a majority of members of the select committee voting, there being in attendance the requisite number required for the purpose of hearings to take testimony, vote to close a meeting or hearing.

(e) Applicabilities of Rules of the House—The Rules of the House of Representatives applicable to standing committees shall govern the select committee where not inconsistent with this resolution.

(f) Written Committees Rules—The select committee shall adopt additional written rules, which shall be public, to govern its procedures, which shall not be inconsistent with this resolution or the Rules of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 4. (a) Appointment of Staff—The select committee staff shall be appointed, and

may be removed, by the chairman and shall work under the general supervision and direction of the chairman.

(b) Powers of Ranking Minority Member—All staff provided to the minority party members of the select committee shall be appointed, and may be removed, by the ranking minority member of the committee, and shall work under the general supervision and direction of such member.

(c) Compensation—The chairman shall fix the compensation of all staff of the select committee, after consultation with the ranking minority member regarding any minority party staff, within the budget approved for such purposes for the select committee.

(d) Reimbursement of Expenses—The select committee may reimburse the members of its staff for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of the their functions for the select committee.

(e) Payment of Expenses—There shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House such sums as may be necessary for the expenses of the select committee. Such payments shall be made on vouchers signed by the chairman of the select committee and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration. Amounts made available under this subsection shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 5. The select committee shall from time to time report to the House the results of its study and investigation, with its recommendations. Any report made by the select committee when the House is not in session shall be filed with the Clerk of the House. Any report made by the select committee shall be referred to the committee or committees that have jurisdiction over the subject matter of the report.

SEC. 6. None of the unobligated or unexpended funds available for public affairs activities within the Office of the Secretary of Defense under the heading ''Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide'' may be obligated or expanded until the requirements to transmit reports under section 9010 and 9012 of P.L. 108–287 are met.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting, if ordered, on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 224, nays 196, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 159]

YEAS—224

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachus
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Beauprez
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boustany
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Cox
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis (KY)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeLay
Dent
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Feeney
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Gutknecht
Hall
Harris
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hostettler
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Latham
LaTourette
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Osborne
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Poe
Pombo
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Schwarz (MI)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Sodrel
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—196

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Case
Chandler
Cleaver
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank (MA)
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson, E. B.
Kanjorski
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
Kucinich
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sherman
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Spratt
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOT VOTING—13

Brown (OH)
Capps
Clay
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Gordon
Hyde
Istook
Jones (OH)
Kaptur
Larson (CT)
Platts
Solis

□ 1157

Messrs. WYNN, HOYER and PALLONE changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announed as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA). The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1200

PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I seek recognition on a question of personal privilege pursuant to rule IX of the rules of the House. I have placed at the desk the documentation on which this question is based.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). On the basis of House Report 109–51 and certain media coverage thereof, the gentleman may rise to a question of personal privilege under rule IX.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) is recognized for 1 hour.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

Have the corrections or the supplemental report to the committee report been filed yet?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The supplemental report authorized by section 2 of House Resolution 258 has been filed.

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

Mr. Speaker, the basis of my question of personal privilege concerns the manner in which amendments I offered during the Committee on the Judiciary's consideration of H.R. 748 on April 13, 2005, were characterized in the committee's report on that legislation, House Report 109–51.

Specifically, the report, in the section required under clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the rules of the House reporting the votes of the committee described my amendments in a manner that denigrated my ''rights, reputation, and conduct . . . in [my] representative capacity . . . '' within the meaning of clause 1 of rule IX.

The language in question appears on pages 45 and 46 of the committee report, and it mischaracterizes my amendments in a manner that does not reflect the actual content of the amendments nor the actual intent of those amendments. In fact, it uses legislation to describe my legislative actions that is pejorative and inflammatory and that is highly damaging to my reputation.

It is with great sadness and regret that I come to the floor today. I have never previously in my 12 years as a Member of this House, nor in my quarter century representing the people of New York, had the need to rise on a personal privilege. I have never had my reputation, or my legislative efforts, so terrible maligned in an official record of any legislative body in which I have served.

It is my hope that this is the last time I will ever need to claim the floor in a question of personal privilege. I would observe that the filing a few minutes ago of the supplemental report to the Committee on the Judiciary report is a tacit acknowledgment of the inaccuracy and untruthfulness of the original report and its reputation in the public domain, and renders much of what was said in its defense in the Committee on Rules and on the floor, as the saying goes, ''inoperative.''

I commend the chairman for correcting the record and hope that with this correction of the slanderous report language, this unfortunate chapter can be brought to a close.

While I would have hoped that this correction would have been accompanied by an apology and by an acknowledgment that this report was a violation of the tradition and norms of the House, that is, perhaps, in the regrettably poisonous atmosphere of the present day, unobtainable. I regret that things have reached such an unfortunate state.

This situation is especially sad because it involves the Committee on the Judiciary's official report on this bill, which contained false and misleading, indeed libelous, descriptions of the amendments I and my colleagues offered in committee in good faith, and with the intent of protecting children and families in terrible situations.

Those characterizations came in the section of the report, required by the rules, that simply requires an accurate report of all recorded votes.

There are many places in committee reports where commentary is appropriate. Both the majority and the minority have the opportunity in the report to make their cases, and very much to the credit of the gentleman from Wisconsin (Chairman SENSENBRENNER) the Committee on the Judiciary reports also contain a transcript of the markup.

What has never been done, and I am not aware of the majority on any committee having so abused its power, is to distort the content of the amendments in the section reserved for reporting votes.

Every Member of this House sits on committees; every Member knows what a report looks like, and every Member of this House knows this was an aberration and that it was wrong.

I do not believe it is necessary to repeat the report language that gave rise to this point of personal privilege. The Chair has the offending language, and it has been plastered all over the RECORD, the press, and Web logs. I feel no need to repeat it. Enough damage has already been done.

To place this report, and the slanderous language it used in context, the last time the Committee on the Judiciary reported a version of the same bill, the report said: ''An amendment was offered by Mr. NADLER prohibiting H.R. 476 from applying 'with respect to conduct by a grandparent or adult sibling of the minor.'''' Same amendment, same committee, different year.

Earlier versions of this bill have been reported by the Committee on the Judiciary on three prior occasions, going to 1998. In no case have any of my amendments been described in the inaccurate and pejorative fashion they were in this year's committee report.

The Committee on Rules described the same amendment in the following manner when it reported it to the floor: ''Adds to the exceptions to the offense of transporting minors for the purpose of obtaining an illegal abortion grandparents of the minor and members of the clergy.''

Even the Republican Study Committee, the voice of some of the most conservative of our colleagues, described the amendment this way: ''The amendment allows a grandparent of the minor or a clergy person to bring pregnant minors across State lines for abortions.'' These are factual descriptions of the amendment. They are nonargumentative factual descriptions as the rules call for.

In fact, neither the bill itself nor the amendments contained the offensive terms used in the committee report to describe my amendments. No member of the committee described my amendments in this libelous manner at any time during the debate. Nobody in the majority, none of the Republicans in opposing my amendments in committee debate said that they contained the material which the committee report libelously says they do. As the transcript clearly shows, the transcript contained in the committee's report appearing on page 58 to 120 will clearly show.

It is regrettable that even in filing the supplemental report, the majority felt the need to restate the slander, but this time in the section reserved for majority views. The majority, however, is entitled to its views, even if they are not factually based; and the appropriate place to express them is in debate and in documents reserved for expressing their views, such as the majority view section of the committee report.

The minority has a similar right in debate and in its dissenting views, and I would not expect the majority to tell us what views we should have or how to express them.

Not abusing the power the majority has over the contents and the filing of the report, which the minority does not get to see until it is filed, is really based on nothing more than the honor system. Unfortunately, in this system, the honor system failed.

This abuse of power of mischaracterizing and slandering the amendments and the Members who offered them in the section of the report reserved for simply reporting amendments and the votes thereon, could not be allowed to stand or there would have been no end to it.

This is not about party, nor is it about a bill, nor about an amendment, nor even about the underlying issue. It is about the ''rights, reputation and conduct of Members, delegates or the resident commissioner, individually, in their representative capacity only.''

When the majority abuses its power to attack the reputation of Member or Members, as it did in this case, the House must act to correct the injustice. The supplemental report filed by the majority is an important step in that direction, and I thank the chairman for agreeing to file the correction.

We have strayed far from the customary comity and fair play to which this House has long adhered. That is no way to represent our views to the voters of this country. The voters have every right to expect us to fight for our beliefs, to represent them vigorously, and to speak out in clear terms on the important issues of the day.

But, Mr. Speaker, there are limits. When Members of this House transgress those limits, we fail the people who sent us here and we fail the institution in which we are honored to serve. We are elected to 2-year terms. The office does not belong to us, but to the people. We are mere custodians of

the office. I hope that, in our conduct, we can prove ourselves good and responsible stewards of this public trust.

It is my sincere hope that now that the correction has been filed and the slander abated, this will be the last time any Member has the unpleasant duty of rising in this House to defend his or her reputation and the traditions of this institution. I hope that this single aberration will be remembered as just that: a single aberration.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

(Mr. SCOTT of Virginia asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD an editorial published this morning in the daily newspaper in Norfolk, Virginia, the Virginian Pilot, on this issue.

[From the Virginia Pilot, May 5, 2005]

A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF

The mood in certain precincts of Congress has become so poisonous that people aren't speaking our common language unless they're accusing political opponents of unspeakable crimes.

The ''Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act'' would make it a federal offense to take a minor across a state line to get an abortion without the consent of her parents, for a physician to perform such abortions, and allows parents to sue anybody who does.

Democrats on the Judiciary Committee offered several amendments that would have limited the law's scope. U.S. Rep. Bobby Scott, for example, sought to insert this line: ''The prohibitions of this section do not apply with respect to conduct by taxicab drivers, bus drivers or others in the business of professional transport.''

Pretty straightforward, right?

Should the U.S. government prosecute a bus driver because a girl in one of its seats is traveling to end a pregnancy? No matter your answer to that question, the congressman's wording is pretty clear, unless you're a member of the Judiciary Committee's staff, which managed Scott's amendment into this:

''Mr. Scott offered an amendment that would have exempted sexual predators from prosecution if they're taxicab drivers, bus drivers or others in the business of professional transport.''

In other words, the staff of a committee on which Scott serves accused him of trying to protect sexual predators, arguably a crime in itself.

It is the kind of libel—repeated against two other Democratic members of the committee—that only nameless, faceless bureaucrat would dare make. But, significantly, it's also the kind of power-made mischief that the Republican leadership felt deserved defense.

The Congress Tuesday evening spent an hour debating a resolution to require Republicans to change the descriptions, which are supposed to be, and ordinarily are, written in dry, neutral language.

That debate was itself illustrative of how deep the divisions in Congress have become. While the Democrats—including Scott and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi—talked about how Republicans abused the truth to score political points, the majority changed the subject entirely and re-argued the merits of the abortion bill, which passed the week before.

''The issue is whether we can trust each other to deal with each other fairly,'' said Wisconsin Democrat Rep. David Obey, who had voted for the abortion bill.

In the end, Tuesday's debate was a rancorous parry and feint, lasted an eternity and came to absolutely nothing. The resolution to change the descriptions, of course, failed on a party-line vote.

Still, for 60 minutes, the rudeness that now rules the hall of the Capitol was on sharp display for all America to see.

''The rewrite says more about the person who wrote it, and those who defend it, than it does about the amendment itself,'' Scott said Tuesday.

Scott's right. What is says is nothing kind, and not to be forgotten.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, not seeing the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), I thank the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary for filing the corrected report, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1215

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the conference report to accompany the bill, H.R. 1268, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1268, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND TSUNAMI RELIEF ACT, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 258, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 1268) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 258, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of May 3, 2005 at page H2813.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to bring to the House for its consideration the conference report on H.R. 1268, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror and Tsunami Relief.

The conference agreement includes a total of $82 billion. The vast majority of these funds are to support our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. For that reason, it is critical that we move this package quickly. It also provides needed assistance to the victims of the tsunami.

During our conference with the Senate, Chairman COCHRAN and I agreed that the final agreement should come in at or below the President's request and relatively free of extraneous items. The conference report before you has met both of these very critical parameters. We did our very best to keep the package clean, and by and large, we were successful with that. We have funded our foreign policy priorities while still preserving congressional prerogatives where appropriate.

With that said, the conference report provides a total of $75.9 billion for defense-related expenditures, roughly $921 million over the President's request. The additions over the request are for force protection, and increasing the survivability of troops in the field. In addition to the defense-related spending, the conference report provides a reduction of $1.5 billion in foreign assistance from the President's request. The conference agreement also includes $635 million for increased border security enforcement. This includes 500 additional border patrol agents and increased detention space.

We have also included $656 million for tsunami disaster relief. Finally, the bill includes much of the REAL ID Act of 2005, which was included in the House-passed version of the bill. The provisions on asylum, border infrastructure, and driver's license standards are included. Each of these provisions will greatly enhance the security of our borders. All of these provisions reflect agreements negotiated by relevant authorizing committees. I especially want to thank Chairman SENSENBRENNER, Chairman DAVIS and their staffs for getting this measure before the Congress in a timely fashion.

I urge my colleagues to support this much needed support for our troops.

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense - the Global War on Terror - and Tsunami Relief - 2005 (H.R. 1268)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2004 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Request
EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND TSUNAMI RELIEF, 2005					
TITLE I - DEFENSE-RELATED APPROPRIATIONS					
Military Personnel					
Military Personnel, Army (emergency)	11,756,842	11,779,642	12,067,208	12,067,108	+310,266
Basic Allowance for Housing, Army (emergency)	1,542,100	1,542,100	1,542,100	1,542,100	---
Military Personnel, Navy (emergency)	524,980	534,080	535,108	535,108	+10,128
Military Personnel, Marine Corps (emergency)	1,246,126	1,251,726	1,358,053	1,358,053	+111,927
Military Personnel, Air Force (emergency)	1,316,572	1,473,472	1,684,943	1,599,943	+283,371
Reserve Personnel, Army (emergency)	39,627	40,327	39,627	39,627	---
Reserve Personnel, Navy (emergency)	9,411	11,111	9,411	9,411	---
Reserve Personnel, Marine Corps (emergency)	4,015	4,115	4,015	4,015	---
Reserve Personnel, Air Force (emergency)	130	130	130	130	---
National Guard Personnel, Army (emergency)	429,200	430,300	291,100	291,100	-138,100
National Guard Personnel, Air Force (emergency)	91	91	91	91	---
Subtotal, Military personnel	16,869,094	17,067,094	17,531,786	17,446,686	+577,592
Operation and Maintenance					
Operation and Maintenance, Army (emergency)	17,201,004	17,366,004	16,701,004	16,914,004	-287,000
Transfer from Afghan Security Forces (emergency)	---	---	(290,000)	(290,000)	(+290,000)
Transfer from Iraq Security Forces (emergency)	---	---	(210,000)	(210,000)	(+210,000)
Facilities Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization, Army (emergency)	66,300	66,300	66,300	66,300	---
Operation and Maintenance, Navy (emergency)	3,423,501	3,030,801	3,430,801	3,030,574	-392,927
Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps (emergency)	970,464	982,464	970,464	982,464	+12,000
Operation and Maintenance, Air Force (emergency)	5,601,510	5,769,450	5,528,574	5,627,053	+25,543
Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide (emergency)	3,521,327	3,061,300	3,308,392	3,042,265	-479,062
Operation and Maintenance, Army Reserve (emergency)	8,154	8,154	21,354	26,354	+18,200
Operation and Maintenance, Navy Reserve (emergency)	75,164	75,164	75,164	75,164	---
Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps Reserve (emergency)	24,920	24,920	24,920	24,920	---
Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard (emergency)	188,779	188,779	326,879	326,850	+138,071
Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid (emergency)	10,000	10,000	---	---	-10,000
Afghanistan Security Forces Fund (emergency)	1,285,000	1,285,000	1,285,000	1,285,000	---
Transfer, Afghan. Security Forces Fund (emergency)	---	---	(-290,000)	(-290,000)	(-290,000)
Iraq Security Forces Fund (emergency)	5,700,000	5,700,000	5,700,000	5,700,000	---
Transfer, Iraq Security Forces Fund (emergency)	---	---	(-210,000)	(-210,000)	(-210,000)
Subtotal, Operation and maintenance	38,076,123	37,568,336	37,438,852	37,100,948	-975,175
Procurement					
Aircraft Procurement, Army (emergency)	458,677	458,677	458,677	458,677	---
Missile Procurement, Army (emergency)	294,036	340,536	280,250	310,250	+16,214
Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army (emergency)	2,425,207	2,678,747	2,406,447	2,551,187	+125,980
Procurement of Ammunition, Army (emergency)	475,000	532,800	475,000	532,800	+57,800
Other Procurement, Army (emergency)	5,316,405	6,549,905	5,322,905	6,250,505	+934,100
(By transfer emergency)	---	(85,000)	---	---	---
Other procurement, Army (incl transfer)	(5,316,405)	(6,634,905)	(5,322,905)	(6,250,505)	(+934,100)
Aircraft Procurement, Navy (emergency)	200,295	200,295	200,295	200,295	---
Weapons Procurement, Navy (emergency)	71,600	71,600	66,000	66,000	-5,600
Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps (emergency)	133,635	141,735	133,635	139,635	+6,000
Other Procurement, Navy (emergency)	85,672	78,372	78,397	78,397	-7,275
Procurement, Marine Corps (emergency)	2,974,045	3,588,495	2,929,045	3,283,042	+308,997
Aircraft Procurement, Air Force (emergency)	269,241	279,241	269,309	277,309	+8,068
Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force (emergency)	6,998	6,998	6,998	6,998	---
Other Procurement, Air Force (emergency)	2,834,328	2,658,527	2,653,760	2,577,560	-256,768
Procurement, Defense-Wide (emergency)	591,327	646,327	591,327	645,939	+54,612
Subtotal, Procurement	16,136,466	18,232,255	15,872,045	17,378,594	+1,242,128
(By transfer emergency)	---	(85,000)	---	---	---
Total funds available	(16,136,466)	(18,317,255)	(15,872,045)	(17,378,594)	(+1,242,128)
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation					
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army (emergency)	25,170	25,170	37,170	37,170	+12,000

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	FY 2004 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Request
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy (emergency)	179,051	202,051	179,051	204,051	+25,000
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force (emergency)	102,540	121,500	132,540	142,500	+39,960
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide (emergency)	153,561	159,600	203,561	203,561	+50,000
Subtotal, RDT&E	460,322	508,321	552,322	587,282	+126,960
Revolving And Management Funds					
Defense Working Capital Funds (emergency)	1,311,300	1,411,300	1,311,300	1,511,300	+200,000
National Defense Sealift Fund (emergency)	32,400	32,400	32,400	32,400	---
Subtotal, Revolving and management funds	1,343,700	1,443,700	1,343,700	1,543,700	+200,000
Related Agencies					
Intelligence Community Management Account (emergency)	250,300	250,300	250,300	250,300	---
Other Department of Defense Programs					
Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense (emergency)	257,000	257,000	227,000	242,000	-15,000
Office of the Inspector General (emergency)	148	148	148	148	---
Defense Health Program (emergency)	175,550	175,550	225,550	210,550	+35,000
Subtotal, Other DoD programs	432,698	432,698	452,698	452,698	+20,000
Military Construction					
Military Construction, Army (emergency)	990,100	930,100	897,191	847,191	-142,909
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps (emergency)	107,380	92,720	107,380	139,880	+32,500
Military Construction, Air Force (emergency)	301,520	301,386	140,983	140,983	-160,537
General Provisions					
Additional transfer authority (emergency)	(2,500,000)	(2,000,000)	(2,185,000)	(2,685,000)	(+185,000)
New transfer authority (emergency)	(5,000,000)	(2,000,000)	(2,000,000)	(3,000,000)	(-2,000,000)
Defense Cooperation Account (emergency)	12,000	12,000	---	---	-12,000
Up-armored humvees	---	---	213,000	---	---
Sec. 1118 Shipbuilding and conversion, Navy (by transfer emergency)	---	---	---	---	---
Iraq Freedom Fund (rescission) (emergency)	---	---	---	-50,000	-50,000
Section 1035 (emergency)	---	---	---	50,000	+50,000
Total, Title I	74,979,703	76,838,910	74,800,257	75,888,262	+908,559
(By transfer emergency)	---	(85,000)	---	---	---
(Transfer authority emergency)	(7,500,000)	(4,000,000)	(4,185,000)	(5,685,000)	(-1,815,000)

TITLE II - INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND ASSISTANCE FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND THE WAR ON TERROR

CHAPTER 1

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Public Law 480 Title II Grants (emergency)	150,000	150,000	470,000	240,000	+90,000

CHAPTER 2

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND RELATED AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Administration of Foreign Affairs

Diplomatic and Consular Programs (emergency)	767,200	748,500	357,700	734,000	-33,200
Embassy Security, Construction, and Maintenance (emergency)	658,000	592,000	592,000	592,000	-66,000

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	FY 2004 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Request
International Organizations					
Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities (emergency)	780,000	580,000	533,049	680,000	-100,000
(By transfer)	---	---	---	(-50,000)	(-50,000)
RELATED AGENCY					
Broadcasting Board Of Governors					
International Broadcasting Operations (emergency)	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,800	---
Broadcasting Capital Improvements (emergency)	2,500	---	2,500	2,500	---
STATE AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS					
FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT					
United States Agency For International Development					
International Disaster and Famine Assistance (emergency)	44,000	94,000	44,000	90,000	+46,000
Transition Initiatives (emergency)	63,000	---	63,000	---	-63,000
Operating Expenses of the USAID (emergency)	24,400	---	24,400	24,400	---
Operating Expenses of the USAID	---	24,400	---	---	---
Operating Expenses of the USAID Office of Inspector General (emergency)	2,500	---	2,500	2,500	---
Operating Expenses of the USAID Office of Inspector General	---	2,500	---	---	---
Subtotal, USAID	133,900	120,900	133,900	116,900	-17,000
Other Bilateral Economic Assistance					
Economic Support Fund (emergency)	1,631,300	376,500	1,636,300	1,433,600	-197,700
Economic Support Fund	---	681,700	---	---	---
(Transfer out emergency)	---	---	(-10,000)	(-10,000)	(-10,000)
(By transfer emergency)	---	---	(46,000)	---	---
Overseas Private Investment Corporation (by transfer emergency)	---	---	(10,000)	(10,000)	(+10,000)
Assistance for the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union (emergency)	60,000	---	70,000	70,000	+10,000
Assistance for the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union	---	33,700	---	---	---
Global War On Terror Partners Fund (emergency)	200,000	---	25,500	---	-200,000
Subtotal, Other bilateral assistance	1,891,300	1,091,900	1,731,800	1,503,600	-387,700
DEPARTMENT OF STATE					
International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (emergency)	660,000	594,000	660,000	620,000	-40,000
(Transfer out emergency)	---	---	(-46,000)	---	---
Migration and Refugee Assistance (emergency)	53,400	103,400	108,400	120,400	+67,000
Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Programs (emergency)	32,100	17,100	32,100	24,600	-7,500
Subtotal, Department of State	745,500	714,500	800,500	765,000	+19,500
MILITARY ASSISTANCE					
FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT					
Foreign Military Financing Program (emergency)	250,000	---	250,000	250,000	---
Foreign Military Financing Program	---	250,000	---	---	---
Peacekeeping Operations (emergency)	210,000	10,000	210,000	240,000	+30,000
(Transfer out emergency)	---	---	---	(-30,000)	(-30,000)
(By transfer emergency)	---	---	---	(50,000)	(+50,000)
Subtotal, Military assistance	460,000	260,000	460,000	490,000	+30,000
General Provisions					
Sec. 2102- Rescission of unexpended balances (rescission)	---	-1,000,000	-1,000,000	-1,000,000	-1,000,000
Sec. 2111 - Provide Additional Assistance to Sudan: Contributions for International Peacekeeping (transfer out emergency)	---	---	(-91,000)	---	---

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	FY 2004 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Request
Peacekeeping Operations (by transfer)	---	---	(50,000)	---	---
Intnatl. Disaster and Famine Assist (by transfer)	---	---	(41,000)	---	---
Total, Chapter 2	5,443,200	3,112,600	3,616,249	3,888,800	-1,554,400
Appropriations	---	992,300	---	---	---
Emergency appropriations	5,443,200	3,120,300	4,616,249	4,888,800	-554,400
Rescissions	---	-1,000,000	-1,000,000	-1,000,000	-1,000,000
Total, Title II	5,593,200	3,262,600	4,086,249	4,128,800	-1,464,400
Appropriations	---	992,300	---	---	---
Emergency appropriations	5,593,200	3,270,300	5,086,249	5,128,800	-464,400
Rescissions	---	-1,000,000	-1,000,000	-1,000,000	-1,000,000
By transfer	---	---	(91,000)	(-50,000)	(-50,000)
Transfer out (emergency)	---	---	(-147,000)	(-40,000)	(-40,000)
By transfer (emergency)	---	---	(56,000)	(60,000)	(+60,000)
TITLE III - DOMESTIC APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE WAR ON TERROR					
CHAPTER 1					
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY					
National Nuclear Security Administration					
Weapons activities (emergency)	---	---	26,000	---	---
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation (emergency)	110,000	110,000	84,000	84,000	-26,000
Total, Chapter 1	110,000	110,000	110,000	84,000	-26,000
CHAPTER 2					
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY					
Customs and Border Protection					
Salaries and expenses (emergency)	---	---	105,451	49,075	+49,075
Salaries and expenses	---	---	---	75,350	+75,350
Construction (emergency)	---	---	41,500	51,875	+51,875
Immigration and Customs Enforcement					
Salaries and expenses (emergency)	---	---	276,000	349,050	+349,050
Salaries and expenses	---	---	389,613	105,200	+105,200
United States Coast Guard					
Operating Expenses (emergency)	111,950	111,950	111,950	111,950	---
Acquisition, Construction and Improvements (emergency)	49,200	49,200	49,200	49,200	---
Federal Law Enforcement Training Center					
Salaries and expenses	---	---	---	2,568	+2,568
Construction	---	---	---	1,882	+1,882
Total, Chapter 2	161,150	161,150	973,714	796,150	+635,000
CHAPTER 3					
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE					
General Administration					
Office of Inspector General (emergency)	---	---	2,500	---	---
Detention trustee (emergency)	---	---	---	184,000	+184,000
Legal Activities					
Asset Forfeiture Fund (rescission)	---	---	---	-40,000	-40,000

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	FY 2004 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Request
United States Marshals Service					
Salaries and expenses (emergency)	---	---	11,935	11,935	+11,935
Federal Bureau Of Investigation					
Salaries and Expenses (emergency)	80,000	78,970	66,512	73,991	-6,009
Drug Enforcement Administration					
Salaries and Expenses (emergency)	7,648	7,648	7,648	7,648	---
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms					
Salaries and expenses (emergency)	---	---	5,100	4,000	+4,000
Total, Chapter 3	87,648	86,618	93,695	241,574	+153,926
CHAPTER 4					
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH					
House of Representatives					
Payment to Widows and Heirs of Deceased Members of Congress	---	---	---	162	+162
Salaries and expenses (emergency)	---	---	---	39,000	+39,000
Subtotal, House of Representatives	---	---	---	39,162	+39,162
Capitol Police					
Salaries	36,483	---	---	---	-36,483
(Emergency)	---	---	10,000	---	---
General expenses	23,044	---	---	---	-23,044
(Emergency)	---	---	13,300	11,000	+11,000
Subtotal, Capitol Police	59,527	---	23,300	11,000	-48,527
Architect of the Capitol					
Capitol grounds (emergency)	---	---	---	8,200	+8,200
Capitol Police buildings and grounds (emergency)	---	---	23,000	4,100	+4,100
Subtotal, Architect of the Capitol	---	---	23,000	12,300	+12,300
Total, Chapter 4	59,527	---	46,300	62,462	+2,935
Total, Title III	418,325	357,768	1,223,709	1,184,186	+765,861
TITLE IV - INDIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI RELIEF					
CHAPTER 1					
FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT					
Other Bilateral Assistance					
Tsunami Recovery and Reconstruction Fund (emergency)	701,000	659,000	656,000	656,000	-45,000
(Transfer out emergency)	(-43,000)	(-30,500)	(-36,000)	(-48,500)	(-5,500)
CHAPTER 2					
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE					
Operation And Maintenance					
Operation and Maintenance, Navy (emergency)	124,100	124,100	124,100	124,100	---
Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps (emergency)	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	---
Operation and Maintenance, Air Force (emergency)	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	---
Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide (emergency)	29,150	29,150	29,150	29,150	---

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	FY 2004 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Request
Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid (emergency)	36,000	36,000	36,000	36,000	---
Defense Health Program (emergency)	3,600	3,600	---	3,600	---
Defense Health Program (emergency)	---	---	3,600	---	---
Total, Chapter 2	225,650	225,650	225,650	225,650	---
CHAPTER 3					
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY					
United States Coast Guard					
Operating Expenses (emergency)	350	350	350	350	---
CHAPTER 4					
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR					
United States Geological Survey					
Surveys, Investigations, and Research (emergency)	8,100	8,100	8,100	8,100	---
CHAPTER 5					
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE					
National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration					
Operations, Research, and Facilities (emergency)	4,830	4,830	7,070	7,070	+2,240
Procurement, Acquisition and Construction (emergency)	9,670	9,670	10,170	10,170	+500
Total, Chapter 5	14,500	14,500	17,240	17,240	+2,740
Total, Title IV	949,600	907,600	907,340	907,340	-42,260
TITLE V - OTHER EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS					
CHAPTER 1					
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE					
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service					
Research and education activities (emergency)	---	---	3,000	---	---
Natural Resources Conservation Service					
Emergency watershed protection program (emergency)	---	---	103,000	104,500	+104,500
General Provision					
Sec. 5102 Watershed protection program (emergency)	---	---	15,000	---	---
Subtotal, Natural Resource conservation Service	---	---	118,000	104,500	+104,500
Total, Chapter 1	---	---	121,000	104,500	+104,500
CHAPTER 2					
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR					
Departmental Mangement					
Salaries and expenses (emergency)	---	---	3,000	3,000	+3,000
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE					
Forest Service					
National forest service (emergency)	---	---	2,410	---	---
Capital improvement and maintenance (emergency)	---	---	31,980	24,390	+24,390
Subtotal, Forest Service	---	---	34,390	24,390	+24,390
Total, Chapter 2	---	---	37,390	27,390	+27,390

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	FY 2004 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Request
CHAPTER 3					
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES					
Health Resources and Services Administration					
Health resources and services (rescission)	---	---	-2,000	-2,000	-2,000
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (rescission)	---	---	---	-58,000	-58,000
Office of the Secretary					
Office of the Inspector General (rescission)	---	---	-700	-700	-700
Public Health and Social Services Emergency fund (emergency)	---	---	10,000	10,000	+10,000
Public Health and Social Services Emergency fund	---	---	---	58,000	+58,000
Assistant Secretary for Health (rescission)	---	---	-7,300	-7,300	-7,300
Subtotal, Office of the Secretary	---	---	2,000	2,000	+2,000
Total, Department of Health and Human Services	---	---	---	---	---
RELATED AGENCY					
Institute of Musem and Library Services (emergency)	---	---	10,000	---	---
Total, Chapter 3	---	---	10,000	---	---
CHAPTER 4					
THE JUDICIARY					
Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services					
Salaries and expenses	101,800	---	---	---	-101,800
(Emergency)	---	---	65,000	---	---
Subtotal, Courts of Appeals, district Courts, and Other Judicial Services	101,800	---	65,000	---	-101,800
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT					
Housing Programs					
Housing For Persons With Disabilities	---	---	238,080	238,000	+238,000
Rescission	---	---	-238,080	-238,000	-238,000
Subtotal, Housing programs	---	---	---	---	---
Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight					
Salaries and expenses	---	---	5,000	5,000	+5,000
Offsetting collections	---	---	-5,000	-5,000	-5,000
General Provision					
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT					
Sec. 5401 Emergency assistance (emergency)	---	---	10,000	---	---
Total, Chapter 4	101,800	---	75,000	---	-101,800
Total, Title V	101,800	---	243,390	131,890	+30,090
Appropriations	101,800	---	243,080	301,000	+199,200
Emergency appropriations	---	---	253,390	141,890	+141,890
Rescissions	---	---	-248,080	-306,000	-306,000
Offsetting collections	---	---	-5,000	-5,000	-5,000

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	FY 2004 Request	House	Senate	Conference	Conference vs. Request
TITLE VI - GENERAL PROVISIONS AND TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS					
General Provisions Sec. 5002 (By transfer)	---	---	---	---	---
Weapons activities (transfer out)	---	---	(-10,000)	---	---
Sec. 6019 Office of the Administrator (by transfer)	---	---	(10,000)	---	---
Defense site acceleration completion (transter out)	---	---	(-30,000)	---	---
Sec. 6030 Defense environmental services (by transfer)	---	---	(30,000)	---	---
Fossil energy research development (CCPI loan)	---	---	---	---	---
Sec. 6030 State and private forestry (by transfer)	---	---	(1,500)	---	---
Capital improvement and maintenance (transfer out)	---	---	(-1,500)	---	---
Sec. 6027- Department of Homeland Security:					
Office of the Secretary and Executive Management (rescission)	---	---	---	-500	-500
Office of the Under Secretary for Management (rescission)	---	---	---	-3,300	-3,300
Customs and Border Protection salaries and expenses (rescission)	---	---	---	-76,000	-76,000
Immigration and Customs Enforcement salaries and expenses (rescission)	---	---	---	-85,200	-85,200
Department of Homeland Security Working Capital Fund (rescission)	---	---	---	-20,000	-20,000
Sec. 6035- Surface mining fees	---	---	-41,000	-41,000	-41,000
Sec. 6050- U.S. Senate (emergency)	---	---	---	35,000	+35,000
Sec. 6074- Home Equity Conversion Mortgage	---	---	---	-8,000	-8,000
Total, Title VI	---	---	-41,000	-199,000	-199,000
Grand total	82,042,628	81,366,878	81,219,945	82,041,478	-1,150
Appropriations	161,327	992,300	632,693	486,000	+324,673
Emergency appropriations	81,881,301	81,374,578	81,881,332	83,190,478	+1,309,177
Rescissions	---	-1,000,000	-1,248,080	-1,531,000	-1,531,000
Offsetting collections	---	---	-5,000	-5,000	-5,000
(Transfer authority)	(7,500,000)	(4,000,000)	(4,185,000)	(5,685,000)	(-1,815,000)
(By transfer)	---	---	(132,500)	(-50,000)	(-50,000)
(By transfer emergency)	---	(85,000)	(56,000)	(60,000)	(+60,000)
(Transfer out)	---	---	(-41,500)	---	---
(Transfer out emergency)	(-43,000)	(-30,500)	(-183,000)	(-88,500)	(-45,500)

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 8 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, this bill before us today makes clear that we have now spent $284 billion in Iraq and Afghanistan since the war began. The money that has been spent in Afghanistan is certainly legitimate and justified. After all, that country harbored the people who attacked us on 9/11. The problem is, however, that $165 billion has now been spent to deal with a country that did not attack us. We have spent some $240 billion on this entire endeavor since the President first landed in his jumpsuit on that carrier and addressed the country under the banner ''Mission Accomplished.'' There has been quite a bit of that mission left since it supposedly was over. We have now been involved in Iraq longer than we were involved in World War I, and respectable and responsible experts have told me that they expect that we will be involved for at least another 5 years.

This whole operation has been brought to us by the same people who erroneously told us that we had to go to war because Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and it was implied that they had, or were close to having, nuclear capability. That was all demonstrated not to be true. This has been brought to us by the same people who believed the assertions that our troops would be welcomed with open arms. It has been brought to us by the same people who thought they were so smart that they knew more than General Shinseki when the good general warned us that we would need substantially more troops and boots on the ground than we were scheduled to have if the postwar occupation was to go well.

And it has been brought to us by the same people who provided to our troops insufficient armor for Humvees, insufficient body armor and insufficient jammers to prevent our troops from having their faces and their legs and their arms blown off by remotely detonated bombs and mines.

I want to make quite clear I will support this bill because I feel that I have no choice but to participate in cleaning up the mess which somebody else left. But I do not relish it. I believe that the entire operation in Iraq has been accompanied by incredibly naive romanticism on the part of the White House and on the part of the civilian leadership in the Pentagon, and that has left the people fighting the war to bear the brunt of the miscalculations that have been made by the civilian leadership of our government. We have lost the lives of 1,500 American service men and women. We have seen more than 11,000 be injured. And this bill understates, in my view, the amount of money that will be needed eventually to restore the readiness of the U.S. Armed Forces and to minimize their casualties.

The second thing this bill does is to demonstrate once again how we, on both sides of the aisle, have had to work doubly hard to overcome the resistance of the White House in adequately funding homeland security operations. They have been especially resistant to providing the adequate funding along the borders, especially the Canadian border. And it has taken a bipartisan effort on the part of a wide variety of people in this Congress in order to overcome that resistance. This bill falls far short of the funding that is necessary to provide a secure set of borders for the United States. The new bill that is going to be offered by the gentleman from Kentucky will help fill that gap, but that is forced to play catch-up because we have met a steady resistance effort on the part of the White House.

Lastly, I simply want to say that while I am certainly no expert on the subject, I note that there is being attached to this bill a provision which many experts in the field feel has the potential to construct a nationwide database that could be very harmful in terms of people's efforts to engage in identity theft. I hope that proves not to be the case.

I would simply make the point that certainly no one on our committee on either side of the aisle has the expertise that you would hope would be found in the authorization committees, and I wish that that provision had been dealt with on a separate bill rather than solving an internal problem within the Republican Caucus by having it attached to an unrelated bill, and I want to make one point about that.

We are being lectured almost daily by the majority that we should not add ungermane riders to appropriation bills. I want to serve notice that if the majority feels free to add unrelated authorization bills such as this to a must-pass bill, that then I feel fully within my rights in offering whatever authorization legislation we feel appropriate on this side of the aisle and asking that it be attached to appropriation bills. If sauce is going to be okay for the goose, then it ought to be good for the gander.

So we will see in the coming months what the attitude of the majority is when we seek to add what we feel are legitimate efforts to strengthen appropriation bills by adding various pieces of so-called legislation to appropriation bills.

□ 1230

So since the majority has chosen to proceed down that path, I hope they raise no objection when we seek to follow it. With that, Mr. Speaker, again, I repeat I intend to vote for this bill with all of my misgivings.

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

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE), my colleague on the committee.

(Mr. KOLBE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to congratulate the chairman of the full committee on this, his maiden effort, to bring a major supplemental appropriation to the floor as chairman, and I congratulate him for the leadership that he has shown in bringing this so swiftly to this floor.

I do rise in support of the conference report to H.R. 1268. Before I address the funding that is the responsibility of my subcommittee, I want to briefly acknowledge a critically important part of this bill, border security funding. The securing of our Nation's borders to prevent the hemorrhaging flow of illegal immigration through my State of Arizona has got to be a top priority for the Federal Government. The people I represent living on the border are frustrated with the illegal immigration system, and we must address gaps in border security now. Arizona and other border States can no longer serve as the back door for this country's broken immigration system. By adding the funding that we do in this bill, we are taking a step in the right direction to ensure our northern and southern borders are protected.

Regarding the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Subcommittee chapter of this legislation, the conference report includes $2.53 billion in funding for programs under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Subcommittee, which I chair. While this overall level is $1.4 billion less than requested, let me say once again I strongly support the objectives of the President that he seeks to achieve with this request for Afghanistan, the Middle East, and the tsunami-devastated areas of Asia. I believe that this conference agreement provides the financial support necessary to help the United States achieve these objectives.

The major elements of the conference agreement that differ from the House-passed levels are additional funds for Afghanistan reconstruction, the Solidarity Initiative, and support for Ukraine. The $739 million proposed by the House for Afghanistan reconstruction represented the highest priority projects that could be implemented and executed during 2005. The Senate provided $1.3 billion, the administration's request. And the conference level is $1.086 billion, or $347 million over what the House had recommended. This increase over the House level supports some 2006 requirements, which is, I believe, a cost-effective approach to the 2006 budget process.

The House provided no funding for the administration's $400 million Solidarity Initiative. The Senate provide a total of $225.5 million, $200 million in the Solidarity Fund and $25.5 million in the Global War on Terror Partners Fund. The conference agreement provides a total of $230 million, merging the two funds into one appropriation, and places these funds within Peacekeeping Operations appropriations. This arrangement provides for regular order congressional review of the Department's plans for these funds.

The conference agreement provides $60 million for Ukraine, and these funds will support the government of Ukraine's highest priorities for political and economic reform, including anti-corruption initiatives and support for the upcoming parliamentary elections.

I think my colleagues recognize that we are faced with unique opportunities in the Middle East and Afghanistan. This agreement will provide the financial resources necessary to promote democracy and provide the State Department with programs and projects to support these positive influences.

Let me say that the funds we are providing in the foreign assistance chapter must be considered an investment in security both in the region and on American soil. However, Congress has the responsibility to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used efficiently and transparently, and we take that responsibility seriously with reporting requirements, and we will continue vigorous oversight of these programs.

The greatest weight all of us must bear is the knowledge that these decisions we make directly put the lives of Americans at risk. I firmly believe the bill before us today will help build stability and freedom in Afghanistan, the Middle East, and parts of Asia. I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the fiscal year 2005 emergency supplemental conference report on H.R. 1268.

I rise in support of the conference report to H.R. 1268, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2005.

Before I address the funding in my subcommittee, I wanted to briefly acknowledge a critically important part of this bill—border security funding. The securing of our nation's borders to prevent the hemorrhaging flow of illegal immigration through my state of Arizona must be a top priority for the federal government. The people I represent living on the border are frustrated with the illegal immigration system, and we must address gaps in border security now. Arizona and other border states can no longer serve as the backdoor for this country's broken immigration system. By adding this funding we are taking a step in the right direction to ensure our northern and southern borders are protected.

I am pleased that my colleagues on the conference committee agreed to provide $635 million for Border Security to hire an additional 500 Border Patrol Agents, 50 additional criminal investigators, 168 Immigration Enforcement Agents and Deportation Officers, and to fund 1,950 additional detention beds.

The bill also includes my amendment to strengthen the REAL ID Act to address the technology, equipment, and personnel needs improving security within the U.S., requiring Department of Homeland Security to carry out an improved ground surveillance program, and requiring DHS to improve interagency communication.

Regarding the Foreign Operations Subcommittee chapter, the conference agreement includes $2.532 billion, in funding for programs under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Operations subcommittee of which I am Chairman. This amount is $685 million over the House level, $251 million less than the Senate level, and $1.4 billion less than the Administration's request.

While this overall level is $1.4 billion less than requested, let me say once again that I strongly support the objectives the President seeks to achieve with this request for Afghanistan, the Middle East, and the tsunami devastated areas of Asia. I believe that, with the understanding that we need to reduce our federal deficit, this conference agreement provides the financial support necessary to help the United States achieve these objectives.

The major elements of the conference agreement that differ from the House passed-level are: additional funds for Afghanistan reconstruction, the Solidarity Initiative, and support for Ukraine.

The $739 million proposed by the House for Afghanistan reconstruction, represented the highest priority projects that could be implemented and executed during 2005. The Senate provided $1.3 billion, the Administration's request. The conference level is $1.086 billion, $347 million over the House recommendation. The increase over the House level supports some 2006 requirements—a cost effective approach to the 2006 budget process—such as $101.4 million for two additional power plants, $8.4 million for a water pipeline, $72 million for additional roads and infrastructure, and $43 million for economic governance.

The House provided no funding for the Administration's $400 million ''Solidarity Initiative.'' The Solidarity Initiative request of $400 million for two $200 million Funds to be used by the Secretary of State, as she determines, was to offset the costs of those countries that have dedicated troops to the Global War on Terror as well as economic support to other nations that have provided support. The Senate provided a total of $225.5 million—$200 million in the Solidarity Fund and $25.5 million in the Global War on Terror Partners Fund. The conference agreement provides a total of $230 million, merging the two Funds into one appropriation and places these funds within the Peacekeeping Operations appropriations. This arrangement provides for regular order Congressional review of the Department's plans for these funds. This will provide sufficient oversight of a substantial amount of money for the Global War on Terror.

The House provided $33.7 million for support to Ukraine. The Senate provided the Administration's request of $60 million. The conference agreement provides $60 million for Ukraine. These funds will support the government of Ukraine's highest priorities for political and economic reform, including anti-corruption initiatives and support for the upcoming parliamentary elections.

I think my colleagues recognize that we are faced with unique opportunities in the Middle East and Afghanistan. U.S. leadership can have positive, democratic influence in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon, Belarus, and Ukraine. This agreement will provide the financial resources necessary to promote democracy and provide State Department with programs and projects to support these positive influences.

Finally, the conference agreement provides $656 million for assistance to the victims of the tsunami and earthquakes of last December and March.

Let me say that the funds we are providing in the foreign assistance chapter must be considered an investment in security both in the region and on American soil. However, Congress has a responsibility to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used efficiently and transparently, and I know my colleagues take that responsibility seriously. We have included financial reporting requirements for all funds in the Foreign Operations chapter. For Afghanistan counternarcotics and West Bank Gaza programs, we have included additional auditing requirements. As Chairman, I pledge to continue vigorous oversight of these programs.

The greatest weight all of us must bear is the knowledge that decisions we make as Members of Congress directly puts the lives of Americans at risk. Already, men and women from probably every district represented today have made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan. I firmly believe the bill before us today will help to build stability and freedom in Afghanistan, the Middle East and parts of Asia.

Again, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on passage of the fiscal year 2005 emergency supplemental conference report on H.R. 1268.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), the ranking member of the Defense Subcommittee, the gentleman who has long been trying to extend debate in this Chamber.

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, in regards to what the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) just said, I am surprised at the new chairman. He is so lenient about getting time out of him. Usually our bill moves much faster than this. I thought he learned.

Let me say the defense part of this and maybe the rest of it is probably the most bipartisan bill one could ever find. The gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG), the gentleman from California (Chairman LEWIS), and I have been traveling to these various bases. We found shortages every place we went, all kinds of problems that they brought to our attention that needed to be rectified. We found problems so severe that many of the units that were on their way to Iraq were C–4. The gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM), my good friend, the hero from Vietnam, knows what I am talking about when I say C–4. I am talking about they are not ready to go to combat because the equipment is so bad.

As a matter of fact, the equipment was so bad at one base, and I think it was Fort Stewart where the troops did not have radios to train with, did not have small arms ammunition, did not have mortar ammunition to train with, and that means that when they get there, they are not at the cutting edge of where they should be. Now they get equipment when they get there, and that overcomes the C–4.

So the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG) and I, what we did was put $2.3 billion into the budget. We first checked, the staff checked, with the Army to make sure that that is where it ought to be put. The Army came back and supported us. Usually, they beat around the bush. The gentleman from California (Chairman

LEWIS) knows what I mean. We talk to them, and because of other people over there, they do not want to admit that they need the money. This time they were very emphatic that they needed every cent and they needed it as soon as they could get it. So we added money for the types of things that they need.

Having said that, what I have said to the services because we are having such a problem, we see the recruiting problem, we are looking into that right now. The subcommittee I serve on, we realize and we have said for a long time, they are going to have a recruiting problem as this war gets unpopular; and we were trying to figure out how do we overcome that.

Most times I disagree with those bonuses because I feel so strongly that people ought to join the Armed Forces for the good of the country, but we have to give bonuses to send them over there. We put money in for those kinds of things. We increased the amount of money somebody gets when they are killed in action. We expanded it so that when they are killed in action, they are taken care of retroactively as well as prospectively. We take care of somebody who is wounded. We added money to it. Some veterans group called me and said they were not happy with the way we added that money. They felt like there ought to be more study, and I cannot disagree with that.

But when the four of us sat down, the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG) and Senator INOUYE and Senator STEVENS, we came to the conclusion that we just did not think we could wait. So we put money in to take care of people who were injured so severely as well as the ones that were killed. And I got so many letters from the people at home, and I have had 12 killed in my district, how pleased they were about what we are doing because it helped them get through a very difficult time.

What we have tried to do over the years is make sure that the people that were in the Armed Forces had what they needed, that the people in Iraq have what they need. Our subcommittee brought to the attention of the country that they were without a lot of equipment in Iraq. We are working right now. New trucks, we are trying to figure out how to put new trucks in that are encapsulated because we have taken care of the Humvees, but we need to take care of the trucks now. So we got some commercial trucks which were recommended which were $100,000 less, but it was so late, we could not get it in the bill. We are going to ask for reprogramming for that amount of money.

So this bill is taking care of equipment shortages, not all of them, but it is taking care of as many as we could possibly squeeze in. It is taking care of Reset. We forced the military to ask for Reset. The minute that this war is over and the money starts to dry up, Reset will be the first thing they do not do; so we have to do it now. And I have said to many of the industrial leaders in this country, the minute the war is over, there will not be any supplementals, there will be a lot less money to be spent, and we have got to spend this money now in the supplementals to make sure that that gets done. Armor modularity, there is some argument about that; but we think it ought to be done, and we have pushed this.

Many of the programs that the Army has today have come about because of the Defense Subcommittee, chaired by the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and chaired by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG). Many of the things that have happened have happened because we see it out in the field. We go out in the field, talk to the people, make sure that we are doing the right thing, and then we try to send defense in the right direction.

So I urge the Members to vote for this. The troops need it, and it helps dramatically for the amount of money that is needed by the Armed Forces.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for one of the most illuminating, but also one of the longest, statements I have ever heard him make on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), chairman of the greatest subcommittee in the appropriations process.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations for yielding me this time.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), the ranking member on our Defense Subcommittee, has explained the bill quite thoroughly as it relates to the war fighters. The biggest part of this supplemental is for war fighters, and the bill that we have put together goes just to that issue.

The increases that we have added in this bill go to the urgently needed items such as ammunition, weapons, up-armored Humvees, transport vehicles, Jammers, night vision equipment, radios, add-on armor kits; and the list goes on and on. And I include a list of those items that are for the war fighter and force protection, Mr. Speaker. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) and the gentleman from California (Chairman LEWIS) and I and many of our colleagues have visited our hospitals to visit with our soldiers and Marines at Walter Reed and at Bethesda Naval Hospital and also at Landstuhl, where many of our servicemen come first before they get transported back to the United States, and we have located a number of areas where the government just does not take care of these soldiers and the Marines. And this bill goes a long way towards taking care of that.

It has been pretty generally known that we have in this bill increased the death benefit for those who make the total sacrifice and lose their lives in working and supporting the Nation's security. We have also increased the service group life insurance programs substantially so that those who prefer to take part in that program can have additional benefits, and many of these benefits are really needed. And the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) referred to this, but I want to take just a minute and explain. We added, basically, a new program, and that is for a traumatic injury insurance benefit for members of the service. We provide up to $100,000 to compensate for injuries such as loss of sight, losing a hand or a foot, or other debilitating injuries. And these benefits would be retroactive to October of 2001, when the war started.

There are many soldiers and Marines today who have been wounded so seriously that in previous wars would have died on the battlefield but who are living today in this war because of improved and increased medical benefits and better training and better medicines and the ability to transport from the battlefield to a medical facility. So these soldiers and Marines are hurt really bad, and we have an obligation to take care of them, and this bill goes a long way toward beginning that process, to take care of things for our heroes and our fallen heroes who have not been taken care of by the government properly.

The material previously referred to is as follows:

Conference Agreement for Additional Equipment

[In thousands of dollars]

Program	*Recommendation*
Missile Procurement, Army:	
ITAS/TOW Mods	30,000
Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army:	
Bradley Reactive Armor Tiles	20,000
Stryker	69,540
Small Arms Modifications	55,200
Procurement of Ammunition, Army:	
Ammunition Industrial Base	57,800
Other Procurement, Army:	
Up-Armored IDMWVs (M1114)	150,000
Other HMMWVs (M1151)	80,000
FMTV	225,000
FHTV	114,000
Add-On Armor Kits	48,000
SINCGARS Family	30,000
Improved HF Radios (including PRC–150 and PRC–148)	17,000
Jammers (Warlock including Low Cost Jammer)	60,000
Night Vision Devices	59,000
Counter Rocket Artillery and Mortar System (CRAM)	75,000
Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below (FBCB2)	66,100
Handheld Stand-off Mine Detection System (HSTAMIDS)	10,000
Army Total:	1,166,640
Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps:	
Small Arms Ammunition	6,000
Procurement, Marine Corps:	
Light Armored Vehicle (LAV)	175,000
Night Vision Equipment	54,000
Radio Systems (including EPLRS, PRC–117 and HF Communications Vehicle)	55,000

Program	Recommendation
HMMWVs	30,000
Marine Corps Total:	320,000
Grand Total:	1,486,640

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), distinguished minority whip.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am of course going to vote for this emergency supplemental appropriation because I believe it is absolutely imperative to support our brave men and women in harm's way in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I know that even today, 2 years after the onset of Operation Iraqi Freedom, there continues to be strong disagreement across the Nation on the decision to remove the brutal Hussein regime as well as the planning and prosecution of our military effort in Iraq.

□ 1245

However, on this point, I believe there is unanimity.

We, the elected representatives of the American people, have a legislative duty as well as a moral responsibility, to do everything in our power to ensure that our troops have everything they need to defeat the vicious insurgency in Iraq, to assist the Iraqi people in establishing democracy, and continuing our efforts in Afghanistan.

In my view, however, we are not doing enough. Just last week, The New York Times reported the experience of Marine Company E, an experience that, ''was punctuated not only by a lack of armor, but also by a shortage of men and planning that further hampered their efforts in the battle.''

I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, that this bill includes $1.4 billion more than the administration requested for bolstering force protection needs such as add-on armor and night vision goggles, and, in addition, for outfitting troops rotating into Iraq and Afghanistan.

Over the last 4 years, this administration, however, has refused to ask the American people, particularly the wealthiest American people, to make even minimal sacrifices, while we ask our men and women in Afghanistan and Iraq for some to make the ultimate sacrifice. The very least, in my opinion, that we can do is give them the resources they need to achieve victory and to return home safely.

I also support, Mr. Speaker, the important funding in this bill for tsunami relief, foreign assistance, and domestic homeland security as well as the $200 million in assistance for the Palestinian Authority for infrastructure and economic development projects. Those are all worthwhile, necessary, and important projects. The political reforms taking place in the territories must be accompanied by an end to the poverty and lack of opportunity facing the Palestinian people. That is ultimately how we will defeat terrorism.

Finally, however, let me raise, Mr. Speaker, one objection, among others, to the funding bill: the $592 million for a new embassy compound in Baghdad. That is not an emergency. This funding, Mr. Speaker, is not only inappropriate in this emergency supplemental appropriation, but it also, in my opinion, is substantially excessive in its expenditures; not to keep the people safe, we can do that, but to create an embassy in a relatively small country that, hopefully, in the years ahead, will be more peaceful than we have found it.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we are at a critical juncture in Iraq. Victory is imperative, although it is not certain. I urge my colleagues to support this conference report.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the chairman of the Subcommittee on Homeland Security, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I want to compliment the gentleman from California (Chairman LEWIS) and the other conferees for giving us a whole new effort, a major effort to try to control the borders and to deal with the massive illegal immigration problem that the country is facing. We have 11 million estimated illegal aliens in the country, and 800,000 or so of them are people who have been ordered deported and yet have absconded. Eighty thousand of those have criminal records.

This bill, when combined with the homeland security appropriations bills for 2006 that we marked up yesterday in the subcommittee, those two bills combined will give us a new, massive effort to deal with the problem. These two bills will give us 1,500 new Border Patrol agents, 568 new Immigration and Customs enforcement officers throughout the country, and some 3,900 new jail bed space to try to deal with this massive, overwhelming problem.

I want to commend the chairman for having the foresight, along with the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) and the other members of the conference, for giving us the new capability to tackle a problem that is proving to be very elusive.

So I compliment the chairman, and I urge everyone to support this bill.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this conference committee report. But, Mr. Speaker, the American people whose sons and daughters are fighting this war and the senior military officers who are directing this war deserve to know what the White House will consider to be success in Iraq.

Now, this conference committee report includes language that would require the administration to fully evaluate the situation in Iraq and provide the Congress with measurable, achievable criteria, including the following: an assessment of the number of troops it will take to secure the peace and how those troops would be rotated; key measures of political stability, such as ratification of a national Constitution and permanent national elections now scheduled for next year; the estimated strength of the Iraqi insurgency and the extent to which it is composed of nonIraqi fighters; the operational readiness of Iraqi military forces, including the type, number, size, and organizational structure of Iraqi battalions that are capable of conducting counterinsurgency operations independently; and the readiness of Iraqi police forces to perform all duties now being undertaken by coalition forces; as well as the viability of economic sectors that are crucial to Iraq's economic recovery, as measured by unemployment levels, utility availability, and oil production rates.

The fact is that our long-term presence in Iraq will only give our enemies in the region a greater ability to recruit terrorists and build public support for violence. That is the opposite of our objective there. I do think it is past time to lay out for the American people what is our strategy for success. This language that is included in the report will require the Secretary to report no later than 60 days after the enactment of the supplemental and every 90 days thereafter. That is progress.

We support our troops. We have to complete this mission, but we also need to work together. The fact is, the American people whose sons and daughters are fighting this war do not have the ability to require this of the administration, nor do the senior military officers. It is our responsibility, and I am glad that this Congress is committed to performing that responsibility. On balance, it is a good bill, and I support it.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to our majority whip, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT).

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I rise, of course, in support of this supplemental.

I also want to rise to really express my appreciation to the gentleman from California (Chairman LEWIS) and the tremendous job he has done in limiting the scope of this supplemental and getting this work done in a quick way, and moving forward on the rest of our appropriations process at the same time. These measures can often become reasons not to move forward with the normal work of the House, and the gentleman from California (Chairman LEWIS) and his committee and their staff have really accepted double responsibility and double duty by doing these things at the same time.

This bill does include, as my friend from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) mentioned, the embassy compound in Baghdad. He

and I visited the current embassy together in December, and I think we disagree on the need to go ahead and get this project started now. The project is 10 percent below the amount of money that the administration asked for. It is a substantial amount of money. It is a difficult environment, but bidding and starting these projects simply cannot happen if we have a little piece of that money to start with; you have to have the money available so that this embassy can be built and that our people representing us there in the embassy can be secure. We had two people killed in the current embassy compound in recent weeks from a missile that was fired there, and we need to move forward.

In addition to providing vital funding for our troops in fighting the war, this bill also addresses some of the border vulnerabilities identified by the 9/11 Commission. This legislation does not create a national ID card or a national database, but it does move forward in securing our borders and making our asylum process work better to protect Americans, both young and old. This legislation tightens the asylum system because of that.

Finally, this legislation provides $635 million for increased border security and enforcement. That includes $176 million to hire, train, equip, and support 500 border patrol agents and relieve current facility overcrowding. It includes almost half a billion dollars for Immigration and Customs enforcement, which includes $97.5 million to hire and train additional criminal investigators and immigration enforcement agents.

This bill works to protect our fighting forces abroad, to help secure our borders at home, to move us forward in the war against terror. I appreciate the committee's work on it, and I encourage its approval today.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY).

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, why is Congress approving yet another multibillion dollar spending bill when the previous 3 multibillion dollar spending bills have been misused, improperly managed, and, in some cases, downright stolen?

A report by the Special Inspector General for Iraq's reconstruction has stated that nearly $100 million for reconstruction projects in southern Iraq is missing and cannot be accounted for. These funds must be accounted for before allotting one more dollar for the war in Iraq.

And where is the congressional investigation into the $9 billion that mysteriously disappeared from the books at the Coalition Provisional Authority? Why are we voting on writing another check for a mission that has been so badly botched? Who is being held responsible for the misinformation that led us into the war in the first place? Who is being held responsible for the troops not being equipped and armed with the billions of dollars that we have allocated to Iraq? Where is our exit strategy?

This bill is nothing short of highway robbery, and the victims are the troops and the American people. No more blank checks, Mr. Speaker. No more wars without reason. I will vote against the supplemental.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the chairman of the Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice, and Commerce, and Related Agencies, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF).

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the conference report to fund urgent supplemental requirements for the military.

For the State Department, we have included just over $2 billion, a reduction of $199 million from the President's request.

The bill includes the necessary funds to maintain our diplomatic presence in Iraq and Afghanistan, and for allowing our personnel to carry out their duties in the safest and most secure manner.

Iraq and Afghanistan are the front lines of our foreign policy. This conference report provides the necessary resources for operations, logistics, and security in those dangerous, but critically important, parts of the world.

There is also $592 million to allow State to move quickly to build a secure compound in Baghdad and, as the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) said, these facilities are not secure now, and they are needed. This money will result in the completion of a secure living and working compound facility within 24 months.

The $680 million, $100 million below the President's request, pays for the U.S. share of ongoing peacekeeping missions, including a new mission for Sudan, where it is absolutely critical, now that there is a north-south peace. And, by sending this mission there, hopefully, it will bring peace to Darfur.

The conference report also includes $241.6 million for domestic appropriations to support the war on terror, including FBI counterterrorism efforts and, for DEA, a counternarcotics program in Afghanistan.

Finally, it includes $17.2 million to jump-start the improvement of the United States tsunami warning capabilities on both coasts.

The conference report before us provides funding for important security measures for our diplomatic personnel, for our ongoing State Department and Justice Department commitments, and I strongly urge support of the conference report.

□ 1300

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, while I have problems with the concept of this supplemental and supplementals, and the misplaced budget priorities of the Republican Party, this bill, I believe, is needed for our men and women who are fighting the war on terrorism.

This bill includes much needed higher death benefits for our military. And while it will never return these patriots such as Christian Engeldrum in my district to his family, what we can do as Americans is ensure that his wife and children have financial security for his personal sacrifice to his country.

This bill finally provides funding for body armor for our troops, something that this administration has refused to do for over 2 years now. So hopefully less families can claim the new death benefits for their loved ones fighting overseas.

This bill provides much needed aid for the victims of the December tsunami. I led a delegation to Sri Lanka in January, and I saw first hand the resources needed in that country, multiplied by the effects on other countries; and this money will go to good use.

This funding, along with the sheer generosity of the American people, is a true testament of our country in comparison to the tepid actions by the White House in the immediate days after the crisis.

While this money is important, I would be remiss if I did not express my disappointment at no funding being included for the U.N. Population Fund for children and maternal health care in the tsunami region. I offered an amendment to fix this, but yet again this administration has played politics and refuses to fund the UNFPA.

This bill provides $50 million in important aid to the State of Israel as they embark on the critical disengagement plan and withdraw from the Gaza Strip. We have the support, the courage of the Israeli people; and this is the right thing to do at this time.

And, finally, this bill includes important language to create the 9/11 Heroes Medal of Valor, for which I am deeply indebted to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY), and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) for including this provision in this bill.

On behalf of my cousin, John Moran, who was killed on 9/11, a battalion chief of the Fire Department of New York, and the over 400 families in New York City that are affected by this legislation, I want to say thank you for this honor that is going to be bestowed by the President in September of this year.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM), a great member of our committee.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I have been flying wing on the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) for about 14 years, and he has always got me home safely.

The gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and his wife are out at Bethesda in the hospitals every single day

taking care of our troops. There is no better team than the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) to make sure that our men and women are safe.

I have another great friend in the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY). And if we were back in the times of Troy, I would be Achilles, and he would be Hector, and we would cross swords, but we would respect each other. And there is one area, Mr. OBEY, when you mentioned homeland security we can seat those swords. The gentleman from California (Mr. COX) is working on the abuses of the homeland security money. That is being taken on.

I think we can work in a very bipartisan way to make sure that that happens. I would like to thank the chairman for the border issues, that we have been able to secure our borders with this bill and provide for border patrol.

Many of us have been working on this for years. And the Speaker has granted us that at the first must-pass bill we can bring this forward.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, can I inquire how much time each side has remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) has 7½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) has 14 minutes remaining.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield for purposes of a unanimous consent request to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER.)

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it has been 2 years since President Bush stood aboard the USS *Lincoln* aircraft carrier and declared, "Mission Accomplished" in Iraq. And in those two years it has become increasingly clear that the war in Iraq is far from over, and that the American people are paying the price.

Let's just take a look at the facts:

There are currently 150,000 American troops now serving in Iraq, including 8,000 Reserve and National Guard troops.

Tragically, 1,582 American service members have been killed in the Iraq war.

At least 12,243 U.S. troops have been wounded in action, many with grievous injuries that will require a lifetime of medical assistance and other types of support.

More than one in five Iraqi war veterans have some type of mental disorder caused by their wartime service.

In addition to the cost of life and quality of life for the brave American men and women who are fighting in Iraq, the dollar cost of the war is also taking its toll on the American people.

To date, $217 billion in American taxpayer dollars have gone to fund the war in Iraq. We were told our allies would share the cost of the war; we were told Iraqi oil would pay for the cost of the war. Now it is clear, there was no plan: the American taxpayer is paying for the cost of this war to the tune of $5 billion a month.

In fact, today's $82 billion supplemental is the fifth such supplemental Congress has passed at the request of the Bush Administration to fund the war on terror. That's billions of dollars not spent on pressing problems right here at home.

Problems, such as:

The price of gas at the pump. Gas prices remain at record levels at $2.24 per gallon nationwide, with some states topping $2.60. That means gas prices have risen 33 cents in just the last two months and are 42 cents a gallon higher than a year ago. The Energy Department predicts that gas prices will climb to a record $2.35 by Memorial Day—averaging $2.28 this summer.

The high cost of health insurance. Health care costs for families have skyrocketed almost 50 percent over the past five years.

A lagging economy. The economy grew at just 3.1 percent in the first quarter—the slowest pace in 2 years and down from a 3.8-percent pace logged in the final quarter of 2004.

Declining wages and benefits. Workers' salaries and benefits have suffered the largest 3-year decline since 1948 (as a portion of our economy) even as corporate profits continue to rise.

Fewer jobs. 446,000 private-sector jobs and 2.8 million manufacturing jobs have been lost.

Record budget deficits. This year's deficit is on track to reach a record $427 billion.

Veteran's benefits. Over the next 5 years, the budget for veterans programs, primarily health care, is $14.2 billion below the amount needed to maintain services at current levels.

And, record trade deficits. The U.S. trade deficit surged to an all-time high of $61.04 billion in February.

Two years after President Bush declared mission accomplished in Iraq, there is still no end in sight. Instead of just signing another multi-billion dollar check to the Administration, isn't it time to develop a real plan to stabilize Iraq so we can bring American troops home and concentrate on our problems here at home?

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) as I express my deep appreciation for his cooperation in this project.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank him for his hard work on this conference report. As many in this Chamber know, this conference report contains the provisions of the Real ID Act, which I offered, and the House overwhelmingly approved earlier this year.

The sensible reforms contained in this legislation are long overdue and will make America safer. These provisions will hamper the ability of terrorists and criminal aliens to move freely through our society by requiring that all States' prior proof of lawful presence in the U.S. for their driver's licenses be accepted as identification for Federal purposes, such as boarding a commercial airplane, entering a Federal building or a nuclear power plant.

This legislation will also require a temporary driver's license issued to a foreign visitor to expire when their visa expires, with the maximum term of 1 year. The legislation will also prevent the ability of potentially dangerous aliens to show up under false pretenses on our shores and be granted safe haven, while simultaneously protecting those who are legitimately fleeing persecution.

Finally, the legislation will also ensure that the security and integrity of our border is not imperiled by endless and frivolous litigation. I would also note that there are several immigration-related provisions included in the report by the other body that enjoy broad support from this House.

One will provide that aliens who have received H–2B visas issued to work in temporary or seasonal jobs in any of the last 3 years shall not be counted toward the 2005 or 2006 quotes when applying for an H–2B visa during the next 2 years.

Another amendment expands immigrant visas available for aliens who serve as nurses or physical therapists. I wish to thank the House leadership, the White House, and many Members of both Chambers who rightly recognized the importance of the Real ID Act and supported its inclusion in this conference report.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST).

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank both the chairman and the ranking member for this bill, especially for its Iraqi dollars, because this bill analyzes microscopically the kinds of equipment that is needed there now, and then surgically targets those dollars in a vastly efficient manner for our troops.

The bill also deals with healing the wounds of both mind and body of those soldiers who are returning. The bill also deals with small businesses being able, through the H–2B process, to hire legal workers. And the bill also deals with enhanced technology for the tsunami situation that we saw so much, months ago.

I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) for the legislation, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the $17 million included in the Supplemental that we are considering today, which will support the expansion of the U.S. Tsunami Warning Network. These funds will help NOAA to procure and deploy tsunami detection buoys in a system designed to provide continuous tsunami warning capability for both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of the United States. Detection is a critical part of a warning system which I hope will ultimately include a comprehensive approach to educating communities about, and preparing them for, tsunamis.

Comprising 70 percent of the Earth's surface area, our oceans support a growing source of protein for many developing countries, promising sources of medicines, and efficient transport of goods between continents and among nations. They also strongly influence our climate and weather and provide economic and unmeasurable quality of life

benefits. For proof of this, one only needs to know that the U.S. coasts support over 50 percent of the U.S. population and comprise only 17 percent of our land base.

When South Asia was struck by tsunami waves on December 26, the world's interest in tsunami detection and warning systems was heightened. The impact of these waves was felt around the world, and the tragedy of its immediate effect on Indian Ocean coastlines has painfully exposed our lack of ability to provide early warning and coastal community education and support. Many lifelong residents of Indian Ocean coastal towns fear the sea—the primary source of their livelihoods for generations. It is critical that individuals in high-risk areas are educated about and prepared for tsunamis before they strike. Coastal communities need assurance that technology exists and will be applied to increase warnings for such events and to prepare them for evacuation to avoid catastrophic loss of human life.

In contrast, developed nations use increasing technological sophistication to acquire from the sea its bounty—with little thought for the long-term sustainability of this activity. In time, without increased understanding of our ocean ecosystems and the impact of our harvest and extraction of its resources, developed nations may also come to fear the sea. The antidote to the disease of fear is understanding. New technologies have already led to enormous advances in our understanding of the coastal and marine environment. However, advanced sensors have been deployed only on relatively small scales, and the systems that are deployed have not been coordinated into an integrated system that will optimize our understanding of the oceans.

Since the U.S. hosted the Earth Observation Summit in July 2003, we have been working with our partner nations to adopt a comprehensive, coordinated and sustained Earth Observation System to collect and disseminate data, information and models for more effective and responsible use of our resources as well as to inform decision-makers about impending disasters. Most recently, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy made an integrated ocean observing system a top recommendation in its report, An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century.

Our space exploration and our weather programs show that when our scientists and the Nation support a program and devote time, money and, most importantly, the human mind into these types of endeavors we are highly successful. The ocean, however, is often referred to as the last frontier, a place where we continue to find new organisms and species and where we still struggle to understand the profound implications for climate changes and more direct impacts of the oceans on our human habitats.

There is perhaps no more motivating event, no louder a voice for attention and understanding than having the ocean engulf human habitats. Our failure to fully develop and utilize our technology to understand our oceans has many more implications, including the potential for permanent damage to fragile and complex ecosystems that have generously provided us with food, medicines, recreation, and other benefits. We are now awake to the power of the ocean, and it is my hope that we will use this opportunity to move more quickly toward integrated data collection and dissemination systems, as well as intensive education of coastal communities, to ensure that we and future generations can look to the sea for inspiration, sustenance, and life-giving support.

I strongly support the inclusion of these funds to increase global monitoring capacity and public awareness about tsunamis and other disasters, particularly if they add to capacity of ocean monitoring as part of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report. And I would like to take a few minutes to express my support with some provisions included in the foreign operations chapter of this supplemental bill.

First and foremost, I am pleased that we have finally appropriated funding to address the earthquake and tsunami that devastated Asia. The images of destruction, parents separated from their children, whole villages flattened and emptied, livelihoods washed away, touched the American people deeply and brought out the most generous and humanitarian impulses in us all.

I am disappointed, however, that it has taken Congress so long to respond officially on behalf of the United States, but I am happy that we finally have a robust package of aid to offer affected nations.

I want to thank Chairman KOLBE, Senators MCCONNELL and LEAHY for responding to my request to ensure that the needs of women and children around the world are addressed in this supplemental. Of the $656 million included in the bill for tsunami-related assistance, over 200 million will be dedicated to directly meet the needs of women and children, and much of the remainder of those funds will be of indirect benefit through the restoration of infrastructure needed, such as new schools and roads.

The bill also makes a strong statement about U.S. support for a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It provides 200 million to help the Palestinian people improve their economic situation.

I also want to thank Chairman KOLBE and my colleagues in the Senate for agreeing to provide most of the $100 million added by the House for emergency needs in Africa outside of Sudan. Unfortunately, the horrible tragedy in Sudan has meant the diversion of funds needed to address ongoing problems in the democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Ethiopia, and Uganda. This 100 million, along with additional funds for Public Law 480 food aid, will go a long way toward easing the pain and hunger expressed by many women and children throughout Africa.

While I have deep concerns about other provisions included in other sections of this supplemental, I am pleased with the shape of the foreign operations section. I believe it goes a long way toward fulfilling our many commitments around the world.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH).

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for this time. I rise in strong support of this conference report as the people's House at long last takes care of some unfinished business. In the closing days of the 108th Congress, some in the other body objected to commonsense provisions that deal with our national security and our border security, to wit, the notion that when you apply for a driver's license or another legal document, you should be who you say you are, and you should enjoy legal status in this country.

This supplemental conference report includes the REAL ID Act, and at long last the Congress of the United States gets real and understands that border security and national security are one and the same. Pass this to help protect our borders and help protect our national security.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI).

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman LEWIS for including in the supplemental the provision which is our wounded warrior bill.

As our enemies adapt their war-fighting strategies, they change not just to kill our men and women overseas, but to maim and wound. Roadside incendiary devices, rocket grenades, car bombs mean the loss of several arms and legs and eyes, blindness and paralysis.

Our men and woman coming home at Walter Reed Army Hospital and their families coming up to be with them so they can heal faster are incurring great debt. Never mind that they try to transition back into society, those great wage earners, trying to find self-worth in the work.

This bill includes the wounded warrior project. It says to our troops, we are going to provide you with supplemental disability insurance to help you transition back to being American citizens and thank you for your patriotism.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this supplemental. Do not allow these traumatic injuries to be the economic death sentence after our troops have survived the death bed overseas. Vote for our wounded warriors.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the chairman on this bill. It is important that we take care of business with our military.

Mr. Speaker, having been to Iraq this year, I saw our troops, our young men and women from all branches of the service doing the finest job ever representing the concept of freedom and representing the United States; and they certainly need the supplemental.

However, I am concerned about some of the baggage that seems to have been added to the supplemental. And I think maybe in the future we should be careful about adding things that are not really important emergencies, such as in this supplemental conferring eligibility for rural housing assistance grants in the village of New Miami, Ohio; allowing some farm service accounts for the Alaska dairy farmers; increasing the cost of the Fort Peck Fish Hatchery Project in Minnesota; and adding to the National Center for Manufacturing Services in Michigan; along with $500,000 for the oral history of negotiated settlement projects at the University of Nevada.

I think these belong in some other bill. They may be great projects, but they certainly are not emergency projects. But I do urge all Members of the House to support this legislation.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

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Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the conference report includes the REAL ID Act, which I cosponsored. And of course the goal of this bill is straightforward. It seeks to prevent another terrorist attack on U.S. soil by disrupting terrorist travel. These provisions were called for by the 9/11 Commission. And this legislation uses existing States driver's license systems to ensure we know who is in our country, that people are who they say they are, and that the name on a driver's license is the holder's real name, not an alias.

All but one of the 9/11 hijackers used U.S. driver's licenses to board the planes that day because these documents allowed them to circumvent their expired visas. It allowed them to not raise suspicion or concern.

Mohammed Atta received a 6-month visa to stay in the U.S. He received a Florida driver's license good for 6 years. The REAL ID Act will end this by establishing a rule for all States, that temporary driver's licenses for foreign visitors expire when their visa terms expire and establishes tough rules for confirming identity before driver's licenses are issued.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I take this time to explain the motion to recommit that I will offer at the end of this debate. Here is what it does:

The Senate bill contains funding for a total of 150,000 border patrol agents, 250 immigration investigators, and 168 immigration enforcement agents, and detention officers and their associated training and support cast.

This conference agreement falls short of the Senate bill in 3 areas. It only contains funds for 500 border patrol agents, not the 150,000 called for in the Senate bill. It only contains funding for 50 immigration investigators, not the 250 called for in the Senate bill.

Last, it also contains no funding for unmanned border aerial vehicles.

The motion to recommit is simple. It would take us to the levels contained in the Senate bill for border patrol agents by adding funding for 550 additional border patrol agents and for 200 immigration investigators.

It would also fund unmanned border aerial vehicles that have been used successfully in a test in Arizona to assist in surveillance. Former DHS Deputy Secretary Lloyd testified that the vehicles provided ''invaluable'' service.

Since border patrol agents are trained at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Artesia, New Mexico, funding is included like the Senate bill to purchase and operate modular classrooms for these additional agents.

This motion, in short, would provide an additional $284.4 million to immigration and customs enforcement to do this as was in the Senate bill. Need I remind anyone that the Intelligence Reform Bill, which became law last December, called for 2,000 additional border patrol agents a year and 800 additional immigration investigators? The President requested no funding for that supplemental request.

I would note that on March 30 the administration announced it would add more than 500 agents in Arizona, but those are not new agents. 135 of them or so will come from other southwest and southern border patrol locations, and the remainder are simply new trainees who will replace agents retiring or leaving the border patrol across the country.

So I would simply urge House Members to vote for this motion. It ought not be at all controversial. It is practical if you want to put your money where your press releases have been with respect to border patrol.

Mr. Speaker, I yield for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill, although I am disgusted with the anti-immigration provisions in it, particularly the things with the driver's licenses.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this supplemental appropriations bill, but not without very serious misgivings. I will vote for this legislation because it contains support for our troops in the field and important tsunami relief. With American soldiers in harm's way, I am very reluctant to vote against funding of military operations. And, having personally seen the devastation in the wake of the Tsunami in Indonesia, I feel that aid to the victims is critical.

Nevertheless, I am disgusted by the process by which this legislation came to the floor and by the immigration-related provisions in the bill. This is an appropriations bill. It is not the place to write new immigration law or to include seriously flawed driver's license provisions. The Republicans are clamoring in the Senate about the lack of up or down votes on judges and, today, they denied the House not only an up or down vote on the so-called "Real ID" Act, but even a real debate on this issue.

The immigration sections are seriously flawed. They impose onerous restrictions on foreign nationals in the U.S., not to mention upon American citizens, and slap a massive unfunded mandate upon the states. Shortly after this legislation takes effect, I can only imagine that, instead of more licensed drivers on the roads, there will be less. Instead of safer roads, we will have more reckless drivers operating completely outside of our laws.

America is a nation of immigrants and our strength is in our diversity. We are founded upon the people who have come from all corners of the globe and are continually enriched by the unique strengths that they add to our national mosaic. We must not undermine the careful balance our nation has struck. I, therefore, strongly oppose these ID and immigration-related sections and pledge to fight hard in the future to remove the offensive provisions from the law.

in the end, as a legislator, I must vote on the bill in front of me, and in this instance I must vote for the vital funding contained in this bill. But, Mr. Speaker, please know that I will work hard in the day ahead to strike the dangerously flawed sections from the code.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise sadly to oppose the emergency supplemental because of the horrific and ill-advised immigration provisions and the lack of oversight that has been given to the provisions in this section. I hope we will have an opportunity to address this in a comprehensive manner.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today very conflicted over a piece of vital legislation for which this entire body should really be in solidarity. The Conference Report on H.R. 1268 provides for emergency FY2005 funds for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, tsunami relief efforts, foreign assistance programs and domestic homeland security priorities. However, this legislation also includes an insidious section with provisions of H.R. 418, the REAL ID Act, which has nothing to do with what should be the real intent of this Emergency Supplemental. Instead of being united on issues of national security and international relations, we are put in a divisive situation with the provisions of the REAL ID Act.

The issues of importance addressed by this Emergency Supplemental do not give rise to a need to include provisions from H.R. 418, the REAL ID Act—legislation for which Congress

has not held a legislative hearing, markup, nor full debate in the House. Just last year, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle attempted to force these provisions in the context of the 9/11 Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, H.R. 10.

The sponsor of the REAL ID Act's driver's license provisions would have gone far beyond the scope of the 9/11 Commission recommendations. The 9/11 Commission did not suggest that the standards should be federally mandated without state participation, that a database should be created to share personal identification information, that undocumented immigrants should be prevented from getting licenses or that non-citizens should get an identifiably different driver's license.

Finally, none of the REAL ID Act sponsor's provisions have been reviewed by the Congress or the Commission. There have been no hearings or debates on these significant changes to existing law. The immigration provisions that have been forced into this supplemental include numerous provisions restricting the grant of asylum " protection, imposing onerous new driver's license requirements on the States, making it easier to deport legal immigrants, waiving all Federal laws concerning the construction of fences and barriers anywhere within the United States, and denying immigrants long-standing habeas corpus rights.

The USA PATRIOT Act, for which we in the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security of the Judiciary are only now holding hearings in piecemeal form, already barred terrorists from receiving asylum protection in the United States. None of the people associated with recent attacks, or plans for terrorist attacks in the U.S., were here under grants of asylum. Instead, these changes will make it harder for people legitimately fleeing persecution to prove their asylum claims and gain protection here. Bona fide refugees who cannot meet the higher standards will be returned to countries where they were persecuted, possibly to face terror, torture and death.

The forced provisions will set a dangerous legal precedent by requiring the government to waive all federal, state and local laws to build barriers and fences to deter illegal entry into the United States. This waiver would require violating laws that protect sacred Native American burial sites, important environmental regions, and the wages of laborers. Yet this policy is unnecessary. In the 9–11 Act, we passed language to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for the systematic surveillance of the Southwest border by remotely piloted aircraft and other electronic means. We can preserve our legal rights and regimes and still secure our Nation.

The great majority of this Emergency Supplemental, a sum of $75.9 billion goes towards U.S. military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. In this Conference Report's military spending total of $75.9 billion includes $37.1 billion for military operations and maintenance spending, $17.4 billion for personnel, and $17.4 billion for new weapons procurement. I am very pleased to say that this Conference Report increases the military death gratuity to $100,000, from $12,420, and increases subsidized life insurance benefits to $400,000, from $250,000, for families of soldiers who died or were killed while on active duty beginning from Oct. 7, 2001. I can not describe how fundamental it is that we take care of our armed forces and their loved ones. This Conference Report addresses some of the concerns that Democrats have had about the fact that the families of soldiers who were killed while on active duty were not being given the necessary funds to provide for themselves. In addition, this Conference Report provides $308 million more than requested for add-on vehicle armor kits; large increases for new trucks; added funds for night-vision equipment; and $60 million in unrequested funds for radio jammers to disrupt attempts by Iraqi insurgents to explode remote-control bombs and mines. As with the increase in death benefits, Democrats in this body have been advocating for increased funds to provide the necessary armor and equipment to protect our troops. While I am supportive of our troops and their families, I am disappointed that this war continues with no end in sight. How long will it be before our brave men and women of the Armed Forces can come home and embrace their families? This is the question Democrats have been asking for months and we still don't have a real answer. Again, while I support funding our soldiers and their families to ensure that their safety and financial needs are met, I am deeply disappointed that we still do not have a proper exit strategy in Iraq.

As I stated there are many provisions of this Emergency Supplemental in which this body can be united in agreement. One such issue is the tsunami relief provided in this Emergency Supplemental. The Conference Report before us today appropriates $907 million in direct assistance for tsunami disaster relief for countries affected by the Dec. 26, 2004, earthquake and tsunami. In addition, this measure also provides $226 million to reimburse the U.S. military for expenses incurred in providing emergency relief to the tsunami victims, and $25 million to build and deploy 35 new tsunami-detection buoys in the Pacific, Atlantic, the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico to provide warning to communities of approaching tsunamis. I had the opportunity to see the damage caused by the tsunami when I visited Sri Lanka with my colleagues led by Mr. CROWLEY shortly after the tsunami disaster. I had the opportunity to visit with USAID personnel who were there trying to aid the Sri Lankan people in rebuilding their Nation. I have to say the attitude of our American personel and the smiles they brought to the face of the Sri Lankan people would make every member of this Congress very proud. We talk about public diplomacy with the international world and I firmly believe that the funds appropriated here along with the work of our personnel on the ground help make a great case for the goodness of our Nation.

I am also similarly pleased that about $400 million in this Conference Report will go towards humanitarian assistance in Darfur, Sudan. I recently had the opportunity to visit refugee camps in neighboring Chad where thousands of Sudanese in Darfur have fled to escape the conflict. Needless to say, I was able to confirm from eyewitness accounts that the conflict in Darfur is indeed even more shocking and deeply disturbing in its viciousness than has been reported to us. We as a Nation must stand against such brutality and the funds in this Emergency Supplemental will help to ease the suffering of those involved in this conflict. In addition, this Conference Report includes $920 million for all peacekeeping programs, many of which are in Sudan. However, while I have always been a strong advocate for peacekeeping operations, I am disappointed that the total money appropriated is $70 million less than the president's request. We must continue to support such operations because the alternative can only be to the detriment of the international community, including our own Nation.

Again, I am in general support of the goals proposed by H.R. 1268, but I am troubled by the implications of the Supplemental Appropriations measure that this body is poised to pass that relate to immigration policy. The underlying legislation proposes to fund important needs that pertain to Operation Iraqi Freedom; Operation Enduring Freedom, in Afghanistan; Army and Marine Corps restructuring; recapitalization and replacement of equipment; and replenishment of cash balances in certain working capital funds. In truth, this Emergency Supplemental funds many needed priorities, but it is the one issue of the REAL ID Act, which is not a priority, that poisons this legislation.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the distinguished minority leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), our distinguished ranking member, the lead Democrat on the Committee on Appropriations for his leadership for his very important motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, before I get into talking about the bill, I want to commend both the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and our distinguished ranking members on the Committee on Appropriations and Subcommittee on Defense. Over the years, they have worked very hard and provided great leadership for our men and women in uniform and for the security of our country.

There is much about this bill that I support. I have some concerns which I will express but none of that diminishes the regard and appreciation I have for the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

Mr. Speaker, for the fourth time since the President ordered the invasion of Iraq 2 years ago, Congress has been asked to provide funds for the war outside the regular budget. With nearly 140,000 troops in dire need of equipment and supplies, this legislation will be overwhelmingly approved and I will support it.

A willingness to provide our troops the support they need, however, should not be mistaken for support for the repeated failures in judgment that first put our troops in harm's way and that keeps them there today.

Two years ago this week on May 1, 2003, President Bush stood on an aircraft carrier under a banner that proclaimed ''Mission Accomplished.'' Considering the events that followed and what has been disclosed since then, if the President were to stand under a

banner today it would have to read ''Credibility Demolished.''

We are in the war's third year. Daily headlines are grim reminders of how far we are from a stable and secure Iraq, and the President has yet to provide a plan to get us to that place. We are fast approaching sadly 1,600 U.S. military deaths and thousands of more have suffered grievous and lasting wounds.

I have had the privilege to pay my respects to troops in theater and in hospitals in Europe and in the United States. Whatever our disagreement about the policy which brought us into the war, whatever our disagreement on the lack of planning to end it, it never diminishes the regard that we have for our men and women in uniform. We respect them and we appreciate their courage, their patriotism and the sacrifice they are willing to make for our country. And on any opportunity that many of us have, we express that to them personally.

The President's rationale for the invasion was discredited long ago. Iraq remains unsafe. I talked about credibility in terms of the lack of planning. There is also a lack of credibility in budgeting. Although appropriations for Iraq approaches $200 billion, the President's budget requests no money for the war on the grounds that the cost is unknowable. Instead, the President chooses to include a figure for the war's cost, zero, that everyone knows to be wrong.

Here we are today on Thursday talking about a supplemental with a set amount in it of emergency funding for our troops, and we passed the budget last Thursday. It was not one week ago we did not know what the cost would be and now we do this week.

This is simply not an honest way to do our budgeting.

Our troops need relief and their equipment needs repair and replacement. The risk assessment released by the Joint Chiefs of Staff this week shows the strain on our military is real and unsustainable. And it is clear that the figure in the supplemental is really not enough to meet to meet the measure that the chairman mentioned.

Providing money alone as this bill will do is not enough. A way out must be provided as well. We must focus on quality rather than quantity when training Iraqi security forces, accelerate Iraq's reconstruction in ways that give Iraqis a major stake in rebuilding their country, and step up regional diplomatic efforts to heal the strife on which the insurgency thrives.

I was pleased to be part of the bipartisan delegation that visited Iraq during Holy Week, and I can tell you that firsthand that we have a long way to go to reaching those goals.

Our experience in Iraq strongly suggest that if we do not take these steps and soon, about training the security forces, accelerating Iraq's reconstruction, and stepping up regional diplomacy or as the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) would say, Iraqatize, internationalize and energize, if we do not do this and soon, Americans may wonder for years to come if the end will ever be in sight.

The funds provided for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, for the relief of those devastated by the tsunami, to aid those suffering in Darfur and elsewhere, and to promote Middle East peace are necessary and important.

Were conferees able to focus solely on these issues, their final product would have been much stronger. However, since this bill is must-pass legislation, House Republicans demanded the inclusion of controversial immigration provisions. These provisions would be much better considered as part of a comprehensive immigration reform effort. These provisions will make asylum harder to obtain for those seeking a haven from persecution and place a huge unfunded responsibility on the States to verify information used to support a driver's license application.

This is an unfunded mandate. This is an unfunded mandate and it is not part of the Contract With America, no unfunded mandates.

Since this is a conference report, we cannot have a ruling from the Chair that will allow us to discuss some specifics about the unfunded mandate, the driver's license application that is in the bill. It sounds like a good idea. But if you are at the desk at the Department of Motor Vehicles and you have now become an immigration officer because you have to prove the citizenship, or at least the legality of somebody being in the country, it is a big burden, it is costly, and it is unfunded.

We have given a mandate without the money and really without the consideration that this provision should have been given.

In addition, we unwisely vest in the Secretary of Homeland Security the power to weigh Federal and State environmental and labor laws. This in the name of securing our borders. Securing our borders should be a national priority, which makes it all the more inexplicable that the President did not request in his budget the extra border patrol agents and detention beds authorized by Congress last year in response to the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission.

Bipartisan efforts in the Senate do more for border security in this bill and were rebuffed by House Republicans in favor of provisions that trample on the rights of individuals and States, and may result in the diminishment of the safety of the American people.

I commend the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) for offering his motion to recommit to fund border security at the Senate levels. He also had this as a motion to instruct when the conferees were named, to add $1 billion so that we could have the border security that was recommended by the 9/11 Commission. But that was rejected.

So we talk a great deal about securing the border, but we are not putting the resources there to do the job. Thank heavens Senator BYRD prevailed with part of the money in the Senate. We can do more. We should have done more. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) has been a champion on this issue year in and year out as far as this discussion has been going.

Again, border security, border security, border security, and then we can talk about a comprehensive immigration policy.

I hope that all of our colleagues will give an overwhelming support of this body to the Obey motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, for many reasons, this is not an easy bill to support. The legitimate emergency needs to which it responds, particularly the needs of our men and women in uniform overseas, are real and must be addressed.

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A much better job, though, must be done to create conditions to allow large numbers of them to come home and to come home soon.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to support the gentleman from Wisconsin's motion to recommit.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by saying that while I very strongly oppose my colleague from Wisconsin's motion to recommit, the gentleman was kind enough to share the recommittal motion with us before the fact, and I am very much appreciative of that.

The greatest difficulty I have with the motion is that at this moment our forces are on gas fumes, rather than real gasoline. It is very, very critical that we get this bill moving towards the President's desk and to the troops as quickly as possible.

I would like to speak for a moment about some of those things that the bill does that may be of great interest to the Members who are concerned especially about border security.

Within this package there are some 500 border patrol agents, added as a result of this measure as it goes to the President's desk. There are 218 immigration enforcement agents and criminal investigators. There are some 1,950 detention beds. The bill is designed to take every step that we possibly can on short order to secure our border.

At the same time, just yesterday the Subcommittee on Homeland Security marked up their 2006 bill to move further down this same pathway. We are moving very quickly to strengthen and secure our borders by way of this legislation, as well as regular order.

From there, Mr. Speaker, let me express my deepest appreciation to Members on both sides of the aisle who have worked very hard, their staffs, as well as the Members themselves, to make sure that this supplemental would arrive on time and ahead of schedule. Virtually nobody thought we would be here at this moment. The reason we are is because the Members recognize

how critical it is that we get this support to our troops immediately.

Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate my colleagues' patience as we work quickly on this bill. It is a very good bill. I urge my colleagues' support.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, during times of war, the United States Congress has an obligation to act. With this bill, we do just that.

I want to commend Chairman JERRY LEWIS and the Appropriations Committee for their hard work on this legislation. This is the first appropriations bill completed under the leadership of the gentleman from California. He and our conferees did a tremendous job of crafting this war supplemental promptly and responsibly.

H.R. 1268 provides the funds needed to pay, equip and protect our military during a time of overseas conflict. It supports the war on terrorism at home and abroad.

It also is important to note that tomorrow is Military Spouses Appreciation Day, and this bill provides for spouses and families who might tragically lose a loved one at war. The bill increases the maximum Servicemember Group Life Insurance benefit from $250,000 to $400,000. The onetime death gratuity for combat families will rise from $12,000 to $100,000. There are also new insurance benefits for soldiers who suffer traumatic injuries, such as loss of a limb or sight.

Funds are included to assist our coalition partners, support international peacekeeping efforts and continue reconstruction programs in Afghanistan. As you know, opium production is undermining Afghanistan's efforts to rebuild and in too many cases, funding terrorists. Money included in this bill will train Afghan police and help farmers produce alternative crops.

We pledged to include in this bill critical provisions to protect our border and curtail illegal immigration. We have delivered on that promise, and I thank Chairman JIM SENSENBRENNER of the Judiciary Committee and Chairman TOM DAVIS of the Government Reform Committee for their leadership on these provisions.

The bill includes $176.3 million to hire, train and equip 500 new Border Patrol Agents. New immigration enforcement agents and other criminal investigators are also funded in the bill. Last year, Border Patrol agents arrested nearly 1.2 million illegal aliens; nearly 12 percent of them were captured near the San Diego Sector. In an important step, this bill eliminates the barriers to completing construction of the San Diego border fence, closing a critical border security breach.

Finally, the bill supports recovery efforts for the hundreds of thousands of people impacted by the Indian Ocean tsunami by providing $656 million in tsunami-related disaster relief.

Mr. Speaker, this bill goes a long way towards meeting our global commitments and maintaining America's status as a world leader. More importantly, it declares to the brave men and women serving in our armed forces that the United States Congress will continue to stand beside them in the war on terror. I urge the House to adopt this legislation.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I recently presented a joint statement with Senator SNOWE regarding small business contracting and would like to submit it for the RECORD.

Section 6022 of H.R. 1268, as adopted in the Conference Report, H. Rep. 109–72, contains certain provisions concerning small business contracting at the Department of Energy. These provisions were inserted as a substitute for Section 6023 of the Senate version of H.R. 1268. Section 6023, among other things sought to amend the Small Business Act to authorize counting of small business subcontracts at the Department of Energy's large prime contractors for purposes of reporting small business prime contracting results. Because the substitute language was not adopted by Congress through regular legislative proceedings in the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the House Committee on Small Business but was adopted anew during the House-Senate conference, the committees of jurisdiction take this opportunity to provide guidance generally provided through their reports to Senators and Representatives prior to their vote on the Conference Report, and to affected Federal agencies prior to their implementation of the Conference Report if adopted.

In subsections 6022 (a) and (b), the language chosen to replace Section 6023 in the Conference Report directs the Department of Energy and the Small Business Administration to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding for reporting small business prime contracts and subcontracts at the Department of Energy. This replacement language does not change the Small Business Act's clear distinction between prime contracts and subcontracts, does not amend the statutory small business prime contracting goal requirements which are binding on the Department of Energy, and does not obviate Congressional and regulatory policies against contract bundling. This language does not repeal the President's Executive Order 13360 directing the Department of Energy to comply with its separate statutory prime contracting and subcontracting goals for awards to small businesses owned by service-disabled veterans. Any interpretation to the contrary would be unreasonable and contrary to Congressional intent.

In subsection 6022(c), the replacement language mandates a study of changes to management prime contracts at the Department of Energy to encourage small business prime contracting opportunities. The object of the study is to examine the feasibility of establishing a procurement agency relationship between the management prime contractors and the Department of Energy in accordance with the requirements of Federal procurement laws, Federal procurement regulations, the ''Federal norm'' of government contracting as recognized by the Comptroller General, and applicable judicial precedent such as U.S. West Communications, Inc. v. United States, 940 F.2d 622 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Finally, in subsection 6022(d), the replacement language imposes certain requirements upon the Department of Energy concerning break-outs of services from large prime contracts for awards to small businesses. First, the Secretary of Energy is required to consider whether services performed have been previously provided by a small business concern. This requirement is for acquisition planning purposes only, and shall not be construed as imposing a restriction of any kind on the ability of the Department of Energy to break out its large prime contracts for award to small businesses. Congress recognizes that most of work currently contracted by the Department of Energy to its large prime contractors has never been historically performed by small businesses. However, this does not waive the application of the Small Business Act, the President's Executive Order 13360, or the President's initiative against contract bundling to the Department of Energy. Second, the Secretary of Energy is required to consider whether small business concerns are capable of performing under the contracts which are broken out for award. This requirement is simply a restatement of current statutory and regulatory requirements on contractor responsibility. Subsection (d)(2) direct the Secretary of Energy is required to—impose certain subcontracting requirements. As the text plainly indicates, this provision applies solely to small, business prime contracts which were formerly small business subcontracts for services.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, when H.R. 1268 was first considered on the floor in March, I reluctantly supported its passage. Now that the conference report has been returned to the House for this chamber's approval, I still find myself torn because I do not see how additional funding for the Iraq War effort will ultimately produce a positive outcome for the United States or for the people in Iraq. I want a successful exit strategy—not a permanent occupation in Iraq.

Despite my misgivings for the direction of our Iraq policy, or lack thereof, I do not believe our troops, who are fighting so bravely, should be penalized for the mistakes in judgment of our civilian military leadership at the White House and the Pentagon. As we speak, our ground forces scrounge for scrap metal to make the unarmored vehicles more safe against insurgent attack. The funds provided in this bill will enable our soldiers and Marines on the ground to uparmor their vehicles. There should be more outrage from the American public that they were deployed without adequate equipment from the beginning. But they are there. It is vital that our troops receive the equipment they need to defend themselves against attack.

I have been critical of our war planning from the outset. I voted against the authority that allowed the President to take action in Iraq. I continue to be frustrated that our war plan still contains no game plan on when we can begin to bring our troops home. I am pleased that the bill does contain provisions that require the administration to develop a set of performance indicators and measures for determining the stability and security in Iraq and report its findings to Congress. This requirement falls well short of the exit strategy we need to determine how long our commitment in Iraq will last.

The bill also funds tsunami relief, which is well overdue. The agreement appropriates $656 million in direct assistance to tsunami disaster relief for countries affected by last December's tragedy. The total includes $5 million to support environmental recovery activities; $10 million to create new economic opportunities for women; and $12.5 million to support initiatives that focus on the immediate and long-term needs of children.

The bill provides $400 million for humanitarian assistance in the Darfur region of Sudan and elsewhere in Africa, including funds for the temporary resettlement of refugees. It also funds $240 million for international humanitarian food assistance through the Food for Peace Program, much of which will go to the Darfur region. This assistance will provide some relief to those who are being victimized by the ethnic cleansing that is being waged against the black Muslim population by the Arab Muslim-dominated Sudanese government.

In a period when the President and this Congress proposes reductions in programs that support the development of local communities and neighborhoods, the bill provides

$592 million for a gold-plated embassy compound in Iraq. I find it very difficult to defend such spending when the budget priorities of this administration propose disinvesting in our cities, towns and our American workforce. Money for this project goes beyond providing office and working space for U.S. foreign service personnel. What we are proposing to build is not an embassy, but a compound, with stores and other amenities which will further distance our American embassy personnel from the Iraqi civilian and political population. We are constructing a fortress, not an embassy. I want a successful exit strategy—not a permanent occupation in Iraq.

Another key element of this agreement with which I take issue is the mandate imposed on states that requires certain identification standards on driver's licenses for federal identification purposes. The measure mandates that states meet certain requirements for determining the validity of persons applying for drivers' licenses. Although the bill provides authority for states to receive federal grants to comply, it is insufficient and amounts to an unfunded federal mandate.

The money contained in this bill will go a long way to saving lives, saving the lives of our land forces in Iraq and Afghanistan and reconstructing the lives of those who experienced the devastation of last year's tsunami. After weighing the alternatives, I reluctantly support the passage of this bill. I am not happy with the choices we are making today. I feel backed into a corner without much wiggle room, but the lives of our troops matter to me and they deserve the protection this bill is designed to deliver to them.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant support of H.R. 1268, the War Supplemental Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2005, which will provide funding for military operations and reconstruction activities in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as important funds for tsunami relief and recovery.

I say ''reluctant support'' because the Republican leadership has made a very poor and political decision to include controversial legislative provisions in this emergency spending bill that otherwise enjoys almost universal support because it provides needed assistance for our servicemen and women overseas.

It goes without saying, Mr. Speaker, that our servicemen and women deserve to have the equipment and support they need to help keep them safe as they fulfill their missions abroad. Towards that end, the Appropriations Committee increased funding by 69 percent above the President's request for add-on vehicle armor kits, new trucks, and radio jammers to disrupt attempts by Iraqi insurgents to explode remote controlled bombs and mines.

The bill also includes important provisions to increase the military death gratuity and to provide subsidized life insurance benefits for families of soldiers who die or are killed on active duty. No amount can compensate for the tragic death of a loved one, but an increase in these benefits can help a family cope with the financial impact of a combat death.

I am also pleased that additional funds have been provided for humanitarian relief and disaster assistance, including $400 million for Sudan, $907 million for Indian Ocean tsunami relief, and $240 million in P.L. 480 grants for emergency food assistance.

But I am extremely upset and disappointed that the Republican leadership is using this critical bill as a vehicle to pass unrelated and controversial policies, that will allow the Department of Homeland Security to preempt state and federal laws to build border fences, require uniform national standards for issuing driver's licenses, and change the asylum standards for immigrants seeking to flee to the United States to avoid persecution. In particular, the bill includes an assault against the matricula consular cards issued by Mexican and other Latin American consulates, and consequently makes it an assault on our immigrant families who rely upon this form of identification in their daily lives for transactions involving banking, housing, education and even proving, when necessary, that they are the parents of their own children. These provisions were not openly debated or negotiated with the minority, but once again decided behind closed doors by the Republican leadership. I am outraged that this Republican leadership essentially has chosen to pit support for our troops against support for hard-working immigrants, many of whom have their own sons and daughters fighting to protect our country abroad.

Why does the Republican leadership continue to abuse its power and shut out the American public? Because the Republican leadership knows that if these controversial provisions were openly debated in the House and Senate they would not pass. Only by attaching these provisions to a must-pass bill like the emergency supplemental appropriations bill for our troops in Iraq could they hope to be successful.

Mr. Speaker, this is just one more example of abuse of power by a Republican leadership that continues to act irresponsibly on issues of importance to our American society.

Nevertheless, in spite of my concerns, given the choice before us, I believe it is my responsibility to provide our servicemen and women the resources necessary for them to fulfill their mission and come home safely. Protecting our troops, who are sacrificing so much on our behalf, and providing for their families, will always be one of my highest priorities, and that is why, once again, I will support this necessary and important conference report today.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to question the omission of an amendment sponsored by Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. CROWLEY and myself, which was agreed to by the Chairman of Appropriations.

The amendment took $3 million from the ''Economic Support Fund'' and put it toward the ''Tsunami Recovery and Reconstruction Fund,'' for the express purpose of the providing the United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA with these funds.

This past January, I toured the region that was overwhelmed by the tsunami. The extent of the destruction was massive, and I was glad to see the world contributing to relief efforts. However, I was concerned that the special needs of women were not being adequately addressed.

I visited the remains of a three-story maternity hospital. There were 300 women and infants in that hospital when the first wave hit. The tsunami toppled a cement wall, flattened utility polls, and shattered all of the glass windows in the front of the building. Of the 300 women and their babies, all but one, a newborn, were saved from the crashing waves. I met a doctor who finished a C-Section in absolute darkness, after the generators were underwater, as the rest of the building was evacuated. The hospital was practically destroyed. The beds were pushed and piled against each other by the flooding, and shards of glass crunched under our feet. The sheets were strewn about like wet rags, and saturated packages of medicine were thrown in useless piles.

It is conditions like these that the UNFPA addresses. The organization has experience working with women in disaster areas; they have participated in emergency projects in more than 50 countries and territories. They already have offices in tsunami-affected countries, and they understand the distinctive ways that disasters affect women and children.

When I visited in January, there were an estimated 150,000 pregnant women in the tsunami-affected areas. The UNFPA has worked to supply safe-birthing kits and emergency obstetric equipment.

Women who are in refugee camps need personal hygiene kits, soap, sterile cotton cloth, antibiotics, and drugs for treating sexually transmitted infections. Although relief efforts often overlook these supplies, and the UNFPA has done its best to fulfill these needs.

UNFPA's priorities are reproductive health, including safe childbirth, prevention of violence against women and girls, and counseling for those affected by the 26 December tsunami. For many of these women, they must now become the head of the household. They have become widows overnight, and must deal with the emotional and economic issues involved with being the sole breadwinner in an area with no jobs.

In early January, UNFPA asked for $28 million to support its tsunami-related work. Our amendment would have given them $3 million, which is about 11 percent of what they requested.

By late February, over 70 percent of the requested funding had been received or pledged. Germany gave $8 million. Japan gave $5.5 million. The Netherlands gave $1.5 million. Norway gave $1 million. New Zealand gave $700,000.

The United States has not given anything to this organization that is the most experienced and successful in addressing the distinctive needs of women during times of natural disaster.

But this is not unusual. We have not given the UNFPA the money they need for some time.

The Omnibus for 2005 earmarked $34 million for UNFPA, however, the UNFPA has not and will not receive it. The UNFPA also received no funds from the United States in 2002, 2003, and 2004. Unfortunately, the President will not release these funds to this organization, because of issues related to abortion.

The money would not have been used for abortion. The money would have helped women deliver their babies. It would have helped women who have been sexually assaulted. It would have given women some of the tools they need to take care of themselves and their children.

It is unconscionable that this Congress would not allocate this $3 million to UNFPA.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the wartime supplemental that includes urgent funding for our soldiers and sailors now prosecuting the global war on terror in Afghanistan

and Iraq. This bill also has important additional funding for border security, and language important to South Texas shrimpers that will make it easier for them to hire workers for the coming season.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I know our soldiers can do anything. Yet that truth does not mean that the Congress should skimp on our financial obligations to our fighting men and women. They run out of money altogether at the end of this month, so I am pleased we are finalizing this bill today.

As a border Congressman, I am grateful that the conferees included desperately needed funding for border security. I have been relentless in talking to so many of you about my concerns related to spending on border security matters. I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. OBEY, for his work in getting negotiators to include this spending. While this is a good start, it still comes up short of both what we need and what the Intelligence Reform bill mandated we do.

The Intelligence Reform bill passed by Congress last year mandated 2,000 Border Patrol agents a year for the next 5 years. The President came to the table with only 210 in his budget; today we are adding another 500. That's still over 1,000 short of what this government agrees is the very least we should do to protect our border and stem the tide of releasing OTMs—illegal immigrants that are ''other than Mexican''—into the U.S. general population.

Given our border security is entirely budget driven, this is a rare victory for those of us who have been talking about the need to put our money where our mouth is when it comes to protecting our nation from terrorists that may be trying to enter the country through the loopholes in our border security policy. We are sending our young soldiers to fight and die in Iraq and Afghanistan and we justify that by saying we are fighting the war there so we will not have to fight it here.

We may very well be fighting a war over there and letting terrorists in our back door. As so many South Texans and my colleagues know, I have been lifting my voice about how border security is profoundly lacking. Currently, the United States does not have room to hold the large number of OTMs, caught by border law enforcement. While I know that most of these immigrants are merely seeking a better life, it is the few—the handful—that may be entering our country to do us harm. That is whom we need to worry about. So we are releasing, on their own recognizance, into the population of the United States very large numbers of OTMs.

What happens is our border patrol agents routinely call detention facilities and discover there is no room to hold OTMs. So, they process these immigrants, many times without even getting fingerprints or running them through our national databases to see if they are on watch lists, and release them into the general population with a notice to appear at a deportation hearing a few weeks later. Law enforcement officers then take the released OTMs to the local bus station by the vanload, where they head elsewhere in the U.S. The number that never appear for deportation is over 90 percent of those released, a number now probably over 75,000.

Already the number of OTMs captured and released is more, so far this year, than for all of last year. It is little wonder that private citizens are taking the law into their own hands to try to stem the tide of OTMs coming into our country. But private militias, operating without the color of law, are not the answer. We must secure our borders so private citizens do not feel the need to do so.

As a former law enforcement officer I know if we don't have the border officers to stop the OTMs crossing the border, if we don't have the room to hold the ones we catch, if we don't put our money where our mouth is, we continue to send a dangerous signal to those who may wish to do us harm. Until we send a signal that those who cross our borders illegally, until we send a signal that when we catch you we will hold you until you are deported, until we honestly face the amount of money it will take to deal with these things, OTMs will continue to flock to the U.S., quite possibly populating terror cells already operating in the United States.

Unfortunately, the Leadership decided to include many controversial provisions that members wouldn't otherwise support if they weren't linked to funding our troops. I do not agree with some of the so-called security provisions in this bill, mainly the stricter asylum laws and national standards for drivers' licenses. A country like ours that believes so greatly in freedom and the protection of the oppressed should be a safe haven for refugees that are being persecuted by their governments because of their race, religion or political beliefs, which is why we are fighting the war we fund in this bill.

I am also disappointed Congress has gone one step further in creating a national ID. Many would suggest that a drivers' license is the way terrorists are infiltrating our country. That is simply not the case. Standardizing a drivers' license would not have precluded the 9/11 terrorists from entering this country—immigration reform and better border security practices would have.

Today's bill is a start in putting our money where our mouth is, but it is still insufficient to the monumental border security task before us and I ask our appropriators to ensure the necessary funding is included in the fiscal year 2006 appropriations bill.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, as the ranking Democrat of the Committee on House Administration, I wish to comment briefly on key provisions of this supplemental appropriations bill that touch upon my committee's jurisdiction.

I commend the conferees for including $2.6 million for taking ''technical countermeasures'' to assure the electronic integrity of the Visitor Center now under construction here at the Capitol. Given the status of that construction project, this matter is time-sensitive, and while we have no reason to believe anyone involved with the construction may be seeking to install surreptitious listening devices within the building's walls and fittings, we know there are people in this world who might like to do so. It is prudent to take reasonable steps against it, and thus eliminate any chance of repeating what happened during construction of the U.S. embassy in Moscow some years ago.

I also commend the conferees for including $8.4 million to refresh the supply of ''quick masks'' deployed around the Capitol complex to protect persons against chemical or biological attack. The current masks have a limited shelf-life, and making these funds available now will expedite the process of replacement as they approach their expiration dates.

There is no question that the Congress needs a new off-site delivery center, to facilitate the secure, timely delivery of packages to the Capitol and congressional office buildings. I am pleased the conferees included funds for a temporary facility to replace the substandard site now used, and funds for design of a permanent facility. I trust that given the importance of deliveries to the Capitol, any difficulties between the two houses over the nature of the delivery system can be resolved quickly.

Finally, I wish to comment on something the conferees did not include in this bill, namely, any funding for up to 132 additional Capitol Police officers during fiscal 2005. These 132 officers, when added together with 122 more requested as part of the Police's fiscal 2006 request, would increase the sworn ranks by another 254 officers, an increase of roughly 16% within two years. Obviously, with less than five months remaining in fiscal 2005, the Police could not hire and fully train 132 more officers by September 30, so there is little reason to include funds in this bill, or even the funds for all 50 more officers included in the Senate bill. I am pleased that under these circumstances, the conferees chose to defer a decision about the need for 254 more officers until the House Administration Committee and the Senate Rules Committee, the authorizing committees for the Capitol Police, have had an opportunity to consider the optimum strength of the force going into the fiscal 2006 cycle.

I thank our friends on the Appropriations Committee for their difficult and prudent decisions on the Legislative-branch portion of this bill. I look forward to working with them, and with our colleagues on my own committee, as the work of the Legislative branch forges ahead.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations (HR 1268), on substance and process. I am strongly supportive of our fighting men and women, and mourn the loss of nearly 1,600 Americans who have died in Iraq, four of whom resided in my congressional district.

On substance, this bill fails to provide an exit strategy for our troops in Iraq. Since Iraq held democratic elections in January, the US should have been implementing an aggressive exit strategy that includes a timetable for the training of Iraqi security forces, so US troops can return home. Moreover, with nearly $10 billion already appropriated but not spent for critical reconstruction projects in Iraq, like rebuilding electrical grids and establishing telecommunications networks, US policy objectives for Iraqi independence are jeopardized. On process, many of the items in this bill should be funded under the regular order in the annual appropriations cycle.

Unfortunately, the Republican Leadership has used this bill as a vehicle for passage of immigration measures that are divisive and harmful for our country, and couldn't be passed as stand-alone bills. Provisions commonly known as the ''REAL ID Act'' regarding national driver's license standards, asylum law and completion of a southern border fence have been controversial from day one, but were added to appease a vocal minority of anti-immigrant advocates. I and many others in Congress would like to have a rational debate on immigration reform, but we are denied

the opportunity when the leadership attaches non-germane immigration measures to a funding bill.

To better demonstrate how the process has been hijacked by a minority of the majority, many of the same provisions that constitute the REAL ID provisions in the supplemental being considered today were stripped from the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (PL 108–458) in conference because of their extreme nature.

One of the most egregious provisions in the REAL ID section of the supplemental is the blanket authority given to the Secretary of Homeland Security to expedite construction of the remaining three miles of the southern border fence in San Diego. All Americans should be concerned that the DHS Secretary has carte blanche authority to waive any and all laws in the name of border security. This provision is a dangerous attack against the civil rights of all Americans, when any law can be waived under the guise of border security. Blanket authority to complete the three mile border fence is especially ''in your face'' politics when, under current law, the DHS Secretary already has a national security waiver for the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act. We must work harder to strike a balance between our national security and environmental protection, not simply ignore environmental laws.

Furthermore, the driver's license provisions of this bill touted in the name of national security are equally concerning. It is indeed ironic that these provisions would not have stopped the 9/11 hijackers from obtaining driver's licenses. The breach of our border security was a result of the hijackers having been issued legal visas to enter the US, which many of them used to apply for driver's licenses and identification cards. Even if the REAL ID provisions had been in place before the 9/11 attacks, the hijackers still would have been able to obtain a driver's license or state-issued ID. Again, a minority of the majority is playing on the fears of this nation to enact a flawed policy that does not actually address the problem it purports to fix.

For the record, I do not support illegal immigration, but I do support a regulated process for immigrants who enter the US legally, pay their taxes and play by the rules to earn US citizenship. No one can deny that comprehensive Immigration reform is a topic on the minds of our constituents—but such a critical policy debate should be conducted on its own merits.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the War Supplemental Appropriations Act but must voice my incredible misgivings for what the Republican majority has attached to legislation that should solely be about how we provide for our brave men and women in harm's way in Iraq and Afghanistan.

There is much in this bill to be proud of. Our military, despite the job of the civilian brass and this Congress, have been performing heroically. They have accomplished much more than we could have ever hoped for, and if any fault needs to be assigned it is to the policy makers, and not to those in uniform.

However, I am ashamed that this body has taken something as important as securing our troops, and attached a hastily considered immigration provision that will result in massive unfunded mandates being passed on to our states. I am ashamed that the conference committee removed language that would have created a Truman-style Commission to examine war profiteering, largely to ensure that this administration would not be embarrassed. Finally, I am ashamed that this Congress has turned its back on a promise made by our President to the Palestinian Authority to help improve the situation of the Palestinian people and further the cause of peace for all in the Middle East.

I am concerned that the immigration provisions will force our great nation to turn our back on the thousands of political and human rights asylum seekers who look toward America as their last and best hope. The Real ID Act will force the most vulnerable to have their torturers corroborate their tales of persecution.

I understand that we must protect our borders, and I understand that changes must be made to keep out those that seek to do us harm. But we should not hastily foreclose the dream and promise of America because of fear. We should not send back asylum seekers back to their torturers. Under these standards, Iraqis seeking to escape the rape rooms of Saddam Hussein would have been sent back to the Ba'athist prisons if they fled Iraq without the proper documentation.

I am also dismayed that rather than seeking to be responsible stewards of the public's trust, the Republican majority in charge of Congress once again decided to ignore its oversight responsibilities. It seems that rather than doing our oversight job as a separate and equal branch of government, the GOP leadership would rather save the Bush Administration and corporate CEOs some embarrassment.

I am old enough to remember the Truman Commission. I remember that Sen. Truman went against a Democratic administration, and saved our military and our tax payers billions of dollars in waste and fraud. I cannot understand why we do not do the same.

My friends on the other side of the aisle should be ashamed of the fact that Mr. Waxman and I have probably done more on this front from the minority, than has anyone with a gavel. Reconstructing Iraq and Afghanistan is too important not to get it right, but confronted yet again with evidence of massive fraud and egregious war profiteering, my Republican colleagues are again choosing to bury their heads in the sand, plug their ears, and turn out the lights on our duty.

Finally, this bill, by intention or not, has the potential of undoing all the progress that the Middle East Peace process has made since the death of Yasser Arafat. Mr. Speaker, the new president of the Palestinian Authority is in an almost untenable position. In order for Palestinian democracy to succeed over radical terrorism, President Abbas must be provided with the resources to open hospitals, create jobs, arm a police force, build jails, and take the fight to the terrorists.

President Bush recognized this. He made a statement asking for $200 million to support a nascent Middle Eastern democracy. Instead of allowing President Abbas to use American aid to build his security forces to take on terror, we instead set him up for failure. My friends, if you want to see Hamas win the upcoming municipal elections; if you want to see the peace process come to an abject halt; if you want to see more dead young Israelis and young Palestinians you should support this language.

It surprises me that the only thing that this Congress is capable of bucking and embarrassing this Administration on is the prospect of peace. I hope, for the sake of peace, we can correct this colossal error in judgment and that the President and the State Department speak out against Congress' ill-advised policy making on this most tragic conflict.

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on February 17, 2004, the national debt of the United States exceeded $7 trillion for the first time in our country's history. One year later, our national debt is $7.7 trillion. In the past year, our country has added $700 billion to our national debt.

The conference report for the FY06 budget resolution that is before us today would increase the statutory debt limit by $781 billion to a record $9 trillion. Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. The out-of-control rise in our national debt over the last year and the rise in our debt envisioned in this conference report are further signs of the terrible fiscal position in which we now find ourselves.

In 2001, we had ten-year projected surpluses of $5.6 trillion [2002–2011]. Now, over that same time period, we have likely ten-year deficits of $3.9 trillion. That's a $9.5 trillion reversal in our ten-year fiscal outlook.

Whether intentional or otherwise, our country's current fiscal policies are depriving the federal government of future revenue at a time when we ought to be preparing for an unprecedented demographic shift that will strain Social Security and Medicare. Our current fiscal irresponsibility will eventually land squarely on the shoulders of our children and grandchildren, who will be forced to pay back the debt we are accumulating today. The ''debt tax'' that we are imposing on our children and grandchildren cannot be repealed. It can only be reduced if we take responsible steps now to improve our situation.

Both parties need to work together in a bipartisan fashion to bring our budget back into balance so we can avoid the higher long-term interest rates and weakened dollar that are the inevitable consequences of rising deficits and a high national debt. We are witnessing on a daily basis the reaction of the global financial markets to our fiscal irresponsibility, and as we can see in this conference report, Congress has not yet gotten the message that deficits and debt matter.

For starters, Congress needs to reinstate PAYGO rules for the entire budget, including spending and revenue measures. Budget enforcement rules that apply to only certain parts of the budget will not have a significant impact on our rising deficits, as Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan mentioned in his recent testimony before the Budget Committee.

This fiscal year alone, interest on the national debt is expected to rise to $178 billion, and the administration projects that that figure will increase to $211 billion during the next fiscal year. To put that figure in perspective, projected interest on our national debt next year will be $75 billion more than projected spending on education, public health, health research, and veterans' benefits combined [$138 billion].

Further, the budget conference report before us today, which was filed only three hours before the House began to consider it, would require the House to cut Medicaid funding by as much as $15 billion over the next five years.

Just two days ago the House voted, by a vote of 348–72, to reject harmful cuts to the Medicaid program, and this conference report blatantly ignores the will of the House.

In addition to assuming an ever-larger share of our annual budgets, the interest on our debt, and the debt itself, are increasing our reliance on foreign borrowers, which will weaken our position in the world and increase the risk that another nation will be able to assert greater leverage over America. Over the last year, our country has borrowed nearly $400 billion [$389 billion] from foreign countries, and almost half [44%] of our publicly-held debt is held by foreign creditors [$1.96 trillion, out of $4.4 trillion of publicly held debt].

Finally, our deficits and debt threaten the Social Security and Medicare programs that have raised so many of our seniors out of poverty and helped sustain the strongest middle class in history. With a projected 75 year unfunded liability of $3.7 trillion, both parties in Congress need to work together to address Social Security's solvency problem, and this conference report does nothing to protect Social Security. In fact, it continues the practice of raiding the Social Security trust funds to pay for other expenses of the federal government.

It is time for Congress to stop playing games with our national debt, with Social Security, and with our kids and grandkids' futures and take a commonsense, bipartisan approach to solve our budget problems.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this supplemental appropriations bill for Iraq and Afghanistan.

At $82 billion, this is the second largest supplemental appropriations request passed by Congress. This is on top of an already bloated $400 billion defense budget. Instead of borrowing more from our children, Congress ought to instead stop wasteful spending on ineffective, redundant and unnecessary weapons programs.

A supplemental of this size wouldn't even be necessary if Congress dumped pie-in-the-sky missile defense programs, put a stop to the delayed and over budget F–22 and F–35, and ended the boondoggle Osprey that's unsafe for our troops.

There is, however, a larger, more fundamental issue here. The Bush Administration refuses to live up to the human costs of this ongoing war. Over 1,500 young Americans dead, over 12,000 young Americans maimed and wounded and countless Iraqi civilians killed in the continuing bloodshed.

The message of my vote against this bill today is clear. The immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq is necessary if the United States is serious about bringing peace and security to the Iraqi people.

The continued presence of an American occupying force only intensifies the resentment, anger and distrust that fuels the ongoing violence against our troops. It's time to bring our troops home.

This message is lost on the Bush Administration. They've sought to establish American dominance in the region and to pursue regime change at any cost. They'll stay the course whatever the tragic consequences for the wives, husbands and families of our soldiers.

These brave young Americans face down deadly conflict in the streets each and every day. We honor their courage and service. But, for their sake, everyone of us in this House must consider the burden they bear. Is it worth it for them and for all of us?

America is not safer today two years after the capricious preemptive invasion of Iraq. Terror networks continue to grow and recruit in response to the US' arrogant preeminence in the Middle East.

Terrorism has been brought to the front door of America: waged mercilessly against our troops in places like Baghdad and Tikrit. That terror won't stop until we get serious about involving the world in solving this conflict.

We must actively involve Arab states, the United Nations and our major world partners in taking a stand against these insurgents—and in taking our place. A large, multinational peacekeeping force is the soundest way forward to end the war and win the peace.

The Bush Administration can continue to throw billions at Halliburton without real accountability. They can continue to look the other way as profiteering trumps genuine reconstruction in Iraq. They can laud its new democracy as one of the key foundations necessary to sustain it—Iraq's economy—continues to flounder. The Bush Administration can do all these things, but the end of this war will not come any day sooner.

What America needs most is honest leadership and a clear strategy for Iraq. That's not reflected in this bill. Its just more money thrown at a crisis we cannot solve through force of will alone.

That is our problem here today. Congress won't force our President and his advisors to live up to their failure. We'll vote to give them another blank check without addressing the fundamental illusion of our Iraq policy: we can win the peace alone. That's a costly falsehood.

I urge my colleagues to take responsibility for the lives of our soldiers, Iraq's future, and the future security of the United States and the world. Vote down this bill. It is time to bring our troops home.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this appropriations bill contains much crucial funding, most importantly money to provide additional armor for our troops and vehicles in Iraq and electronic jammers to protect them from roadside bombs. While I strongly support this funding, I am disappointed that I must vote ''no'' on this bill.

We have a responsibility to the men and women who we send into harm's way as members of the United States Armed Forces. It is because of my desire to support our troops that I continue to insist that the administration develop a plan to win the peace in Iraq and, to the best of our capability, protect the troops as they go about their mission. I believe that Congress must hold the administration to the highest standards when the lives of our service personnel are at risk. A ''no'' vote is one of the few ways I have to protest the continued abdication of this responsibility by the highest levels of the Bush Administration.

One positive part of this legislation is an amendment that I offered during House consideration with Mr. MARKEY to prohibit funds for torture and for sending detainees to countries that practice torture, which was carried into this conference report. The use of torture and rendition is morally reprehensible, puts Americans at risk, is a poor way to obtain reliable information in our fight against terrorism, and sets back the cause of democracy. This is the very least that we can do as Congress continues to abdicate its responsibility to investigate this horrific aspect of administration policy.

Perhaps most disappointing, this legislation also continues to be burdened with all the flaws of H.R.418, the ''REAL ID Act,'' which, among other things, placed the entire 7,514 mile border completely outside all legal protections. This is perhaps the single most damaging precedent since I've been in Congress. Do we really want to be giving this responsibility to the Department of Homeland Security, which has not been a paragon of efficiency and sensitivity during its three years of existence? Some of the environmental laws waived by this provision include: the Noise Control Act, the Clean Water Act, the Farmland Protection Policy Act, and the Bald Eagle Act. This is not only bad public policy, it is unnecessary, as most of these laws have security exemptions already written into them. However, in addition to environmental laws, this provision would waive labor laws, safety standards, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Native American Graves Protection Act. If this provision were to become law, the Department of Homeland Security could build a road that has no safety standards, using l2-year-old laborers, through the site of a Native American burial ground, killing hundreds of bald eagles during construction, and polluting the drinking water of a nearby community. The proponents of this provision have given us no compelling reasons for why this broad exemption is necessary.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H.R. 1268, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief. This essential legislation will support and defend America's values both at home and abroad.

Our troops serving in Iraq will have the necessary tools to continue their rebuilding efforts in Iraq and to continue the War on Terror. At home, the REAL ID provisions will strengthen our Nation's driver's license laws, providing each citizen with another layer of security.

Until now, terrorists could easily exploit weak driver licensing laws and obtain fake documents. With a license in hand, terrorists were better able to blend in, avoid detection, and harm our nation's citizens. This is exactly what several of the 9/11 terrorists did, using drivers' licenses to board airplanes and murder thousands of innocent Americans on September 11, 2001.

We in Congress have been working on ways to prevent our Nation from experiencing another terrorist attack by establishing stronger and more secure national programs. Stronger driver's license standards made possible by the REAL ID provisions will be another step towards American security.

The REAL ID provisions will close dangerous gaps that remain in our current licensing law and that allow terrorists to abuse our asylum and driver's license systems. The new law will protect innocent Americans by setting up national driver's license standards, networking State motor vehicle data bases, and linking visa and license expirations.

In 2003, the former Attorney General of Virginia, Jerry Kilgore, and I worked together on the Driver's License Integrity Act. That legislation required non-immigrant aliens to show

their visas when applying for State identification and tied the expiration date of the identification to that of the visa.

Due to Mr. Kilgore's leadership on this issue, the Commonwealth of Virginia was one of the first States to clamp down on terrorists' abuse of the trust that a driver's license conveys. Today, I am pleased to see Virginia's Driver's License Integrity Act provisions in this piece of legislation before us in the House of Representatives.

Since the beginning of the War on Terror, Congress has fought daily to ensure that our Nation never again suffers at the hands of terrorists. The provisions in this bill provide us with more weapons in our arsenal against terrorism.

I urge passage of this legislation.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1268, to authorize emergency supplemental appropriations for our military. The vast majority of this $82 billion bill will go directly to support our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Congress has a responsibility to work with the President to protect the national security of our Nation. When our soldiers are sent in to war, it is the Congress' responsibility to make sure that all resources necessary are provided to carry out their missions.

I stand behind our brave men and women who have performed admirably in Iraq and Afghanistan. They have made tremendous sacrifices on behalf of their country and have served longer deployments than expected.

This bill provides important new benefits for our troops and their families. The legislation: increases the military death gratuity; increases subsidized life insurance benefits; creates a new insurance benefit for soldiers who have suffered traumatic injuries, such as the loss of a limb; extends the Basic Allowance for Housing for dependents of soldiers who die while on active duty; and provides additional funding for add-on vehicle armor kits, night-vision equipment, and radio jammers that disrupt remote-control bombs and mines.

The conference report also contains important measures to strengthen our domestic border security, by providing funds for new border patrol agents, immigration and customs investigators, enforcement agents, and detention officers. The bill also provides additional foreign assistance for: tsunami reconstruction; humanitarian and peacekeeping programs in Darfur; democracy assistance in Belarus; and political and economic reforms in Ukraine to strengthen their new democracy and legal system.

I regret that the Administration has consistently failed to properly budget for our ongoing military and reconstruction operations in Iraq. Congress should not repeatedly rely on emergency spending bills to provide the critical funding, resources, and equipment for our troops in battle by using emergency supplemental appropriations bills.

The United States is only belatedly seeking international support for our reconstruction efforts in Iraq, and we have failed to broadly engage the international community.

Because of these failures, Americans have paid a heavy price. It is primarily American troops stationed in Iraq that face continuing attacks, and have lost life and limb. It is our taxpayers that are being asked to almost exclusively pay the cost to rebuild Iraq, and these costs are mounting every day. Iraq is already facing a difficult transition in establishing a democracy that operates under the rule of law and protects minority rights. The U.S. must show enough flexibility in working with our allies to effectively help Iraq during this critical transition period, so that other countries will pledge both troops and funds to alleviate the burden on our American soldiers and taxpayers. Ultimately, the best way that we can support our troops is to reach out more aggressively to the international community, establish order and security in Iraq, and help the interim Iraqi government assume more responsibility for its own affairs as they establish a democratic state.

I am also disappointed that the Republican leadership decided to insert extraneous provisions into this legislation, which go beyond the scope of the 9/11 Commission recommendations. I voted against the "REAL ID Act" when it was considered by this House as a separate bill earlier this year. I am particularly concerned that this legislation repeals a number of provisions of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, which enacted the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. The 9/11 bill established a negotiated rulemaking framework—allowing for critical input from governors, State legislators, State officials, and other stakeholders—which would provide the opportunity to develop effective national standards for driver's licenses. I am concerned that this legislation does not give the States adequate flexibility to implement the 9/11 bill, and that this legislation may also create serious unfunded mandates and administrative burdens for the States.

As the ranking member of the Helsinki Commission (Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe), which promotes human rights and rule of law in Europe, I am also concerned about many of the asylum law changes contained in the REAL ID Act, which again go beyond the scope of the 9/11 Commission recommendations. These provisions may have a harmful effect on true asylum seekers, trafficking victims, women and children who are victims of domestic violence, and others seeking protection against persecution. This legislation may create higher burdens for legitimate asylum seekers, restrict judicial discretion to grant asylum, and take away some of the rights of appeal for certain refugees and asylum seekers.

Over the past week I have heard from a number of groups in Maryland that provide legal and social services to immigrants, asylum seekers, refugees, and survivors of torture and slavery. These groups have reported to me that it is already extremely difficult for legitimate asylum seekers to prevail in their case, as they have often left their home country on short notice, and do not have documentation of their persecution. It can take months or years for a case to work its way through our legal system. During this period, the asylum seeker often has neither legal representation nor work documentation.

I hope that in the near future Congress will have the opportunity, in a more thoughtful manner, to consider comprehensive immigration reform measures.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the conference report to H.R. 1268, legislation providing $81.3 billion in emergency wartime supplemental appropriations to fund operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The conference report's immigration-related provisions are neither wise, nor consistent with our national values. I am equally disturbed that Congress declines to institute greater accountability for the Bush Administration's use of wartime appropriations. Accordingly, I cannot in good conscience support this conference report.

On March 16, 2005, I joined the vast majority of my colleagues in voting for H.R. 1268. The legislation included many laudable provisions, including funding for tsunami relief, humanitarian assistance in Darfur, and needed equipment for our Nation's soldiers. On the other hand, I was deeply troubled by the bill's inclusion of the REAL ID Act, which called for egregious, new restrictions on immigrants and put us on the path to creating a national identification card. I had hoped that the Senate would prevail and remove these indefensible provisions proposed in the House bill.

I am particularly concerned with provisions in the bill that affect asylum seekers. This conference report would require that asylum seekers establish first that they would be subject to persecution if returned to their home country, and second that race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion is at least one "central reason" for that persecution.

These changes will deny asylum to people who cannot prove the central motive of their persecutor, who cannot produce corroborating evidence of their account, or whose demeanor is inconsistent with an immigration judge's preconceived expectations. This measure could place insurmountable legal obligations on already vulnerable asylum seekers by requiring unrealistic and unfair burdens of proof. U.S. law already has safeguards to prevent immigration by known terrorists and criminals.

Another section of the conference agreement establishes minimum requirements for States issuing driver's licenses and identification cards, including acceptable documentation for issuance of identification cards. As a result, States will have the burden of determining the authenticity of a wide array of documents. Placing these types of requirements on State motor vehicle authorities is prohibitively costly and ultimately unworkable. Federal authorities will not recognize State identification cards that fail to meet these requirements.

With respect to the current military operations, I am also discouraged that Congress remains unwilling to hold the Bush Administration accountable for its many missteps in Iraq, and I am troubled that the President may interpret this emergency supplemental as another blank check. The Bush Administration cannot account for billions of Federal dollars targeted for Iraq, and allegations of inappropriate no-bid contracts to "well-connected" multi-national corporations have never been thoroughly investigated. Efforts on the House floor by Representatives JOHN TIERNEY and JIM LEACH to establish a bipartisan commission to investigate allegations of war profiteering were rejected by the Republican leadership, and no substantive accountability measures were included in the conference report.

I understand well the responsibility the Congress has to fully support our Nation's troops, and as former Peace Corps volunteer, I appreciate the value of humanitarian aid to regions ravaged by natural disasters and human conflict. I would proudly support a bill that meets these important priorities, but I cannot vote for a conference report that incorporates unnecessary and unjust provisions designed to hurt immigrants.

This conference report is an abuse of the legislative process and a threat to the fabric of this Nation. I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1268 making supplemental appropriations to ensure that our forces who are hard at work in Iraq and Afghanistan, and elsewhere, have the tools they need to do their job, and are well protected.

Mr. Speaker, this week we witnessed the establishment of Iraq's first democratically elected government in over half a century and their swearing in. This event is yet another historic milestone in Iraq's progress toward a representative and transparent government.

But even as we see important movement toward democracy, we are reminded that ''freedom is not free.'' As those of us who have seen war know, it is paid first by the sacrifices of those who serve.

Their courage is our inspiration. We wish them Godspeed, swift victory and safe return.

However, while it pales in comparison to the sacrifices of our brave men and women in the field, there is another part of the equation. And it is before us today.

With this legislation, Congress is acting decisively to ensure that our soldiers, sailors and airmen have the resources they need to keep Iraq on the road back to the community of civilized nations.

This bill contains over $76 billion to support military activities. This sum will: pay for the troop deployment; repair and replace damaged vehicles being chewed up in an extreme harshly operating environment; replenish stores of munitions and supplies; and provide additional armor for vehicles, improved communications gear and more night-vision equipment.

I would also add that this bill also provides over $60 million for additional electronic devices designed to protect our forces from the ''weapon of choice'' of the insurgents—IEDs.

Mr. Speaker, this ''wartime supplemental'' appropriations bill meets our military, humanitarian and foreign policy requirements.

We have every reason to be proud of young men and women at war. Every single word of praise uttered on this floor today is justified.

But while our young men and women in uniform appreciate our vocal support, they need this bill. It will provide them with the tools they need to get their job done as quickly as possible so they can return home to their families.

I commend Mr. LEWIS, the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee—the gentleman from California—for his leadership.

And I urge passage of the legislation.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I want to comment briefly on the $82 billion spending bill that will be approved today for the ongoing U.S. military campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I will support this bill. I am pleased it includes additional money for body armor and armored vehicles for our troops. It includes money to purchase bomb-jamming devices to protect our troops from roadside bombs. I also support the improved life insurance death benefits for military personnel and their families. And, I am hopeful that the additional funds that are in the bill to train and equip security forces in Iraq all Afghanistan will be expeditious and well spent. This money is critical if Afghan and Iraqi forces are to take over security duties from American troops, which will allow our men and women to finally come home. I have called for negotiating a timeline for the withdrawal of American troops with the new Iraqi government, hopefully to be completed within the year. But, for that to become a reality, well-equipped and competent security forces in Iraq and Afghanistan must be prepared to take our place. This bill will help achieve that goal.

I am also pleased that the final bill retained language inserted in the Senate directing the President to include future requests to fund the U.S. presence in Iraq in his regular budget. We have been in Iraq for more than two years and in Afghanistan for more than three years. The fact that we still have troops in Iraq should not come as a surprise to the budget writers at the White House and the Pentagon. It is not appropriate to continue funding these long-term, ongoing operations via supplemental appropriations bills, which are considered outside of the normal budget procedures and restrictions.

While I support the bill, I am outraged that, more than two years after the U. S. invaded Iraq, the Pentagon leadership has not gotten their act together to adequately protect our troops and to come up with a plan to get them home.

As columnist Mark Shields pointed out late last year, in the three years immediately after Pearl Harbor, the United States produced the following to win World War II: 296,429 aircraft, 102,3351 tanks, 87,620 warships, and 2,455,694 trucks. At the time, the U.S. population was 132 million and the size of our economy was less than $100 billion. Yet, approaching three years into the U.S. occupation of Iraq, the United States, with a population of almost 300 million and defense spending of $500 billion a year, under the failed leadership of the Pentagon, only 6,000 of the nearly 20,000 Humvees in Iraq are factory armored versions and more than 8,000 of the 9,128 medium and heavy trucks used in Iraq are without armor.

Despite repeated promises from the Pentagon leadership that the situation is getting better, a recent article in The New York Times showed that the emperor has no clothes. As the article details, one Marine Company has returned home to expose the reality of their tour in Iraq, ''one they say was punctuated not only by a lack of armor, but also by a shortage of men and planning that further hampered their efforts in battle, destroyed morale and ruined the careers of some of their most competent warriors.''

I have heard similar stories from the Oregon National Guard members I have talked to.

How did this happen?

Since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks against our country; Congress has provided the Pentagon with $1.6 trillion—$167 billion in supplemental appropriations bills for fiscal years 2001–2005; and $1.45 trillion in regular defense appropriations for fiscal years 2002–2005. Today's bill will add $75 billion or so to the Pentagon budget. Given that level of funding, it is hard to understand why our troops continue to suffer shortages of critical equipment.

It is hard to understand until you remember that Secretary Rumsfeld and the other civilian leaders at the Pentagon argued that our troops would be greeted in Iraq as liberators with flowers and candy, not the bullets and bombs that have led to more than 1,500 of our soldiers getting killed. Before, the invasion, the Pentagon planned to reduce our troop levels to 20,000–30,000 within a few weeks of overthrowing Saddam Hussein. The fact that 150,000 U.S. troops remain in Iraq more than a year and a half after the war began shows how badly the Pentagon leadership miscalculated the post-war situation.

Those miscalculations also led the Pentagon to vastly underestimate the equipment that our troops would need to survive and succeed in Iraq. First, the Pentagon leadership did not even order the necessary equipment like body armor, armored Humvees and bomb jamming devices. For example, under the Pentagon's original war plan, the Pentagon planned to have only 235 armored Humvees in Iraq for the 20,000 troops who would remain after overthrowing Saddam Hussein.

Then, when it became clear that this equipment was necessary, the Pentagon did not procure it with any sense of urgency. As The New York Times article I mentioned above noted, ''The Army's procurement system, which also supplies the Marines, has come under fierce criticism for underperforming in the war, and to this day it has only one small contractor in Ohio armoring new Humvees.''

The performance of Secretary Rumsfeld and his senior leadership at the Pentagon has been a disgrace. Unfortunately, it is our troops who have had to pay the price.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, this conference report includes some items that I strongly support, and other things that I think should not have been included. On balance, I will vote for it because I think it would unrealistic and irresponsible to do otherwise.

FUNDING FOR MILITARY ACTIVITIES

Most of the money appropriated by this legislation is for our ongoing military activities, especially in Iraq. Passage of this conference report will bring the total cost of operations in Iraq to well over $200 billion—and by now, two years after President Bush prematurely announced the end of major military activities in Iraq, I think even those who have been uncritical supporters of the Administration should be deeply concerned about the escalating costs, not just in money but in casualties.

The time has come—in fact, it is long since past—for the Administration to be candid about the costs not just of the war in Iraq but of the Administration's overall foreign policy. This should be the last time that the Administration or the Congress pays those costs through a supplemental appropriation bill instead of the regular budgetary and appropriation process. The American people deserve to know in advance what they will be asked to pay to support the Administration's policies.

Nonetheless, Congress must not fail to supply our troops. Funds in this conference report will pay for more resources, including body armor and military equipment, needed to safeguard their lives. The conference report also includes important provisions to raise the military death gratuity from $12,000 to $100,000 and to include a new insurance benefit of up to $100,000 for soldiers who have suffered traumatic injuries. The report also increases funding for body armor for the Army and Marines, add-on vehicle armor kits, night-vision equipment, and electronic roadside-bomb jammers—and includes funding for contract linguists for the Army.

Further, there is an imperative need for this funding. The Defense Department reports that

operating funds for the Army are nearing exhaustion and that it will be necessary to transfer more than $1 billion from other accounts to continue essential activities at home and abroad until these supplemental funds are available.

In short, the choice before us today is to vote for this supplemental or, by voting against it, to in effect require an immediate halt to military operations not just in Iraq but elsewhere.

And while I remain convinced it was an error to rush into war in Iraq, I am equally convinced it would be just as much an error to rush to withdraw.

We do need a strategy to get us out—which is why I'm pleased that the conferees included language directing the Secretary of Defense to provide Congress with a report that identifies security, economic, and Iraqi security force training-performance standards and goals, accompanied by a timetable for achieving these goals.

But an immediate departure is neither good strategy nor would it mean peace for Iraq.

I recently returned from my second trip to Iraq—this time as a Member of the House Armed Services Committee. As a critic of the Bush administration's policy in Iraq, I did not go there to confirm my opposition to the war, but rather, to gain knowledge based on face-to-face conversations with our military leaders, the Iraqi leadership, an extraordinary group of Iraqi women, and most important for me, with our troops on the ground.

I am convinced that there can be no successful exit strategy without first doing what is needed to enable the new Iraqi government to take up the burden of providing security. That will take time and money, and in the meantime we must maintain our efforts. As the former head of American forces in northern Iraq, Brig. Gen. Carter Ham, said recently, ''We don't want a rush to failure.''

So, for me, the need to support the military funding in this conference report—however unpleasant—is clear.

OTHER FUNDS

The conference report also provides funding for tsunami disaster relief as well as for assistance in Darfur, food aid to Sudan and Liberia, and for peacekeeping programs, most of which are for Sudan. Importantly, the bill appropriates the president's request of $200 million for economic development in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

IMMIGRATION PROVISIONS

Other parts of the conference report are problematical, particularly the inclusion of provisions like those in the ''REAL ID Act,'' legislation that I opposed when the House passed it in February. I believe these provisions will not strengthen national security, but will create undue difficulties for asylum seekers and excessively expand the powers of the Secretary of Homeland Security. This is a controversial issue that should have been addressed separately, not incorporated into this legislation.

An editorial in today's Rocky Mountain News says this part of the conference report ''has much more to do with immigration than security'' and is just ''one piece of a policy, poorly thought out and scarcely debated at all, and likely to have unintended consequences.'' I think that is an accurate description.

The Conference report also includes a provision that would revise the H–2B visa program, under which people can come into the country legally for seasonal non-agricultural work.

Several industries in Colorado are heavily dependent on the H–2B visa program to provide seasonal employees—some in the summer and some in the winter. While most of these companies try hard to find Americans to fill these jobs, they have not been fully successful. And the current limit on the numbers of visas has made it difficult for many of them to find the people they need. So, they have been asking Congress to revise the program.

However, while I am pleased that the report attempts to provide relief to companies struggling to find eligible employees, the specific provisions have some problems and may detrimentally affect some of the companies that have employed people entering under the H–2B program. This is particularly true for companies whose busy season is in the winter, such as the ski industry. They would actually be detrimentally affected by this provision because they do not rehire the same workers every year, and thus do not benefit from the provisions in the conference report that will exempt previously hired workers from the overall limit on the number of visas.

I wrote to conferees to urge a solution to the H–2B visa problem that would be equitable for both the winter and summer industries. Regrettably, the conference report does not fully meet that test. Still, it does make a good start to addressing the H–2B visa problem. I hope that we will be able to build on this foundation in the future so as to protect the interests of both summer and winter industries.

STATE REGULATION OF HUNTING AND FISHING

The conference report also includes, as Section 6063, provisions to reaffirm the authority of the States and Territories to regulate hunting and fishing.

This part of the conference report is identical to the text of H.R. 731, which I introduced in the House, and to S. 339, introduced in the Senate by Senator REID of Nevada. I applaud Senator REID's leadership in having this included when the Senate considered this supplemental appropriations bill and I am glad that it was accepted by the conferees. It will do two things—

(1) Declare as Congressional policy that it is in the public interest for each State to continue to regulate the taking of fish and wildlife within its boundaries, including by means of laws or regulations that differentiate between residents and non-residents; and

(2) Provide that courts should not use Congressional silence as a reason to impose any commerce-clause barrier to a State's or tribe's regulation of hunting or fishing.

Its purpose is to reaffirm the authority of States and Territories to regulate hunting and fishing by resolving questions that have arisen in the wake of a recent 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision that held that some Arizona limits on non-resident hunting permits had constitutional defects.

Ideally, of course, legislation of this sort should be handled through the regular authorization process, and I had hoped that the Resources Committee would have taken it up by now. However, State fish and wildlife agencies will soon be considering regulations for coming seasons, and it is important that questions about their authority be resolved without unnecessary delay.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing new about a State's having different rules for resident and nonresident hunters or anglers. Colorado draws that distinction in several ways, and many other States do so as well.

And while there have been challenges to the validity of such rules, until recently the Federal courts have upheld the right of the States to make such distinctions. For example, in 1987 the Federal district court for Colorado, in the case of *Terk* v. *Ruch* (reported at 655 F. Supp. 205), rejected a challenge to Colorado's regulations that allocated to Coloradans 90% of the available permits for hunting bighorn sheep and mountain goats. But a recent Court of Appeals decision marked a change—something that definitely is new.

In that case (*Conservation Force* v. *Manning,* 301 F.3rd 985; 9th Cir. 2002), the Federal appeals court for the 9th Circuit held that Arizona's 10% cap on nonresident hunting of bull elk throughout the State and of antlered deer north of the Colorado River had enough of an effect on interstate commerce that it could run afoul of what lawyers and judges call the ''dormant commerce clause'' of the Constitution.

Having reached that conclusion, the appeals court determined that the Arizona regulation discriminated against interstate commerce—meaning the ''dormant commerce clause'' did apply and that the regulation was subject to strict scrutiny, and could be upheld only if it served legitimate State purposes and the State could show that those interests could not be adequately served by reasonable non-discriminatory alternatives.

The appeals court went on to find that the regulations did further Arizona's legitimate interests in conserving its population of game and maintaining recreational opportunities for its citizens, but it remanded the case so a lower court could determine whether the State could meet the burden of showing that reasonable non-discriminatory alternatives would not be adequate.

Because of the decision's potential implications for their own laws and regulations, it was a source of concern to many States in addition to Arizona. In fact, 22 other States joined in supporting Arizona's request for the decision to be reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court. Colorado was one of those States, and Senator KEN SALAZAR, who was then Colorado's Attorney General, joined in signing a brief in support of Arizona's petition for Supreme Court review.

Regrettably, the Supreme Court denied that petition. So, for now, the 9th Circuit's decision stands. Its immediate effect is on States whose Federal courts are within that circuit—namely those in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington as well those of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas. But it could have an effect on the thinking of Federal courts across the country.

The purpose of this part of the conference report is to forestall that outcome, and so far as possible to return to the state of affairs prevailing before the 9th circuit's decision. It is intended to speak directly to the ''dormant commerce clause'' basis for the 9th Circuit's decision in Conservation Force v. Manning.

I am not a lawyer, but my understanding is that lawyers and judges use that term to refer to the judicially established doctrine that the commerce clause is not only a ''positive'' grant of power to Congress, but also a ''negative'' constraint upon the States in the absence of any Congressional action—in other words, that it restricts the powers of the States to affect interstate commerce in a situation where Congress has been silent.

Section 6036(b)(1) would end the perceived silence of Congress by affirmatively stating that State regulation of fishing and hunting—including State regulation that treats residents and non-residents differently—is in the public interest. This is intended to preclude future application of the ''dormant commerce clause'' doctrine with regard to such regulations. And Section 6036(b)(2) would make it clear that even when Congress might have been silent about the subject, that silence is not to be construed as imposing a commerce-clause barrier to a State's regulation of hunting or fishing within its borders.

These provisions are neither a Federal mandate for State action nor a Congressional delegation of authority to any State. Instead, they are intended to reaffirm State authority and make clear that the ''dormant commerce clause''—that is, Congressional inaction—is not to be construed as an obstacle to a State's regulating hunting or fishing, even in ways that some might claim adversely affect interstate commerce by treating residents differently from nonresidents.

It's also important to note that this part of the conference report is not intended to affect any Federal law already on the books or to limit any authority of any Indian Tribe.

Section 6036(c) is intended to prevent any misunderstanding on these points.

Section 6036(c)(1) specifies that the bill will not ''limit the applicability or effect of any Federal law related to the protection or management of fish or wildlife or to the regulation of commerce.''

Thus, to take just a few examples for purposes of illustration, this part of the conference report will not affect implementation of the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Lacey Act, the National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act, or the provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act dealing with subsistence.

Section 6036(c)(2) similarly provides that the bill is not to be read as limiting the authority of the Federal government to temporarily or permanently prohibit hunting or fishing on any portion of the Federal lands—as has been done with various National Park System units and in some other parts of the Federal lands for various reasons, including public safety as well as the protection of fish or wildlife.

And Section 6036(c)(3) explicitly provides that the bill will not alter any of the rights of any Indian Tribe.

These provisions are narrow in scope but of national importance because it addresses a matter of great concern to hunters, anglers, and wildlife managers in many States. I think they deserve broad support.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, while this conference report is far from perfect, I think it deserves to pass and I will vote for it.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, passage of this legislation demonstrates our commitment to our brave men and women in uniform and acknowledges that they need resources in order to accomplish their mission and return home safely. It also offers support for the families when a loved one pays the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of fighting for freedom.

All along, I've been concerned about the lack of progress reports coming from the Pentagon. This bill finally requires the Pentagon to use real performance indicators to report to Congress with our progress in terms of security, economic, and Iraqi security force training goals.

The money that will go directly to help our troops is of course the most important part of this bill. It increases the military death gratuity to $100,000 and increases life insurance benefits to $400,000 for families of soldiers killed while on active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We've all been hearing reports about the lack of adequate personal and vehicle armor. Congress has funded these critical protections in the past and we're doing so once again in this bill. I hope that this money will quickly be turned around to provide the needed add-on vehicle armor kits, new trucks, more night-vision equipment, and essential radio jammers to defeat the roadside bombs that are injuring and killing our troops almost every day.

Our troops should not be compromised. Resolving the current instability in the region is in the long-term best interests of all Americans—failure in Iraq would lead to irreparable consequences. Thousands of American troops have been in Iraq for more than 2 years. We have to take care of them and ensure that they can come back home as soon as possible.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, when the House debated this legislation in March, it voted 420–2 to approve an amendment, which I authored, which reaffirms the U.S. commitment under the Convention Against Torture to not engage in torture, and to not render or transfer people to countries where they are likely to face torture. The U.S. signed this treaty under President Reagan, and the Senate ratified it in 1994.

Despite our commitments under this treaty and the recent statements made by the Bush Administration emphasizing that the U.S. is emphatically and unambiguously against the use of torture, there have been repeated reports in the press indicating that the U.S. has been sending detainees to countries where they are likely to face torture, including to countries who have become notorious for their human rights violations.

The practice of extraordinary rendition is shrouded in secrecy. An unmarked plane arrives in the middle of the night carrying men wearing plain clothes and black hoods, to take custody of the prisoners, cut off their clothes, drug them on the spot, shackle them, and fly off into the night. President Bush signed a secret directive reported to speed up the process by eliminating the case by case evaluation. And while unofficial estimates put the number of renditions since 9/11 to be between 100 and 150, the actual number of renditions remains a secret.

The Administration maintains that it is in full compliance with the Convention Against Torture. Compliance, they say, is guaranteed by the dubious practice of asking countries known to torture prisoners for ''promises'' that they will not torture our prisoners. These so-called ''diplomatic assurances'' then provide the cover for sending a suspect to that country to undergo interrogation.

The list of countries where the detainees have been rendered includes Syria, Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

So here is the sand on which the Administration stands—at the same time that we exhort the international community to isolate Syria for thumbing its nose at U.N. resolutions to get out of Lebanon, the United States has apparently been willing to accept Syrian promises that it will comply with the Convention Against Torture.

Here is what the State Department's annual human rights report says about Syria's methods of interrogation: ''administering electrical shocks, pulling out fingernails, forcing objects into the rectum, . . .'' And the list goes on.

How about Uzbekistan?—''suffocation, electric shock, rape, beatings, and boiling prisoners to death . . .'' And the list goes on.

The so-called ''diplomatic assurances'' that we have received from the torturers that they will not torture those we send them are not credible, and the Administration knows it. CIA Director Porter Goss basically acknowledged as much when he stated: ''But of course once they're out of our control, there's only so much we can do.'' Attorney General Alberto Gonzales confirmed this, when he said ''Once someone is rendered, we can't fully control what that country might do.''

Section 1031 of the conference report would prohibit the use of any funds included in this Supplemental appropriations bill to subject any person in custody or under the control of the United States to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment that is prohibited by the Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States. While the Conferees approved Senate language that is slightly different from that of the House-passed amendment, I am nevertheless supportive of this language. I support it because I read Section 1031 to clearly prohibit any appropriated funds from being spent to subject any person in U.S. custody or control to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment by transferring, extraditing, or rendering such persons to countries where they are likely to face torture.

This is because such actions clearly would be prohibited under Article 3 of the Convention Against Torture, a treaty signed and ratified by the United States. Article 3 of the Convention clearly states that:

> ''No State Party shall expel, return (''refouler'') or extradite a person to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that he would be in danger of being subjected to torture.''

Article 3 of the Convention further states that:

> ''For the purpose of determining whether there are such grounds, the competent authorities shall take into account all relevant considerations, including, where applicable, the existence in the State concerned of a consistent pattern of gross, flagrant, or mass violations of human rights.''

It would be my expectation that the funding limitation contained in Section 1031 would therefore prohibit funds from being used to transfer persons to any Nation where the person was likely to face torture, and that under Section 1031, funds could not be used for transfers or renditions in situations where the U.S. government had found there to be a consistent pattern of gross, flagrant, or mass violations of human rights. I would also note that in a September 2004 report to the United Nations General Assembly, the UN Special Rapporteur on torture expressed concern that reliance on diplomatic assurances is a ''practice that is increasingly undermining the principle of non-refoulement'' and observed that where torture is systematic, ''the principal of non-refoulement must be strictly observed and diplomatic assurances should not be resorted to.''

We take pride that even as our Nation fought for its survival against the Nazis and the Japanese Empire during World War II, that we did not ask our ''Greatest Generation'' to engage in torture or other war crimes. The legacy of the U.S. then, and now as we prosecute the War on Terror, is that we uphold our commitment to justice—even in the face of shadows of terror and war. The test of a Nation is found as much in how it wages war as in how it promotes the values of peace and democracy. That is what we must do today.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this supplemental appropriations bill and the anti-immigrant legislation it contains.

If we truly believe all the rhetoric we hear about the importance of freedom and liberty from the president and others, we will vote down this bill, which denies so much freedom and liberty to immigrants in our own country.

H.R. 1268 includes numerous provisions limiting the rights of refugees, imposing onerous new driver's license requirements on the states, making it easier to deport legal immigrants, waiving all federal laws concerning the construction of fences and barriers anywhere within the United States, and denying immigrants long standing habeas corpus rights.

If enacted into law, this legislation will close America's doors to religious minorities escaping religious persecution and women fleeing sex trafficking and rape.

We have been down this road of overreaction in the past. During the Civil War, General Grant sought to expel the Jews from the South. The aftermath of World War I brought about the notorious Red Scare and the anti-immigrant Palmer raids. World War II led to the unconscionable internment of Japanese Americans.

In the wake of the 9/11 tragedy, and even after the PATRIOT Act, this legislation would further target immigrants for crimes they have not committed, and sins they are not responsible for. At some point, we have to treat terrorism as a problem that requires an intelligence response, as opposed to an excuse to scapegoat immigrants.

It is for all these reasons that so many groups strongly oppose this bill, including groups concerned about immigrant rights, civil rights and liberties, privacy rights; Labor rights; the environment; Native-American rights; state rights, and international human rights.

I urge a ''no'' vote. We cannot and should not close ourselves off to the most vulnerable members of our society.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Conference Agreement. I wish to commend the conferees for their work in bringing this important legislation to the House Floor. Not only does this bill provide critical support to our military and the war on terror, but it also funds international humanitarian reconstruction and economic assistance programs provided by the United States Agency for International Development.

As my colleagues know, I have believed for many years that the HIV/AIDS pandemic represents one of the greatest health and moral crises of our time, particularly in Africa. That is why I was especially pleased by the President's announcement of a visionary Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, and have supported grants and other programs funded by USAID that help to reverse the spread of this pandemic. It is thus my strongly held view that USAID should continue to fund existing programs, as well as invest in new programs, that support the President's HIV/AIDS initiative. In this regard, there are two programs, both directed toward South Africa, that I believe deserve the Agency's particular attention.

The first program is the new African Center for AIDS Management, which has, to date, trained over 800 graduates and is the largest program of its kind worldwide. I understand that USAID has provided only modest funding to support this initiative, while the bulk of the support has come from South African institutions. With substantial additional support from USAID during Fiscal Years 2005 and 2006, this program could double in size and provide training for executives and senior managers from government, the provinces, municipalities and educational institutions, as well as NGOs, corporations, and trade unions, in the management of an expanded capability to detect and treat HIV/AIDS in Africa.

The second program would be a new joint U.S.-South African program to provide telemedicine-equipped mobile clinics to serve the South African military involved in peacekeeping efforts throughout Africa. This program, which merits both USAID and DOD support, would be run through the South Africa Medical Research Council and provide medical services to remote areas to combat HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. This mobile clinic system, employing some of the latest U.S. telemedicine technologies, would leverage U.S. military expertise across distances. As this system develops, so would it expand in both its capabilities and its services to the civilian population.

Both of these programs are examples of humanitarian initiatives requiring modest investments that USAID is both equipped and funded to support. I applaud the Agency's past work in this area, and encourage both the continuation of existing efforts and the expansion of the new efforts that I have outlined.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Conference Report on H.R. 1268 and urge all my colleagues to support it.

In addition to necessary funding for our troops, tsunami disaster relief, and border security; this conference report also includes important provisions to bring long-overdue, common sense reform to drivers' licenses and state-issued identification cards, authored last year by the Government Reform Committee in response to a recommendation of the 9–11 Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I want to especially thank the Speaker and Majority Leader for making good on their promise to get this legislation to the floor signed into law quickly in the 109th Congress. I also want to thank my colleague from California, the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, for his strong support and for agreeing to include these provisions in H.R, 1268. Finally, I would like to thank my colleague from Wisconsin for his tireless work and support on this issue, Last year following passage of the 9–11 Commission Recommendations Implementation Act, he and I made a commitment to work together to ensure that the most important provisions not addressed in the final bill would be addressed early in the 109th Congress. That commitment is being fulfilled today.

Judging by the basic nature of these requirements as well as the actions taken by some States, it is quite obvious that not enacting these reforms does not come from a lack of ability, but from a lack of will. The federal government cannot continue to allow our security responsibilities to be compromised by the inaction of a few.

Our approach is very straightforward. Building upon guidelines and best practices established and accepted by State Motor Vehicle Administrators, the federal government's longstanding work on identity security, and actions taken by individual States to shore up their licensing process following the terrorist attacks; our legislation sets forth minimum document and issuance standards for federal acceptance of driver's licenses and state-issued personal identification cards. The legislation provides three years for States to come into compliance with these standards in order for the federal government to recognize their documents as proof of an individual's identity.

Let me make one thing perfectly clear. States that want their drivers' licenses to be used for federal identification purposes will be required to meet these standards. All of them. If they do not, the citizens of that State will not be able to use their driver's license to identify themselves for many purposes that they use them for today, such as boarding an airplane. The bill and the report make clear that the Secretary must determine the uses, in addition to those set forth in the bill, for which drivers licenses only from complying states will be accepted. Importantly, the final bill makes clear that the Secretary of Homeland Security will be responsible for ensuring that the certifications represent full compliance. This requirement ensures that the national security interests of the United States will be protected through enforcement of the requirements of the bill.

States will also be required to confirm the applicant's proof of legal presence in the United States. Currently, only 11 states lack such a requirement, meaning a majority of states have already recognized the need for tighter standards, but unnecessary and dangerous gaps in the system still exist. Importantly, States are still permitted to issue drivers' licenses to individuals who are not lawfully present in the United States or who cannot provide satisfactory proof of identity. The ability of States to have such a system is currently under challenge in court, and this legislation will provide them with express authority. The bill further provides that these licenses or identification cards must be clearly visually differentiated from other licenses and contain specific language regarding their validity for federal identification and other official purposes.

In addition, the legislation will require identity documents to expire at the same time as the expiration of lawful entry status—this will prevent individuals who have illegally entered or are unlawfully present in the United States from having valid identification documents. This loophole was highlighted on September 11th, as Nawaf al Hazmi and Hani Hanjour, the pilots of Flight 77, both obtained licenses and identification cards after the expiration of their visa authorization. We must correct this dangerous problem before we again give individuals who have overstayed their visas the tools they need to integrate into society and carry out criminal and terrorist acts.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that these actions are consistent with actions taken

by individual states to date. For example, Nevada and New Mexico do not accept, as proof of identity, a state-issued driver license or identification card from states that do not meet their own standards. The federal government has been delinquent in dealing with this issue, but we are correcting that problem today.

Fraud in identity documents is no longer just a problem of theft. As we continue to strengthen our intelligence function to better identify and track terrorists, those individuals will be forced to find ways to conceal their identity in order to avoid detection. We must be able to establish, as close to certainty as we can, that people are who they say they are, and in order to do so the federal government must have documents that it can trust. In fact, we would not be fulfilling our security role for the American people if we did not.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support these important provisions and the passage of this conference report.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Emergency Wartime Supplemental, especially the provision that would postpone reducing the number of Navy aircraft carriers from 12 to 11. Our nation is at war against global terrorism and reducing the number of aircraft carriers would be a huge blow to our nation's defense at this very critical time.

Since the end of the Cold War, carriers have been kept very busy and have proven their value in numerous operations. In this era of uncertain U.S. access to overseas air bases, the value of carriers as sovereign U.S. bases that can operate in international waters, free from political constraints, is particularly significant.

During the past half century, the carrier force has never dropped below 12 ships, illustrating the enduring need for a force of at least that many ships. After experimenting with an "11 + 1" carrier force in FY1995–FY2000, DOD returned to a force of 12 fully active carriers, suggesting that DOD was dissatisfied with a force of less than 12 fully active carriers.

This provision in the Supplemental would effectively delay the decommissioning of the USS *Kennedy* until 6 months after the Quadrennial Defense Review is released. The *Kennedy* is based at the Mayport Naval Station near Jacksonville, Florida. Aside from concerns of this move striking a blow to national security, the carrier's retirement would mean an estimated loss of $300 million a year to the local economy.

Furthermore, if the *Kennedy* were retired, all of the Atlantic Fleet's carriers would be, for some time at least, home ported in a single location. This, of course, would not be in the best interest of national security.

Decommissioning the *Kennedy* before the QDR is complete could prove to be a very costly and ill-timed decision. The QDR may conclude that a fleet of 12 aircraft carriers is essential to our nation, thus necessitating that the USS *Kennedy* be operational. In a time of war, it is unwise to retire an aircraft carrier without knowing whether or not it will be needed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge members of congress to carefully examine the effects that retiring the *Kennedy* and reducing the number of carriers would not only have on our nation, but the world at large. Please join me in supporting the Supplemental and the provision that keeps the number of carriers in the Navy's fleet contained therein.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT OFFERED BY MR. OBEY

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the conference report?

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, in this form, I am.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. OBEY of Wisconsin moves to recommit the conference report on the bill, H.R. 1268, to the committee of conference with instructions to the managers on the part of the House to recede to the Senate and agree to the highest level of funding within the scope of conference for Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for the electronic vote on the question of adopting the conference report.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 201, nays 225, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 160]

YEAS—201

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Case
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank (MA)
Gonzalez
Goode
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sherman
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NAYS—225

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachus
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Beauprez
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boustany
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Cox
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis (KY)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeLay
Dent
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Feeney
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Gutknecht
Hall
Harris
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hostettler
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Osborne
Otter
Oxley

Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Schwarz (MI)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Sodrel
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—7

Brown (OH)
Capps
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Lantos
Larson (CT)

□ 1355

Mr. EHLERS and Mr. DELAY changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. FRANK of Massachusetts, CONYERS, and RYAN of Ohio changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 368, nays 58, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 161]

YEAS—368

Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cox
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DeLay
Dent
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Higgins
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Obey
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Oxley
Pascrell
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salazar
Sanchez, Loretta
Saxton
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stearns
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Watson
Waxman
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—58

Abercrombie
Baldwin
Becerra
Blumenauer
Capuano
Carson
Clay
Coble
Conyers
Davis (IL)
Delahunt
Duncan
Farr
Filner
Frank (MA)
Gordon
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hinchey
Holt
Honda
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jones (OH)
Kucinich
Lee
Lewis (GA)
Maloney
Markey
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McKinney
Meehan
Meeks (NY)
Miller, George
Napolitano
Oberstar
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Rangel
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanders
Schakowsky
Serrano
Stark
Thompson (CA)
Tierney
Towns
Velázquez
Waters
Watt
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Matsui

NOT VOTING—6

Brown (OH)
Capps
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Lantos
Larson (CT)

□ 1404

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit this statement for the RECORD and regret that I could not be present today, Thursday, May 5, 2005, to vote on rollcall vote Nos. 159, 160, and 161 due to a family medical emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted: ''No'' on rollcall No. 159 ordering the previous question on H. Res. 258—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1268; ''Yea'' on rollcall No. 160 on the motion to recommit the Conference Report for H.R. 1268 to the conference committee with instructions; and, ''Yea'' on rollcall No. 161 on agreeing to the Conference Report for H.R. 1268—Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief Act, 2005.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall votes and would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 159—''no''; rollcall No. 160—''yes''; rollcall No. 161—''yes.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for the vote on the Motion to Recommit the Conference Report on H.R. 1268, the Emergency Supplemental Wartime Appropriations Act. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea.''

Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for the vote on passage of the Conference Report on H.R. 1268, the Emergency Supplemental Wartime Appropriations Act. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea.''

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the House to inquire of the majority whip the schedule for next week.

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, the House will convene on Tuesday at 2 p.m. for legislative business. We will consider several measures under the suspension of the rules. A final list of those bills will be sent to the Members' offices by the end of the week. Any votes called on measures will be rolled until 6:30 on Tuesday.

On Wednesday and the balance of the week, the House will convene at 10 a.m. for legislative business, and we may consider additional legislation under suspension of the rules, as well as two bills under a rule, H.R. 1279, Gang Deterrence and Community Protection Act of 2005; and H.R. 1544, Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act of 2005.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the majority deputy whip for that information. I will continue to yield to the gentleman to ask about the gang violence and the first responder bills. Which day will we consider each bill, and what type of rule is anticipated for each bill?

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to defer on the rules to the Committee on Rules chairman. He will have some announcements regarding rules on those bills when he speaks.

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I am planning, as soon as this fascinating colloquy is completed, to ask unanimous consent to make a formal announcement to our colleagues which will request that amendments be filed with us upstairs for consideration of the measures.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Deputy Whip, does leadership anticipate having votes next Friday?

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, at this moment we are scheduled to work on Friday. If we determine that is not necessary, we will announce that as soon in the week as possible. But at this point we are scheduled to work next Friday.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, continuing to yield to the gentleman, I understand we have appropriation bills coming up, and we understand we may have a number of appropriation bills on the floor prior to the Memorial Day district work period. Which appropriation bills will be considered prior to the recess?

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Appropriations is moving their work along at an extraordinary pace, particularly based on the fact that they also were able to get this supplemental done today in a way that has not slowed down the progress we are seeing this year. We are hopeful to get many, if not all, of these bills done by the early part of July and expect to have some of these bills on the floor the week of May 16.

The two bills that I think are the furthest along are Interior and Homeland Security, and it is likely that they would be first.

As has been our process for a while, we would intend to move to the appropriations bills whenever they are available. In many ways the rest of the calendar will respond to the work coming out of the Committee on Appropriations and ready for the floor.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri for all of that valuable information. We appreciate it.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY TO FILE REPORT ON H.R. 1279, GANG DETERRENCE AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary have until midnight tonight to file its report on H.R. 1279.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY COMMITTEE ON RULES REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 1544, FASTER AND SMARTER FUNDING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS ACT OF 2005

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules may meet the week of May 9 to grant a rule which could limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 1544, the Faster and Smarter Funding For First Responders Act of 2005.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a brief explanation of the amendment to the Committee on Rules in room H–312 of the Capitol by noon on Tuesday, May 10, 2005. Members should draft their amendments to the bill as reported by the Committee on Homeland Security on April 21, 2005. Members are advised that the report of the Committee on Homeland Security, House Report 109–65, was filed on April 28. Members are also advised that the text of the reported bill will be available on the Web sites of the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Rules.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are drafted in the most appropriate format and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY COMMITTEE ON RULES REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 1279, GANG DETERRENCE AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules may meet the week of May 9 to grant a rule which could limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 1279, the Gang Deterrence and Community Protection Act of 2005.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies and one copy of a brief explanation of the amendment to the Committee on Rules in room H–312 of the Capitol by noon on Tuesday, May 10, 2005. Members should draft their amendments to the bill as reported by the Committee on the Judiciary on April 20, 2005. Members are advised that the report of the Committee on the Judiciary is expected to be filed today, Thursday, May 5, and Members are also advised that the text of the reported bill should be available for their review on the Web sites of the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Rules by this evening.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are drafted in the most appropriate format and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

Mr. Speaker, with that I wish my colleagues a happy Cinco de Mayo and a Happy Mother's Day.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1638

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1638.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 513

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 513.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

SUPPORTING GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL HEPATITIS B AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Commerce be

discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 250) supporting the goals and ideals of National Hepatitis B Awareness Week, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

H. RES. 250

Whereas hepatitis B is the most common serious liver infection in the world;

Whereas chronic hepatitis B infections cause 80 percent of all primary liver cancer cases worldwide;

Whereas 10,000,000 to 30,000,000 people will be infected with the hepatitis B virus worldwide in 2005;

Whereas approximately 100,000 people in the United States will become infected with hepatitis B virus this year alone;

Whereas fewer than 10 percent of diagnosed chronic hepatitis B patients in the United States are currently receiving treatment for their disease;

Whereas healthcare and work loss costs from liver disease and liver cancer-caused hepatitis B infections total more than $700,000,000 annually;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (''CDC'') estimates that 1,250,000 Americans are already infected with hepatitis B and nearly 6,000 will die of liver complications each year;

Whereas a person who has become infected with hepatitis B may not have symptoms for up to 40 years after the initial infection has occurred, and there is currently no routine screening in place for early detection;

Whereas the CDC has identified African-Americans, Asian-Americans, and Pacific Islanders, as well as Native Americans and Alaskan Natives, as having higher rates of hepatitis B infection in the United States;

Whereas Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders account for more than half of the chronic hepatitis B cases and half of the deaths resulting from chronic hepatitis B infection in the United States;

Whereas there is a need for a comprehensive public education and awareness campaign designed to help infected patients and their physicians identify and manage the secondary prevention of the disease and to help increase the length and quality of life for those diagnosed with chronic hepatitis B; and

Whereas the week of May 9, 2005, would be an appropriate week to observe National Hepatitis B Awareness Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Hepatitis B Awareness Week;

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate programs and activities; and

(3) supports raising awareness of the consequences of untreated chronic hepatitis B and the urgency to seek appropriate care as a serious public health issue.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 250, a resolution that recognizes the goals and ideals of the week of May 9th as National Hepatitis B Awareness Week.

I first want to thank Mr. MURPHY for his leadership on this resolution.

During the week of May 9, health advocates from around the country will be putting on a national media campaign, ''Aim for the B,'' to raise awareness about the disease and to educate the community about prevention through testing and vaccination.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers are startling. In the United States, 12 million people (1 out of 20) have been infected at some time in their lives with the hepatitis B virus, more than one million people in the U.S. have developed chronic hepatitis B infection, and more than 5,000 Americans die from hepatitis B-related liver complications each year.

Chronic hepatitis B is often called a ''silent disease'' because more than two-thirds of the 12 million Americans infected with hepatitis B have no recognized symptoms. Of those who are diagnosed, fewer than ten percent seek long-term medical care that could allow more hepatitis patients to lead long and healthy lives. Those who do not receive treatment often suffer cirrhosis of the liver, liver failure and liver cancer.

Asian Pacific Islander Americans (APIAs) are particularly susceptible to this disease—as many as 1 out of 10 APIAs are chronically infected with the hepatitis B virus. Accordingly, liver cancer rates among males are 13 times higher among Vietnamese Americans, eight times higher among Korean Americans, and six times higher among Chinese Americans than among the general population.

The most common route of infection among APIAs is through mother-to-child transmission. In the United States, APIA children were found to have low vaccination rates despite national vaccination guidelines and availability. Many children worldwide remain unvaccinated and may become chronically infected as adults. Furthermore, the incidence of liver cancer among APIA ethnic groups is 1.7 to 11.3 times higher than rates among Caucasian Americans.

Hepatitis B is extremely infectious. In fact, the disease is 100 times more infectious than HIV. Most healthy adults (90 percent) who are infected will recover and develop protective antibodies against future hepatitis B infections. A small number (5 to 10 percent) will be unable to get rid of the virus and will develop chronic infection.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I want to say it loud and clear so that there is no misunderstanding. Hepatitis B is a public health emergency for Asian Pacific Islander Americans.

We need to break the silence and bring awareness to our community about this disease. Hepatitis B diagnosis does not have to be a death sentence. The weapons to combat this disease are available, including vaccination, early diagnosis and treatments. During National Hepatitis B Awareness Week, events will be held across the United States to raise awareness about hepatitis B, educate sufferers and their physicians about improved methods of treatment and prevention, and open the dialogue within communities to stop the transmission of this virus.

Recognizing the goals of National Hepatitis B Awareness Week is an important step in efforts to increase awareness about this deadly virus. This resolution also seeks to honor those in the community and in medicine who seek to prevent additional cases of hepatitis B and improve the quality of life for those who have already contracted it.

We all have constituents affected by this disease, so let us come together and support a comprehensive response and spread awareness on prevention.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and all of the events during National Hepatitis B Awareness Week.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution just agreed to.

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

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MAY 9, 2005, AND HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2005

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday next, and further, that when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10, 2005, for morning hour debates.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JIMMY ''WINK'' WINKFIELD AND OTHER AFRICAN AMERICAN JOCKEYS AND TRAINERS

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 231) recognizing and celebrating the life and accomplishments of the great African American jockey Jimmy ''Wink'' Winkfield and the significant contributions and excellence of other African American jockeys and trainers in the sport of horse racing and the history of the Kentucky Derby, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

H. RES. 231

Whereas Jimmy ''Wink'' Winkfield was born on April 12th, 1882 in Chilesburg, Kentucky, the youngest of 17 in a family of sharecroppers;

Whereas Wink was born in an era when African American jockeys dominated the sport of horse racing, to the extent that African American riders won 15 of the first 28 Kentucky Derbies and in the first Kentucky Derby in 1875, 13 of the 15 jockeys were African American;

Whereas the African American jockey Oliver Lewis won the first Derby by two lengths, and the African American jockey Alonzo ''Lonnie'' Clayton, at age 15, is the youngest rider ever to win the Derby;

Whereas Wink worked by shining shoes, moved up as a stable hand, then as an exercise rider, and rode his first race at the age of 16;

Whereas at the age of 22, Wink won back-to-back Kentucky Derbies in 1901 (on His Eminence) and 1902 (on Alan-A-Dale), and placed second in 1903 (on Early);

Whereas Wink is one of only 4 jockeys ever to accomplish this back-to-back feat, and he was the last African American jockey to win the Kentucky Derby;

Whereas during his career Wink was known as king of the Chicago race tracks;

Whereas unfortunately, segregation eventually forced African American jockeys off the race track and often into exile;

Whereas Wink left the United States by buying a steamer ticket to Europe and settled down in Czarist Russia, where he became a wealthy and dominant athlete in Russia's national sport;

Whereas Wink went on to win the Russian national riding title an unheard of 3 times, won the Moscow Derby twice, the Russian Derby three times, the Grand Prix de Baden (in Germany), the Poland Derby twice, and the Grand Prix de la Republique (in France);

Whereas the Bolshevik Communist Revolution in 1917 forced Wink to flee Russia, and he led 200 jockeys, trainers, and owners over treacherous mountain terrain into Poland;

Whereas Wink eventually settled down in France and retired in 1930 after accumulating 2,600 racing victories in 10 countries, and turned to raising and training horses on his farm outside of Paris;

Whereas in 1940, when the Nazis invaded France and commandeered his stables for their own horses, Wink defended himself and his farm with a pitchfork, only to eventually flee Nazi-occupied territory;

Whereas after decades of exile, Wink returned to the United States one last time in 1961, 60 years after winning his first Kentucky Derby, when he was invited to a pre-Kentucky Derby banquet at the historic Brown Hotel in Louisville as a 2-time winner of the Derby;

Whereas Wink and his daughter Lillian were denied entrance through the front door, but after a long delay were eventually admitted, and spent most of the evening with a white jockey named Roscoe Goose, an ex-competitor from their own Kentucky Derby days 60 years earlier, who sat with Wink for the evening and for the Derby the following afternoon;

Whereas Wink returned to his home in Paris, where he died in 1974 at the age of 94 still homesick for the Kentucky bluegrass of his boyhood, his death virtually unnoticed in the United States; and

Whereas in 2003, Wink was admitted to the National Racing Hall of Fame and joined two other African American Hall of Fame jockeys, 3-time Kentucky Derby winner Isaac Murphy and 2-time winner Willie Simms: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) celebrates the remarkable life and accomplishments of one of the truly great American athletes, Jimmy ''Wink'' Winkfield, who continuously overcame racism and other significant obstacles during his lifetime; and

(2) recognizes and celebrates the significant contributions and excellence of African American jockeys and trainers in the sport of horse racing and in the history of the Kentucky Derby.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 231 that honors the Kentucky Derby and particularly the success that African-American jockeys have enjoyed during the race's history. I am pleased that the House is considering this resolution before the 131st Run for the Roses at Churchill Downs on Saturday.

The resolution reminds us that African-American jockeys have greatly influenced the history of the Kentucky Derby. Thirteen of the fifteen riders in the first derby in 1875 were African-American. African-American horsemen won 15 of the first 28 derbies.

Jimmy "Wink" Winkfield, whom the resolution recognizes specifically, remains the last African-American jockey to win the Kentucky Derby. He is one of only four jockeys in Kentucky Derby history to win back-to-back races. He was victorious riding His Eminence in 1901 and Alan-A-Dale in 1902. He also came in second the following year when he entered the race as the favorite on Early in 1903.

Mr. Speaker, on a Saturday in May each year, the Kentucky Derby provides us with many outstanding moments, many of which go down in sports history. Champion horses such as Secretariat, Seattle Slew, Alysheba, and last year, Smarty Jones, have captivated the Nation during the race that is known as the "greatest two minutes in sports." We know this year's derby will be a spectacular show as well.

Again Mr. Speaker, I am pleased the House is considering this timely resolution that honors the significant contributions and excellence of African-American jockeys. The gentleman from Illinois, Congressman BOBBY RUSH, deserves the commendation of all Members for his efforts on House Resolution 231.

I also recognize the resolution's lead cosponsor, my distinguished colleague from Kentucky, Congressman ED WHITFIELD, to whom I know the adoption of the resolution means a great deal. I urge all Members to agree to the resolution.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, as the world's attention turns to the 131st running of the Kentucky Derby, frequently called the most exciting two minutes in sports, I would like to turn the House's attention to Jimmy "Wink" Winkfield, who is a Kentucky Derby legend. Jimmy Winkfield overcame adversity throughout his life to become one of the greatest jockeys of all time. Not only did Wink win the Kentucky Derby back-to-back in 1901 and 1902, but he is the last African-American jockey to win the derby. For his accomplishments, Wink was inducted into the National Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 2004.

Wink was born in Chilesburg, KY, and won his derbies on Kentucky horses. In 1902, His Eminence carried Wink to victory in the 27th running of the Kentucky Derby. His Eminence was bred in Kentucky by O.H. Chenault. In the 28th Run for the Roses, Wink was carried to victory riding Alan-a-Dale, a beautiful horse that was also Kentucky bred by T.C. McDowell.

Jimmy "Wink" Winkfield was truly one of the great jockeys of all time and achieved great success despite discrimination and numerous setbacks.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1415

CELEBRATING CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR AND THE END OF THE SOVIET EMPIRE

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

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to notify Members of the House that the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) and I are sending out invitations by way of an event that will take place in the Committee on Appropriations on May 16. The title is ''Celebrating Charlie Wilson's War and the End of the Soviet Empire.''

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of our former Members and a stalwart on the House Appropriations Committee, whose ability to work behind the scenes and across the aisle helped speed the downfall of the Soviet empire. Those who are interested in the past impact of one Member concentrating himself upon the Soviet empire and the effect he had should be a part of this celebration.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today pay tribute to one of our former Members, and a stalwart on the House Appropriations Committee, whose ability to work behind the scenes and across the aisle helped speed the downfall of the Soviet empire.

I am referring to former Congressman Charlie Wilson, who was renowned for providing top-notch representation for his east Texas constituents. Many of you will remember my good friend Charlie for that, and for a dashing and debonair style that was perhaps unequaled during my time in the House. But I would like to recount something Charlie did quietly about two decades ago that may have changed the course of world history.

In the early 1980s, foreign policy was for the most part a bipartisan affair. The Soviet Union seemed unshakable in its anti-American strength, and the evil stain of communism continued to spread around the world. Those of us who served on the Intelligence Committee and the Defense Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee heard constant reports of our Nation's efforts to counteract that tyranny and oppression.

I served on those committees with Charlie Wilson, a former Navy lieutenant who was known outside the House as a connoisseur of the good life. Those of us who served with him were well-aware of his insight and keen intellect. When Charlie spoke about world affairs, we always listened.

Longtime members of the Appropriations Committee develop a unique perspective on

Congress's ability to influence national policy. We have seen time and again that one Member, who has developed an expertise in a subject and a commitment to change, can influence colleagues on both sides of the aisle to provide support and get a program moving that might spend years languishing in bureaucratic review.

Perhaps the most dramatic example of this was how Charlie Wilson found a way to fund the rebels in Afghanistan, which eventually led to the defeat of the Soviet Union's efforts in that country, which was the beginning of the disintegration of the Soviet empire. As CIA Director James Woolsey later said: ''The defeat and breakup of the Soviet Union is one of the great events in world history. There were many heroes in this battle, but to Charlie Wilson must go a special recognition.''

Charlie was amazed that the Afghan rebels seemed to be holding the Soviets at bay with rocks and knives, and urged appropriators to provide covert funding to get them more sophisticated weapons. The committee agreed to a few million in the first year, and Charlie persuaded his colleagues to increase spending in succeeding years. Ultimately the rebels began shooting down Soviet planes and helicopters with Stinger missiles. By 1988, the Soviets were on the run. By 1990, the Berlin Wall had fallen and the breakup of the Soviet empire was under way.

Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues will recognize this tale from George Crile's marvelous ''Charlie Wilson's War: The Extraordinary Story of the Largest Covert Operation in History.'' I urge everyone to read this highly entertaining book, and I am happy to say that it may soon be produced as a motion picture.

What you as members will see in this story is that a single voice, heard with respect and supported by House colleagues, can initiate the kind of program that can change the world. I know that Charlie Wilson is gratified to have been given that respect and support, and I am proud in the knowledge that I have been privileged to serve with Charlie in this House and on that committee.

Mr. Speaker, Charlie Wilson retired from Congress in 1996, but he is only now leaving Washington. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking him for giving us the opportunity to take part in history, and to wish him well as he heads home to Texas.

IMMIGRATION

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I too rise to wish our mothers across America a happy Mother's Day, and I also rise and honor Cinco de Mayo.

But, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I had to cast a ''no'' vote on the previous bill because of the ill-conceived provisions dealing with immigration. I am not for a national ID card. Unfortunately, without the input of States and hearings, that is what this body voted for, a database, subjected to the FBI, investigation of your personal matters, along with everyday hackers finding out information about Americans that do not keep the homeland safe.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I announce the introduction of the Save America Comprehensive Immigration Act of 2005 and I will be presenting this legislation to my colleagues. This actually deals with reforming immigration, increasing the allocation of family-based visas, legalization for long-term residents, real border security, employment-based immigration where an employer would have to attest to the fact that no American had the opportunity to take this job before a job could be given to an undocumented individual.

This is real reform. I hope my colleagues will accept the challenge. Save America Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2005.

JUDICIAL NOMINEES

(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, before we all leave town for the weekend and to celebrate Mother's Day, I wanted to say just a little bit about the President's judicial nominees. They deserve an up-or-down vote in the Senate. That really is a matter of common sense here in Washington and something that needs to be addressed. Unfortunately, right now, common sense does not seem to be prevailing.

For more than 200 years, the Senate deliberated and voted on judicial nominees that were sent up by the President. During those 200 years, the process has not been circumvented by a minority political party in the Senate. Yet today we have a first—judicial nominees that are being held hostage by misuse of a rule preventing the full Senate from voting either to accept or to reject them.

Mr. Speaker, it is not fair, it is not right, and it is not in keeping with our system. The liberals over in the Senate know this. Yes, the Constitution grants the Senate the ability to make its own rules on procedure, but to twist that right in order to subvert the Senate's constitutional role is wholly inappropriate.

SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM

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

Mr. MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for two pieces of legislation that will reform, protect and improve Social Security for generations to come.

H.R. 1776, introduced by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN), and H.R. 530, introduced by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON), ensure Social Security's permanent solvency without raising taxes. For those individuals 55 and older, both bills guarantee there will be no changes to their Social Security.

For workers under 55, both plans provide an option for them to remain in the current Social Security system or to have a portion of their Social Security payroll taxes fund their own individual personal savings accounts. At the same time, both plans will yield substantial new savings, new investment and new economic growth, ensuring our children and grandchildren have the freedom, security and prosperity they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to take an active role in tackling Social Security's problems by supporting one or both of these bills, and I look forward to the House's active consideration of these proposals.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize that it is the National Day of Prayer and to ask my colleagues to join me in giving thanks to God for His many blessings.

This day is significant because it reminds Americans to humbly ask God for His wisdom in our daily lives. Prayer is an extremely powerful tool because it allows us to acknowledge that we are all God's children and that we must rely on Him to guide our lives in the right direction.

National days of prayer have been an important part of our country's heritage since the first one was declared by the Continental Congress in 1775. This day reminds us of how our Founding Fathers sought the Lord's guidance while they were forming our country. The unanimous passage of a bill establishing the National Day of Prayer as an annual event demonstrates that prayer is just as important today as it was at the founding of our country. Prayer unites and gives comfort to people of all faiths.

Today, I ask my fellow Americans to join me in praying for our brave men and women in uniform for fighting to protect our freedoms and to spread freedom throughout the world. I also ask that we pray that God help our leaders to make the right decisions and have the strength and resolve as they meet the challenges ahead.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK—DEBORAH MONETTE

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

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, this week is Public Service Recognition Week, a time when we honor government employees at the Federal, State, county and local levels. We cannot thank our public servants enough for the job that they do for this country day in and day out. The Federal Government simply cannot function properly without good employees and the managers who are committed to the work of our Nation.

As the chairman of the House Subcommittee on Federal Workforce and Agency Organization and a member of the Congressional Public Service Caucus, I would also like to honor one Nevadan who is making a difference for

our great Nation. Deborah Monette, a Federal employee at the National Nuclear Security Administration's North Las Vegas site office in Nevada manages a number of high-profile projects at the agency's Nevada test site. Her work includes stewardship of the Nation's nuclear weapons stockpile, nuclear test readiness, nonproliferation issues and emergency response programs. In that capacity, she has spearheaded critical counterterrorism initiatives for our country.

One of Ms. Monette's greatest achievements is the creation of the National Center For Combating Terrorism at the Nevada test site. The center is an intensive, hands-on training ground where Federal, State and local agencies and employees involved in combating terrorism can train for the wars of the future. It was established to provide a realistic test and evaluation laboratory for first responders.

She is a 30-year employee. I wish we would honor Ms. Monette and all Federal, State and local employees across this country.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Resolution 231.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize Members for special order speeches without prejudice to possible resumption of legislative business.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, 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 Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak in the place of the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

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

There was no objection.

AMERICA'S ARMED FORCES: STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, General Richard Myers, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, warned Congress that the stress on our Armed Forces of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan had raised the risk that it will take longer to prevail in conflicts elsewhere around the world. While General Myers stressed that American troops would still succeed, he acknowledged that the ongoing pace of operations has strained the military and would have a negative impact on operations, including the possibility of higher American casualties.

General Myers' candid assessment is both welcome and, to me, self-evident. A growing number of current and former military officers are expressing strong concern over the strain being placed on our Armed Forces, and for good reason: our Armed Forces are too small and the demands on them are too great.

''What keeps me awake at night,'' General Richard Cody, vice chief of staff of the U.S. Army, testified in a recent Senate hearing, ''is what will this all-volunteer force look like in 2007?'' General Cody's concerns are professional and personal. He is the father of two sons who are captains in the U.S. Army. Right now those sons are deployed on their second and third tours of combat since September 11.

Throughout the country, men and women in the Guard and Reserve are being called up repeatedly to serve. Indeed, the line between those in the Guard and Reserve and those on active duty is being blurred beyond recognition. We can no longer ask a small group of men and women to bear such a disproportionate and growing share of the burden. We must expand the standing Army and Marine Corps to provide adequate resources for our long-term national security.

When the Soviet Union collapsed in December 1991, American policymakers downsized the military in hopes of reaping a peace dividend. Our mistake at the end of the Cold War was to consider the vastly diminished threat of nuclear annihilation as signaling what one commentator called ''the end of history.'' Even as the Soviet Union broke apart, new threats, failed States, radical Islamic terrorism and ethnic and religious strife quickly advanced to challenge the United States. The need for the forward deployment of large numbers of American troops in Western Europe may have largely disappeared, but the end of the bipolar international system has led to much greater instability elsewhere.

Before the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the conflicts in Somalia, in Haiti and in Kosovo, already demonstrated some of the challenges that we confront in the post-Cold War era. Throughout the 1990s, even as the U.S. military maintained a significant presence in Europe, South Korea and in the Gulf region, U.S. forces engaged in these large-scale deployments. American troops are still operating in some of these areas and participating in other smaller peacekeeping operations. Despite the high tempo of activity, the strength of the active duty Army and Marine Corps went from 929,000 in 1990 to 655,000 in 2000.

While we are fighting the war on terrorism and the Iraq war and trying to meet our other commitments, the strength of our active duty Army and Marine Corps has increased only slightly in the last 5 years. At the end of 2004, 671,000 Americans were serving on active duty in the Army and Marines and virtually all of the modest increase in troop strength has come as a result of stop-loss and other measures that have kept soldiers in the force beyond the period of their enlistments.

To meet its needs, the military has mobilized hundreds of thousands of Reserve and National Guard personnel to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan, with many called to service multiple times and others activated from the Individual Ready Reserve. Because the gulf between the expectations of those joining the Guard and Reserve and the reality of today's service is so great, morale has suffered and recruitment is down.

President Bush warned the American people that the war on terror would not be easy or quick. He asked the country to make a generational commitment to promote democracy around the world. But as this applies to adequate troop strength, the administration's rhetoric has not been matched with action.

The defense authorization bill increased end strength of 20,000 for the Army and 3,000 for the Marine Corps. It also authorized an additional 10,000 Army and 6,000 Marines to be added in the next 5 years. This expansion is a beginning. The administration and Congress, though, need to take steps to increase the size of our Armed Forces by a far more substantial amount. Recently, a bipartisan group of national security experts recommended increasing the active duty Army and Marine Corps by a combined 25,000 per year for several years. Former NATO Supreme Allied Commander General Wesley Clark has called for an additional 90,000 troops to be added to the Army's ranks.

Our Armed Forces are the best in the world, but even the best can be asked to do too much with too few. As we continue our missions in Iraq and Afghanistan and confront potential challenges in North Korea, Iran and elsewhere, we must acknowledge that our current force level does not meet our security needs.

□ 1430

Beefing up our recruiting efforts will not be easy, but we have little choice.

The magnitude of the threats we face presents too great a risk to the Nation's security given our current strength of active duty military.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, we all hope and pray we never have to make need of these additional troops. But knowing we have a larger Armed Force if the urgency arises should help us all sleep a little better at night, including General Cody and his sons.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the special order time of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

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

There was no objection.

IN SUPPORT OF LIEUTENANT PANTANO

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Saturday was the final day of the Article 32 hearing for a Marine facing murder charges for actions he took against Iraqi insurgents in self-defense.

As I have discussed at length, a year ago in Iraq, Second Lieutenant Ilario Pantano made a split-second battlefield decision to shoot two Iraqi insurgents who refused to follow his orders to stop their movement towards him. Two and a half months later, a sergeant under his command, who never even saw the shooting and who was earlier demoted by Pantano for his lack of leadership abilities, accused him of murder. Now the case is in the hands of a hearing officer who must determine whether Lieutenant Pantano will face a court-martial.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today, as I have many other nights and days, in support of Lieutenant Pantano. I have always maintained the innocence of Lieutenant Pantano, and I believe last week's hearings produced information that will ultimately prove his innocence. During the hearing, it became clear that the sergeant who accused Lieutenant Pantano of these actions was not a credible witness. This sergeant had been demoted for his inaccuracies as a leader. While testifying last week, he was forced to admit that he disobeyed recent orders not to grant interviews regarding this case.

Mr. Speaker, how can these charges move forward when this primary witness is someone who did not actually see the shooting and who cannot stick to one story about the series of events that took place?

I continue to maintain that Lieutenant Pantano is an exceptional Marine. During last week's proceedings, many Marines and sailors testified to his outstanding leadership; and not one person, aside from Sergeant Coburn, doubted the lieutenant's decision-making ability. I certainly hope that last week's proceedings will finally bring out the truth in this case.

General Huck has the ultimate say in whether these charges move forward to a court-martial. General Huck will evaluate the evidence that has been presented in this case. I believe the evidence will justify the immediate dismissal of all charges against Lieutenant Pantano so that he may return to duty and serve the corps and the country he loves so deeply.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to ask my colleagues to research this case and consider supporting House Resolution 167, my resolution to support Lieutenant Pantano as he faces this battle. I encourage all Members to visit his mother's Web site, www.defendthedefenders.org, and learn more about this fine young man. I would be proud to call him my son or my son-in-law.

We cannot send the wrong message to our men and women in uniform. To instill doubt into the minds of our Nation's defenders places their lives and the security of our Nation in jeopardy.

In conclusion, I want to briefly mention another Marine who was facing similar murder charges for actions he took in Iraq that were actually on videotape. Yesterday he was cleared of wrongdoing after the Naval Criminal Investigative Service determined that he acted in self-defense. In a statement, Major General Richard Natonski, the commanding general of the First Marine Division, said the Marine's actions were ''consistent with the established rules of engagement and the law of armed conflict.'' Mr. Speaker, I hope that this Marine's case will serve as a precedent for the hearing officer reviewing Lieutenant Pantano's case, where there is not only no video evidence, there is not even one eyewitness.

I have the utmost faith and confidence in the United States Marine Corps that in the next few days there will once again be a decision made that will correct a wrong and allow Lieutenant Pantano to continue with his career.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an endorsement of House Resolution 167 by the Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs, Incorporated, Los Angeles, California, that asks President Bush, the House, and the Senate to please support H. Res. 167.

I close by asking the good Lord to please give strength to the Pantano family, that the good Lord be with our men and women in uniform, and may God continue to bless America.

ASSOCIATION FOR
LOS ANGELES DEPUTY SHERIFFS, INC.,
Los Angeles, California, April 14, 2005.

Re Endorsement of House Resolution 167.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
President of the United States,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT BUSH: As members of the Board of Directors of an organization that represents approximately 7000 sworn Deputy Sheriffs and District Attorney Investigators, we know firsthand just how difficult it is for those engaged in military or law enforcement service to protect the public as well as maintain their own safety. We also recognize that the public is frequently unaware of the extreme difficulty placed upon those who serve in military or para-military organizations which often requires that irreversible, life and death decisions be made within fractions of a second.

We are certain that you are fully knowledgeable of the incident that gave rise to House Resolution 167 as well as the circumstances that propelled this matter into the public spotlight. We are also familiar with your unflagging record of support and respect for the men and women in uniform that proudly serve this great nation. Certainly, no one is better acquainted with their heroic exploits and the extreme difficulty in which they have been placed than the President of the United States.

Therefore, in keeping with House Resolution 167, we respectfully request that you employ your power as Commander in Chief to cause all charges against Second Lieutenant Ilario Pantano to be dismissed.

If there is anything that you believe that this Association can do to assist in this matter, please let us know.

Sincerely,

ROY BURNS,
President.
STEVE REMIGE,
Vice President.
ARMANDO MACIAS,
Secretary.
FLOYD HAYHURST,
Treasurer.
ROBERT CONNOR,
Director.
GEORGE HOFSTETTER,
Director.
BRIAN ROGGE,
Director.

SMART SECURITY AND MISSION UNACCOMPLISHED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday was the second anniversary of President Bush's now infamous ''Mission Accomplished'' speech in which he declared an end to major combat operations in Iraq under an arrogant banner declaring that the mission had been ''accomplished.'' I do not know the President's definition of the word ''accomplished,'' but I think just about anyone who is asked would say that the mission is very far from being accomplished in Iraq.

Let us consider the facts. To date, nearly 1,600 American soldiers have been killed in this war. Estimates of

Iraqi sources suggest that between 21,000 and 25,000, at least, Iraqi civilians have been killed as well, with hundreds more injured and dying weekly. And nearly 12,000 American troops have suffered severe injuries as a result of the continuing major combat operations. The vast majority of all these casualties occurred and continue to occur after the President delivered his ''Mission Accomplished'' speech.

We need to consider what is happening every single day on the ground in Iraq. The newspapers provide news daily of the latest disaster caused by vicious Iraqi militants. Every day dozens of innocent people are being killed. To my colleagues who claim that the newspapers are biased and do not present the positive news stories out of Iraq, I would say that it is pretty hard to be positive when they are surrounded by violence.

Iraq is currently embroiled in a dangerous cycle of daily car bombings, roadside hijackings, and murders of innocents. Just yesterday, for instance, 45 Iraqis were killed in a bomb attack in the northern city of Irbil. This latest attack brings the death toll in the past week alone to a staggering 190 innocent Iraqi civilians. What an utter shame. How could anyone possibly refer to what is happening in Iraq as ''mission accomplished''? The only thing that is accomplished is the utter collapse of order in Iraqi society.

Mr. Speaker, there has to be a better way than our current dangerous pattern of invading countries and leaving them in chaos. That is why I will reintroduce the SMART Security Resolution for the 21st Century next week. SMART stands for a Sensible Multilateral American Response to Terrorism. And it represents a better, smarter approach to diplomacy than our current failed foreign policies.

The SMART approach provides a more effective national strategy, a strategy focused on nonproliferation, conflict prevention, international diplomacy, and international involvement. Instead of advocating preemptive war, SMART utilizes military action only, and only, after all diplomatic alternatives have been attempted and exhausted and only when it is absolutely necessary.

SMART pursues diplomacy over hostile rhetoric; enhanced weapons inspections over half-cocked, misleading allegations; and support for nonproliferation initiatives here at home rather than the buildup of new nuclear weapons like the bunker-buster bomb. SMART security means creating a robust civil society to ensure that Iraq's economic and physical infrastructure become fully viable.

We need to consider the impact of the war in Iraq on the Iraqi people, the terrible death and destruction that it is causing every single day. And we need to think about the war in terms of how it hinders America's security for our future. Each day this war encourages a new generation of terrorists who are getting stronger and stronger. Their common bond is their hatred of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, of course the security of the American people is of the utmost importance, especially in the post-September 11 world. But as the world's largest democracy, we have a responsibility to interact with other nations in a smarter way, by utilizing all diplomatic possibilities before resorting to force. While it may be frustrating and time consuming to negotiate with other countries over disagreements, cooperating with the international community will make the world more peaceful and Americans far safer than aggressive unilateralism.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my special order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

IMMIGRATION REFORM AND THE REAL ID ACT

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the House and Senate are finally taking the first small step in decades to address the hordes of criminal illegal immigrants who are undermining our Nation's laws, our culture, and our economy.

We have agreed to pass the REAL ID Act as part of emergency supplemental appropriations. REAL ID holds the promise of attacking, finally, the underground fake ID industry in this country. This important legislation asks States to implement tough new standards for issuing driver's licenses, that is, if they want their State driver's licenses to be accepted as legitimate identification for Federal purposes. This bill does not force States to do so, nor does this bill implement a new national ID.

The opponents of immigration reform, those who really want opened borders, are now screaming that this bill is ''too expensive'' and will ''backlog'' the driver's license application process of legal Americans.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported yesterday the concerns of one bureaucrat at the National Conference of State Legislators. He complained that the REAL ID would cost States $500 million to implement. But my home State of Georgia, like many others, already require many of the standards in this bill. So this figure is very questionable, extremely questionable. But for the sake of argument, let us accept that figure as valid.

Would it be worth $500 million to have avoided 9/11? The 19 attackers who killed 3,000 Americans in New York and Washington on that day had 63 driver's licenses between them, which they used, as we all know, to board the airliners they crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. $500 million would be the deal of the century to have avoided the loss of all these Americans.

Beyond our battle against terror, this bill addresses a growing threat to our very culture, to our way of life, and the reasons that people all over the world want to come here to start with. We are a Nation that respects the law, abhors corruption and graft. And as a result, we have built the greatest economy on Earth by having established a firm foundation of public honesty; reliable documents; trustworthy personal, business, and official records. Those standards are in stark contrast to most of the Third World, where graft and cronyism and corruption are the norm. That is why people from those countries want out, because they cannot feed themselves under the economic conditions created by this corruption.

But illegal immigrants begin their journey by bringing that corruption to this country, by intentionally violating our immigration laws and crossing our borders illegally, and with the help of their own corrupt government. Once here, they continue the process by falsifying identification documents, which they then use to corrupt our public records at both the State and Federal level.

□ 1445

In the process, they have created an underground criminal industry based on graft and deceit, with the sole purpose of undermining the public records of this Nation.

To allow this to continue would be far more damaging than just allowing false information. It would allow a culture of corruption to take seed and grow in this country, until the weeds of graft choke the economy and the public integrity of America, as it has the nations that the illegal immigrants flee from, especially south of us.

I urge the Senate, I urge the Senate to join us in passing this essential first effort against illegal immigration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my special order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, today is Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom Hoshoa.

Today is a day of reflection and remembrance, not just for Jews, but for everyone who needs to learn from the world's injustices in order not to repeat them. Today we need not just say, ''never again.'' We must live our lives by this mantra.

A few weeks ago, I attended a solemn ceremony to remember the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. As I reflected upon the horror of the death camps where at least 1.5 million innocent people from many different nations died, 90 percent of whom were Jews, I asked myself the following question: how far have we come as a civil society and a world in the last 60 years? How much have we learned? Have we honored their memory by not allowing these atrocities to be repeated?

Unfortunately, my answer had to be not far enough. In the last 15 years, we have seen genocide raise its ugly head in Bosnia, Rwanda and, most recently, in the Darfur region in Sudan, where at least 180,000 people are dead and over 2 million people displaced from their homes.

On Yom Hoshoa, let us recommit and reaffirm our vigilance against acts of horrific inhumanity. Let us make sure that the lost souls from the Holocaust did not die in vain.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, the annual observance of the mass genocide perpetrated in the mid-twentieth century by Nazi Germany, the most evil tyranny in the annals of human history.

On Sunday, May 8th, we mark the sixtieth anniversary of V–E Day, when the combined might of the Allied Forces finally ended forever the murderous regime of Adolf Hitler and his brutal henchmen and brought the curtain down on the European theater of World War II. Nevertheless, the Nazi dictatorship already had succeeded in deliberately murdering more than six million Jews and countless other people, in particular gypsies, persons with mental or physical disabilities, and those perceived to have a different sexual orientation or set of political beliefs. They achieved this terrible end through a nefarious network of secret police, a perverted legal process, a barbarous system of concentration camps that doubled as human extermination factories—and the tacit and often active participation of many, many others from a wide variety of backgrounds and national origins.

We observe Holocaust Remembrance Day in part to honor the memory of those men, women, and children who perished in this tragedy unparalleled in the course of human events. We observe Holocaust Remembrance Day to pay tribute to the courage and suffering of so many who lost their lives. But we also observe Holocaust Remembrance Day for an all too practical, and unfortunately still necessary, purpose: because we must never forget.

The six decades that have intervened since the Nazi regime was forcibly ended may make the Holocaust seem like a chapter in history from a bygone era. Yet each succeeding generation has a moral obligation to remember the Holocaust and its lessons for humanity: that mankind has an enormous capacity for evil; that, if left unchecked, evil can and will prevail; and that in order to overcome a massive concentration of power in the hands of those who would achieve evil ends, we have a moral obligation to act and to intervene on behalf of those without the capacity to resist such evil. These lessons, we must never forget.

For the unfortunate truth is that each succeeding generation in the decades following the Holocaust has been obliged to grapple with mass murder on a geopolitical scale. From the tyranny of Josef Stalin's Gulag Archipelago; to the Cultural Revolution of Communist China; to the killing fields of Cambodia; to the ''ethnic cleansing'' in Bosnia and Kosovo; to the senseless slaughters in Rwanda, the Sudan, and Darfur; to the tumbling twin towers at Ground Zero; and in countless other corners of the earth, man's capacity to inflict grievous harm on his fellow man continues to rage on, all too often unchecked.

Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleagues, that is why we must never forget. We must never forget the more than 6 million victims, their grievous suffering, and the tremendous loss experienced not only by their loved ones who survived them, but by all of mankind. We must never forget the names associated with that greatest of all human tragedies, names which still to this day all too readily roll off the tongue, drenched in a thousand tears: Auschwitz, Dachau, Treblinka, Babi Yar—the Shoah.

But above all, we must never forget, because we must continue to look forward, as well as behind us. Man must never again allow his fellow man to stand by while the wholesale extermination of entire peoples is attempted under our very noses. We must never forget the maxim offered by Edmund Burke centuries before the Holocaust: that the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, known in Hebrew as Yom Hashoah.

This is the day that not only the Jewish people should mourn the loss of the six million people stolen from this earth, but a day recognized by all.

We must never forget the attempted extermination of the Jewish people but we must also never forget so we can ensure that is never happens again.

We still see these mass slaughters around the world whether it's in Sudan or what we saw in the 1990's in Rwanda.

The world community must take immediate action so the murder of so many Jews never happens again to any of our brothers and sisters around the world.

This day has a bit more of a special meaning to me this year; 2005 marks the 60th anniversary of the end of the concentration camps that stole the lives of six million innocent human beings in ways that are still unfathomable to me.

I had the unique opportunity this year to attend the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the 60th anniversary of the Liberation of the Nazi Death Camps.

It was a very emotional day listening to the speeches made by many of the world's leaders who were in attendance.

Also this was the first time that I know of that the United Nations convened to commemorate the Holocaust, and the first time that the United Nations convened a special session at the request of Israel.

Along with many of my colleagues, I contacted foreign embassies I have close relationships with to urge them to encourage their home governments to write a letter to Secretary General Annan to allow the general assembly to hold the special session.

Over 135 countries responded to make sure that the special session got underway.

My day at the U.N. also brought me to a special breakout session sponsored by B'nai B'rith International with several Holocaust survivors to talk about their experiences and how they survived the death camps.

One of the speakers was my good friend from California, Mr. LANTOS. When we speak about Yom Hashoah in Congress we should remember that we have a survivor among us and should listen and respect his words when he speaks about the current humanitarian crisis like he has done most recently with Sudan.

At the end of the day a special exhibit was held by the Vad Vashem Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority about the Auschwitz death camps.

It's impossible to describe the overwhelming feeling you get when you see the visuals of the condition the victims of the concentration camps were in. It still troubles my heart that one human could do this to another.

We must never forget and never allow this to happen again in the world to any group of people.

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent and friend of mine who has visited hundreds of classrooms and spoken to thousands of students about his life in German concentration camps during the Holocaust. Sam Harris—born Szlamek Rzeznik—has taken his remarkable life story and made it a driving force in his effort to help America's children learn the value of tolerance.

In September 1939, when Sam was 4 years old, he and his siblings were taken from their home and confined in the Deblin Ghetto in Poland. Three years later, they were sent to the concentration camp at Deblin and then at Czestochowa until that camp was liberated by Soviet troops in 1945. Only Sam and 2 of his sisters survived their time in the camps, and Sam is among the youngest remaining survivors of the Holocaust.

Currently, Sam volunteers with the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois, discussing genocide and the Holocaust with elementary, middle and high school students to

ensure that history does not repeat itself. Part of their effort is the creation of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, due to begin construction in the near future.

It is important to note that this will not be simply a museum. It will also focus on education as a means to prevent hatred and bigotry. So it is fitting that Sam Harris and his Holocaust Memorial Foundation colleagues remain focused on the future, not only with their museum but also on using the classroom as a forum to help understand and deter genocide.

Sam said to me that if children were to take one thing from him, it should be this: ''When there is a bully in the play yard, they should step forth and stop the bully.'' That is advice that we all can live by, whether we are in the schoolyard, in the boardroom or in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today, Holocaust Remembrance Day, not only to honor the memory of the 6 million people killed during the Holocaust, but to thank people like Sam Harris and the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois for their tireless work in the promotion of tolerance and understanding.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, ''Take care and watch yourselves closely so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children . . .'' (Deuteronomy 4:9)

On this day of remembrance we confront stark, unmitigated evil, evil that could impose and did impose starvation, torture, unimaginable cruelty, and—for 6 million human beings—death. We also confront the evil that let this happen, the evil of indifference. It is indifference that Elie Weisel describes as the ''epitome of evil.'' ''The opposite of love is not hate,'' he says, ''it is indifference. . . . The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference.''

It was indifference that enabled millions to avert their gaze as the Nazis undertook genocide on a scale never before imagined. Remembrance of the Holocaust affects us deeply as we empathize with the victims and what they endured but also as we recognize: the scourge of indifference, the temptation to indifference, are all too familiar to us today.

Indifference often prevents us from expressing love, achieving justice, or realizing community. And it still operates on a global scale. Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has termed the failure of the United States and other nations to intervene to prevent the genocidal massacres of 1994 in Rwanda as her ''deepest regret'' from her years of public service. Every public servant should see Hotel Rwanda; in fact, I think every citizen should see the film, which drives home painfully the effects of the world's indifference.

And now researchers at the Holocaust Museum in Washington have issued a Genocide Emergency for Darfur in western Sudan, where some 300,000 people have died at the hands of violent men, or from the devastation left in their wake, in the past 2 years. Indeed the Holocaust—and the indifference and inaction that permitted the Holocaust—have been frequently invoked as Congress has struggled to shape our country's response.

''Simply saying 'never again' does not save lives,'' one colleague wrote recently. Our country's diplomatic efforts and the initiatives of the United Nations and the African Union have thus far fallen woefully short. The international community needs to impose far more stringent economic and diplomatic sanctions on Sudan and to muster a much larger peacekeeping force—and our country needs to invest a great deal more in getting this done. In this connection, I commend to colleagues Nicholas Kristof's column in the April 17th edition of the New York Times.

Today is a solemn day of remembrance. But given the persistence of evil and the perils our world faces, it must also be a day of resolve and action. We keep faith with those we remember by vowing ''Never again'' and not stopping at that, but overcoming the indifference and inaction that would allow unmitigated evil—the ultimate atrocity of genocide—to continue.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, known in Hebrew as Yom Hashoah, to memorialize the 6 million Jews murdered by the Nazi regime during the Holocaust.

In 1933, Europe's Jewish population was over nine million. However, by 1945, almost two out of three European Jews had been killed as part of the Final Solution, a policy to murder the Jews. However, the Nazis' cruelty was not just limited to Jews, they also murdered gypsies, the mentally and physically disabled, homosexuals, and those deemed religious dissidents, like Jehovah's Witnesses.

We must remember the lives of those who were subjected to unspeakable atrocities, targeted simply because of their religious beliefs. We must remember those mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, daughters, and sons who perished so brutally in the camps, in the ghettos, and in the gas chambers of Nazi Germany.

This year, Yom Hashoah comes as we mark the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. We must never forget what can happen to civilized people when bigotry and hatred rule.

We all share the responsibility to combat ignorance, intolerance, and prejudice no matter what the form. And 60 years later, it is still entirely unbelievable that individuals contemplated in seriousness the systematic destruction of over 6 million people. On this anniversary, as we honor lives lost, I extend my condolences to those who lost loved ones in the Holocaust. They will always be remembered.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, which memorializes the 6 million Jews murdered by the Nazis during their campaign of genocide in World War II. We mourn the innocent lives lost and vibrant communities destroyed while the world shamefully stood silent, and honor those heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto who faced certain death when they refused to submit to the Nazi's planned extermination of their community.

To this day, Mr. Speaker, many European countries have failed to right the past wrongs of the Holocaust by failing to adequately redress the wrongful confiscation of property by the Nazi and communist regimes. These seizures took place over decades; they were part of the modus operandi of repressive, totalitarian regimes; and they affected millions of people. The passage of time, border changes, and population shifts are only a few of the things that make the wrongful property seizures of the past such difficult problems to address today.

While I recognize that many obstacles stand in the way of righting these past wrongs, I do not believe that these challenges make property restitution or compensation impossible. On the contrary, I believe much more should have been done—and can still be done now—while our elderly Holocaust survivors are still living.

Today I also want to sound the alarm about a disturbing trend that Jews face today: a rising tide of anti-Semitism throughout the world.

I serve as the Ranking Member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), commonly known as the Helsinki Commission. Last year I traveled as part of the U.S. Delegation, with former Secretary of State Colin Powell, to attend a special conference in Berlin addressing anti-Semitism, held under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The OSCE is a 55-nation regional security organization which promotes democracy and human rights in Europe, Central Asia, and North America.

Before traveling to Berlin, I made a point to visit Auschwitz for the first time. I was shocked and stunned to see how efficient the Nazi operation was: they wanted to maximize the number of individuals that could be killed.

Seeing the remains of that factory of intolerance, hate and death, it reaffirmed how we must continually stress the importance of advancing understanding throughout the OSCE region and the entire world. We must tirelessly work to build understanding and respect between different communities to prevent future acts of prejudice and injustice.

At the Berlin Conference, I had the privilege of participating as a member of the U.S. delegation, and I gave the official U.S. statement in the session on tolerance. The meeting ended with the issuance of the Berlin Declaration of Action.

The Berlin Declaration laid out a number of specific steps for states to take to combat the rising tide of anti-Semitism, including: striving to ensure that their legal systems foster a safe environment free from anti-Semitic harassment, violence or discrimination; promoting educational programs; promoting remembrance of the Holocaust, and the importance of respecting all ethnic and religious groups; combating hate crimes, which can be fueled by racist and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet; encouraging and supporting international organizations and NGO's; and encouraging the development of best practices between law enforcement and educational institutions.

As we commemorate Yom Hashoah, let us honor the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust by pledging to fight intolerance, hate crimes, and violence in our community and around the world. We shall never be silent again.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, a day on which we recall the atrocities committed during the Second World War, celebrate the liberation of these horrific concentration camps, and call for continued efforts to fight anti-Semitism around the world.

While 60 years have now passed since the end of World War II, and our Jewish brothers

and sisters from around the world have managed to become a remarkably successful and innovative people despite the horrors they were forced to face, it is imperative that we continue to remember the events of the Holocaust to ensure that future generations remain aware. The crime of genocide, which continues to be committed today as we have seen in Armenia, Rwanda, Sudan, and elsewhere, is one of the most reprehensible acts that can be committed by man. To attempt eradication of an entire population based on a misguided prejudice is absolutely vile, and the United States should do everything in its power to try and prevent such atrocities from happening in the future.

Today, we call to memory the atrocities of the Holocaust, while at the same time honoring those individuals that persevered despite them. The success of such Holocaust survivors as our dear colleague, Congressman TOM LANTOS, serves to remind us that while the crime of genocide can take our lives and our freedom, it cannot and must not break our will and determination.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, marking the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

Today, as those who witnessed the horrific crimes perpetrated during the Holocaust are becoming fewer, great effort must be taken to ensure that both we and generations to come will never forget this, the most monstrous event in the history of the modern world.

This year, we mark this solemn day by reflecting on the liberation of the Jews of Europe and the pursuit of those responsible for committing these heinous offenses. Sixty years ago as allied forces pressed farther into reaches of Nazi-occupied Europe, the names of places such as Auschwitz-Birkenau, Dachau, and Mauthausen had yet to be seared into our collective conscious. As allied soldiers broke down the doors of the camps, they were overwhelmed by the sights of human suffering that confronted them. The scale of that suffering was unimaginable.

The allied powers, faced with the enormous task of bringing to justice the perpetrators of this genocide, together established the International Military Tribunal. The legacy of Nuremberg lives on in the tribunals held for perpetrators of war crimes in Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and the former Yugoslavia among others.

Today we remember those destroyed by the Nazis, but unlike sixty years ago, we cannot stay silent when confronted by such crises as the genocide now occurring in Darfur. We must renew our commitment never to remain indifferent in the face of such assaults on innocent human beings.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn observance of Yom Hashoah, commemorating the commencement of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

Today the Gateway Monument in the Warsaw Ghetto serves as a fixed memorial to the victims who were herded onto railroad cars for deportation to Treblinka, one of many death camps scattered throughout the European countryside. The Gateway Monument has etched upon its stone the names of four hundred Jews who martyred themselves for the cause of saving the lives of their neighbors and their own children, and to defend their religion from annihilation. However, another great monument exists, but in the form of the retelling of the heroic story of the uprising, one generation at a time.

Mordecai Anielewicz, a young man of twenty-three years, led an army of beleaguered men and women against their oppressors, the Nazi war machine. On this day, Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, we celebrate and honor those who offered resistance in a valiant attempt to defy deportation to death camps. Mordecai Anielewicz wrote in his last letter to Yitzhak Cukierman, friend and co-founder of the Jewish Fighting Organization, ''The fact that we are remembered beyond the ghetto walls encourages us in our struggle.''

In our united causes to 'Never Forget', nor to repeat the senseless atrocities of the Holocaust, we must be ready to confront similar genocidal slaughter throughout the world. Mr. Anielewicz's heroism and the courage of the over four hundred resistance fighters of the Warsaw Ghetto resistance have earned more than words as their legacy. Our nation and those of the developed world must offer our own resistance to despot leaders who seek to commit murder on the basis of religion or race.

Mr. Speaker, Mordecai was correct in his assessment of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising's impact outside the ghetto walls. Indeed, the resistance has been remembered beyond the ghetto walls, as it has become a testimonial to the human spirit that will be remembered throughout all humanity, for all time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The Chief U.S. Counsel to the Nuremberg Military tribunal said of the Holocaust: ''The wrongs which we seek to condemn and punish have been so calculated, so malignant, and so devastating, that civilization cannot tolerate their being ignored, because it cannot survive their being repeated.''

Today, Jews around the world take a moment to pay tribute to the heroes that were lost. In Israel, where they refer to the day as Yom Hashoah, the ceremony began yesterday with survivors and their families gathering together for a memorial ceremony at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. During the ceremony, six torches were lit, representing the six million murdered Jews, and wreathes were laid.

Today's ceremony in Israel began with the sounding of a siren for two minutes throughout the entire country. For the duration of the sirens, work was halted, people walking in the streets stopped, cars pulled off to the side of the road and everyone stood at silent attention.

Mr. Speaker, genocide is a horror that has touched many cultures and religions. Just a few weeks ago, I joined several thousand Armenians in Times Square for a commemoration of the 90th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The date marks the beginning of a genocide that took the lives of more than one million Armenians in three years during World War I.

Even Hitler exploited the Armenian Genocide to justify his atrocities against the Jews, asking ''Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?'' just before Germany's invasion of Poland. Today, the Armenians are still fighting for recognition of the genocide from the Turkish government.

But Mr. Speaker, despite our attempts to shed light on the horrors of the Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide, the sad truth is that genocide is not a crime of the past.

Since February 2003, the Sudanese Government has used a combination of Arab ''Janjaweed'' militias, its air force, and organized starvation to kill more than 380,000 Darfurians and displace almost 3 million. Estimates suggest that the Sudanese continue to kill at least 15,000 more Darfurians each month.

The Sudanese government, like the Turkish government, denies any evidence of genocide. Even the United States government seems to be unwilling to label the crisis as ''genocide.''

Mr. Speaker, we as Americans have a moral obligation to stop genocide wherever and whenever it occurs. Americans can never again show the same lack of interest that F.D.R. showed toward the genocide of the Jews during World War II. No world leaders should ever be able to stand and justify their crimes by asking if anyone remembers the annihilation of Darfur?

Today, we commemorate one of the darkest periods in human history in the hopes that it will never be repeated. Future generations—not just Jews, but all people—must learn the history of the Holocaust so that the lives that were taken were not lost in vain.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, known in Hebrew as Yom Hashoad. Although 60 years have passed since the end of World War II, not a day should go by without the world remembering the important lessons we so painfully learned from the Holocaust.

The Day of Remembrance was established by Congress as our nation's annual commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust: 12 million people died in concentration camps throughout Europe, including 6 million Jews. Numbers only tell a small part of the story though. Numbers don't reflect the utter devastation that European Jews faced after the end of the war. Numbers don't describe the personal and very individual tragedy of whole families and communities that were destroyed by the hate of places like Auschwitz, Dachau and Flossenburg. The Day of Remembrance pushes us to think beyond the numbers; it forces us to remember that each of these numbers represents a person—someone's father or mother, son or daughter, niece of nephew, or grandchild—a precious life that was never lived to its fullest.

Each of us—the next generations—must rededicate ourselves to speaking out for religious tolerance, peace and justice. We must keep this sentiment within our hearts and minds each and every day.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, today, communities in the United States, Israel, and around the world will gather to observe Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, known in Hebrew as Yom Hashoah. This solemn day commemorates the beginning of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, and this year it coincides with the 60th anniversary of the end of the War World II. On this day, we remember the six million Jews murdered during World War II.

I join all those here today in mourning the innocent lives and vibrant communities lost, destroyed by Nazis while the most of world silently and shamefully watched. We must combat anti-Semitism and intolerance wherever it exists in the world today.

It is vital that we remember this dark period in history. The Holocaust made clear man's capacity to do evil. We remember this tragic event and firm our resolve that history will not be repeated. As human beings, we have a responsibility to keep the Holocaust at the forefront of our collective historical memory.

I thank all those who have put today's program together to commemorate the Day of Remembrance and I appreciate all those who participated.

Mr. Speaker, the Day of Remembrance reminds us that we as people, we as nations, must take action against hatred and incitement targeted against any group; we saw how failure to take action over 60 years ago turned to mass devastation and murder.

Mr. Speaker, by taking the time to remember Yom Hashoah here in our Nation's Capital, we are keeping our promise that we will never forget the past and will fight to protect our future, a future that we hope is one step closer to the goal of ''never again.''

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of and in mourning for the millions who perished in the Shoah, the Holocaust, the most systematic and brutal persecution of a people ever perpetrated in human history.

We grieve for all human suffering and misery. The death of one is not more significant because of his or her race or their creed. But there were so many ones lost in that time. And not just individuals, whole families, whole villages, an entire way of life in many cases. Poland, Hungary, Ukraine, these countries will never regain the vitality they lost when they lost their Jewish people.

We grieve today not just for the Jewish deaths; Jews were not the only ones to perish in the Holocaust. This atrocity was visited upon Gypsies, homosexuals, the disabled, Catholics, Africans, trade-unionists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Protestant Pastors and anyone who opposed the Reich.

The Holocaust was and is an offense, not only to the victims, their families and their friends, but to humanity. Some demonize the Nazi brutality, calling it inhuman. But I think the fact that the Holocaust was a human event makes it all the more terrible. And it makes our obligation to prevent such a thing from ever happening again even more essential and pressing.

Pastor Niemoller famously reflected on his inaction at the time of the Holocaust:

> First they came for the Communists, but I was not a Communist, so I said nothing. Then they came for the Social Democrats, but I was not a Social Democrat, so I did nothing. Then came the trade unionists, but I was not a trade unionist. And then they came for the Jews, but I was not a Jew, so I did little. Then when they came for me, there was no one left to stand up for me.

On this day of remembrance, let us pledge that this will not be our legacy.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom Hashoah, a day of remembrance for Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes.

Between 1939 and 1945, over 12 million innocent people—including over 6 million Jews—were murdered because of their religion, their race or because of where they were born. Even today, after the passage of 60 years, it is difficult to fully comprehend the intense hatred and intolerance that so consumed this dark period in human history.

On this day of remembrance we cannot think of just those who died, but also of those individuals who embodied the triumph of the human spirit, who bravely acted in the face of overpowering hatred, and of the lessons of their actions. Rather than succumbing to the despair of their situation, the Jews fought against their oppressors in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising in April and May of 1943. In a defiant declaration, the Jews of Terezin proclaimed a theme of liberation each time they sang Verdi's ''Requiem.'' The thread of hope continued despite the hopeless moments. As such, when we remember the Holocaust, we remember not only the needless death of so many, but also the heroic voices which continue to inspire us today.

Sadly, we still struggle as a human race to stamp out the evils of anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia. Several years ago in my hometown of Sacramento, we saw the ability of good to overpower intolerance during an act of arson on three area synagogues. We witnessed the heroics of average citizens who rushed into these burning buildings to save precious books, manuscripts and a Torah which had already survived the Holocaust decades earlier.

While Yom Hashoah is a somber day of remembering those who were killed in the Holocaust, it is also a day that offers hope. Hope that the strength and courage in all of us will overcome injustice and intolerance.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust. This year's anniversary is particularly compelling not only because it marks six decades since the liberation of the Jewish people from history's darkest hour, but also because our world has failed to heed the universal message of the Holocaust. Crimes against humanity anywhere are an affront to all people everywhere.

Indeed, I would be doing a disservice to the Holocaust survivors throughout South Florida if I do not address that most unconscionable crime of genocide. Sixty years ago the world failed to aid the victims of the Nazi regime. We conveniently dodged our duty by claiming unsubstantiated evidence, a lack of effective resources to respond, and the existence of more pressing concerns elsewhere in the world.

Today, we are remembering the Holocaust while again evading taking the necessary steps to end the genocide in the Darfur region of the Sudan. Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed and millions displaced from their homes by a bloodthirsty militia backed by the Sudanese military and government. Yet we insist that our resources are spread too thin, that events elsewhere in the world command our attention, and that deciding upon the strict definition of these crimes should determine whether we respond forcefully or not. Mr. Speaker, shame on us for using the same old excuses.

Elected officials often speak about spreading freedom, establishing democracies, and ensuring minority rights around the world. These are noble endeavors indeed, Mr. Speaker. But what about spreading the saving of human lives? The sacred Jewish text the Talmud reminds us that to save one life is to save the whole world. How many worlds are dying every day in Darfur? I am sure that the Holocaust survivors here in the Capitol Building today can tell us because they witnessed firsthand the cataclysmic annihilation of their families, their neighbors, their friends, and their people. Their memories are still fresh, their thoughts still lucid, and their commitment to educating the world about the Holocaust is more than admirable.

Sixty years ago, without rhyme or reason, an entire nation of people were murdered, wrenched from the Earth by an unholy evil. This malevolence persists today in the form of bigotry and intolerance, torture and genocide. Every instance that we ignore and every crime that we brush off feeds the incipient hatred that compels the concentration camp, the slave labor force, the disdain for human life, and the ease with which it is taken.

Mr. Speaker, we owe it to those whose names have since been lost to refuse to condemn the genocide in Darfur with only our words. We have come too far in 60 years to slide back again. If we have learned anything from the Holocaust it is that it must not be allowed to happen again. Today is Holocaust Commemoration Day, but it is not enough for us to simply remember. We must also never forget.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to honor the millions who lost their lives during the Holocaust as we observe Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day.

Each year, I am confronted with so many emotions as we commemorate this day. It brings great pain to my heart as we remember the victims of one of history's darkest and most murderous eras. To try and grasp the significance of the death toll that resulted from the Holocaust is both a saddening and frustrating exercise. Six million Jews not only lost their lives, but were murdered on the basis of nonsensical, inhumane reasoning—reasoning that dictated action through hate on the basis of religious discrimination. The end result, sadly though, was much worse than what is our conventional idea of religious discrimination. The end result in this tragic situation was genocide.

And though my heart weighs heavily as I reflect on the injustices suffered and the lives lost, there is a part of me that sees an opportunity to celebrate human resilience as we commemorate this somber day. In the face of some of the most intense hatred and inhumanity that this world has ever seen, it gives me great hope to think of the many who seized upon the greatest power that any individual human-being can posses, and in fact, a power that each and everyone of us posses. That power is the power to choose.

And in the face of oppression, persecution and destruction, there were so many who chose to resist, whether it was through physical action, words written and spoken, or in spirit. Some of these people were heroes whose names we celebrate, some were heroes only to those who knew them and some were simply heroes in and of themselves.

To these people we owe a debt of gratitude and respect. Now, more than ever, as the world continues to wrestle with violence spawned by religious and cultural intolerance, we cannot forget or underestimate our own power to choose to act out against this type of hatred and oppression. Let us never forget that silence and inaction provide fertile breeding ground for grave injustices. We all have a moral obligation to choose to act.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day, to honor the memory of the six million Jews who died in the Nazi concentration camps during World War II.

As the dedication in the United States Holocaust Museum's Hall of Remembrance so thoughtfully observes:

. . . guard yourself and guard your soul carefully, lest you forget the things your eyes saw, and lest these things depart your heart all the days of your life, and you shall make them known to your children, and to your children's children.

Sixty years ago, in 1945, World War II ended and Allied soldiers liberated the survivors of the Nazi concentration camps. Through the survivor's stories and other documented evidence, the full extent of the atrocities committed by the Nazi soldiers became known and we learned of the bottomless depths of mankind's capacity for cruelty.

Observing Holocaust Remembrance Day is vitally important. As time passes, our tendency is to disbelieve that people could be so monstrous as to commit such horrific deeds. That is why we have to remain vigilant, to remember what happened so that we can guard against it ever happening again.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to honor the memory of those who were killed in the Holocaust, and the courage of those who survived.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, to honor the memory of the victims who perished in World War II during the Holocaust.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Europe from the evil hands of the murderer Adolf Hitler. Hitler's shadow caused darkness to fall upon the earth.He slew the innocent and pure, men and women and children, with vapors of poison, and he burned them with fire. When the light of freedom shined again, tens of millions were dead, cities and nations were in ruin, and a world stood awestruck at the horrors that had occurred.

Justice Robert Jackson, a justice on the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg in 1945, said:

The wrongs which we seek to condemn and punish have been so calculated, so malignant and so devastating that civilization cannot tolerate their being ignored, because it cannot survive their being repeated.

We in the United States, the birthplace of Thomas Jefferson and Martin Luther King, enjoy a great deal of freedom. We must not take these freedoms for granted. We must not forget that genocide and human rights abuses have occurred and continue to occur around the world. We must not remain silent. We must dedicate ourselves to continuing to educate people around the globe about the horrors of the Holocaust. We must be forever mindful of the danger of such intolerance and ensure that it never happens again.

Let us stand here today and affirm our obligation to civilization that we will never forget.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to lend my voice to the cause of remembrance. Today is Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. This is a day aside on the Jewish calendar to remember the murdered Six Million of the Holocaust and to remind us all what can happen when bigotry, hatred, and indifference are allowed to permeate a society.

It has been 60 years since the end of the Holocaust. We mark this passing of time because while the Holocaust serves as a vivid reminder of the worst mankind has to offer, we must remain vigilant so that all might learn its lessons.

Its horror demands that we fight tyranny.

Its victims show us the dangers of ignorance.

Its lesson is that we must never embrace indifference if we are to advance in peace.

Yom HaShoah is the occasion to pay tribute to the lives lost and a time to rededicate ourselves to work together toward greater understanding so that this unspeakable horror never visits our societies again.

Mr. Speaker, I have been to Jerusalem. I have been to Yad Vashem and the Western Wall. The emotional power of these places moved me to a greater belief in two things that the power of faith is unbreakable and that hard work and patience can achieve the goals of peace. Let us today allow Yom HaShoah to remind us of both faith and peace.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, known in Hebrew as Yom Hashoah. May 5th marks the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, and this year is especially important as the world marks the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.

From 1938—1945, 6 million Jewish people, young and old alike, were systematically murdered as a result of ignorance and hatred. Nazi Germany also targeted gypsies, the handicapped, Political dissidents, and others because they were different.

In Jewish communities around the world, there is a simple saying in regards to the Holocaust, ''Never Forget.'' Let us never forget the atrocities committed against a people based on nothing more than their religious beliefs. Let us never forget the 6 million mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, sisters and brothers, grandfathers and grandmothers who were systematically murdered just 6 decades ago.

I join my colleagues in remembering wonderfully vibrant communities that were senselessly destroyed across Europe. I would also like to pay tribute to the thousands of Holocaust Survivors in the United States and around the world who continue to educate us on the atrocities of the Holocaust.

I implore all of us to take this Remembrance Day one step further and stand up against anti-Semitism, intolerance, ignorance, and discrimination in our nation and around the world today.

Let us never forget.

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, today, Thursday, May 5, 2005, the people of the world memorialize Yom HaShoah—a special day of remembrance honoring the martyrs and heroes of the Holocaust. Holocaust Remembrance Day is a day that has been set aside to remember the victims of the Holocaust and to remind each of us what can happen when bigotry and hatred are not confronted.

Mr. Speaker, I am humbled as I rise today with my colleagues to honor the memories and the lives of the more than 6 million victims of Nazi hatred and aggression during the pogrom known to us as the Holocaust. I am also humbled to stand in this cathedral of freedom and honor the lives of the many heroes who fought so bravely against unimaginable odds to defeat a genocidal madman.

More than 60 years ago, Adolf Hitler and his Nazi regime set out to eradicate European Jewry. So committed were they to the accomplishment of this goal, their so-called ''Final Solution,'' that even in the waning days of World War II, when defeat was imminent, the Germans continued even more urgently rounding up Jews all over Europe and sending them to their deaths.

Mr. Speaker, driven by a radical and uncompromising anti-Semitic ideology, the Nazis redoubled their efforts to reach every last Jew before the war ended. They were in a rush; time was running out. Depleting sorely-needed resources from the war effort, German forces swept across Europe, assembling and annihilating community after community, individual after individual, from their homes, ghettos and hiding places.

Mr. Speaker, during the last year of the war in Europe, German defeat was all but accomplished, and yet their hatred and bigotry survived and thrived. Consequently, the Nazis murdered more than 700,000 Jews in that last full year of the war, including most of the Jews of the last large community in Europe, Hungary. There, in one of the most efficient deportation and murder operations of the Holocaust, the Nazi and Hungarian regimes deported 437,000 Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau in just eight weeks and killed tens of thousands more later that year.

Six decades have passed since Allied troops liberated the labor and death camps, and yet the memory of the horrors perpetrated against the Jewish people is seared into the collective conscious of the world. However, Mr. Speaker, sadly, we cannot undo history, and we cannot reverse the atrocities carried out by a barbarous German regime.

What remains for us is to honor and preserve the memories and lives of both the victims and the survivors of the Holocaust. Out of the great tragedy of the Holocaust emerges a tremendous object lesson for humanity: hatred and bigotry can never be taken for granted or left unchecked. We must never forget.

Mr. Speaker, memory is critical—our own and that of the victims of unprecedented evil and suffering. The Holocaust is a horror we must remember, but not only because of the dead; it is too late for them. Not only because of the survivors; it may even be too late for them. Preserving memory is a solemn responsibility, aimed at saving men and women from apathy toward evil, if not from evil itself. We must never forget.

Mr. Speaker, sixty years ago, much of the world overlooked the deadly plight of an entire people until it was almost too late. We have a sacred obligation—in order to truly keep faith with the principles upon which our great nation was founded—to remain vigilant, to remember the horrors of the past, to learn from them, and to protect against them for all eternity. We must never forget.

Mr. Speaker, Nobel laureate and Holocaust survivor, Elie Wiesel, perhaps summed it up best when he said, ''to remain silent and indifferent is the greatest sin of all.'' As Americans, we must heed his call and embrace his challenge. We must never forget.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Holocaust Remembrance Day. On this Yom Ha'Shoah, we honor those whose lives were lost in the atrocities of one of the darkest periods in human history.

We pay tribute to all who lost their lives during World War II and reflect on the loss of more than six million Jewish lives. We honor

the heroes who perished in the one of the most valiant battles for liberty and justice the world has ever known.

The most fitting tribute that we can offer to the countless heroes who suffered under the Nazi regime is to work to ensure that they did not suffer in vain. As we reflect on the unfathomable loss suffered during the Holocaust it is also important that we vow to build a more peaceful world. Today, more than fifty years later, we must teach our children about the horrific events that transformed the world so that the mistakes of the past are never repeated. It is important that we fight ignorance on a daily basis through a dedication to learning about the origins and realities of the Holocaust.

With examples of malice and terror everpresent in today's society, we are reminded of the strength and courage of the Jewish people. Their dedication to begin anew in the aftermath of the Holocaust serves as an example of steadfast determination. Through their example, we learn how the human spirit can triumph over the hollowness of vengeance and anger. On this day we celebrate that spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join the commemoration of Yom Ha'Shoah and I hope that all Americans will join me.

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, communities will gather in the United States, Israel, and around the world today to observe Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, known in Hebrew as Yom Hashoah. This solemn day commemorates the anniversary of the beginning of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. This year, the day comes as the world marks the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.

In order to prevent the unspeakable horrors of the Holocaust from ever being repeated, we all have a responsibility to educate younger generations. We must take time to remember the atrocities suffered by countless Jews during' the World War II era. The martyrs gave their lives for their beliefs, protected their own people, and stood up for their most sacred principles. The heroes did everything in their power to stop the spread of evil across the globe. It is the stories of these martyrs and heroes that need to be repeated, so that young people can better understand this dark period in history.

One resource to help us teach the next generation is the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. I recommend a trip to this landmark whenever someone from my district is visiting Washington, D.C. There is so much worth to what this museum has documented for the world to see. The documents, photographs, and films offer an appropriate way of remembering such a serious subject matter.

Despite the lessons of the Holocaust, discrimination, persecution, and even genocide still persist around the world. Today, it is imperative to renew our commitment to fighting injustice in all its forms. In doing so, we recognize the sacrifices and suffering of the Holocaust. Let us all work to educate the next generation, so that they never forget the martyrs and heroes who fought to protect their Jewish traditions, and never gave up in the face of evil.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today is Yom Ha-Shoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, and I rise to honor the memory of the 6 million Jewish souls extinguished in the greatest act of organized depravity in history.

There have been many barbaric regimes and there have been many other vicious campaigns of annihilation undertaken both before and after the Holocaust. Some even produced more victims. The Shoah, however, is unique and is thus deserving of special attention, not because the victims were Jews—many millions of innocent non-Jews were murdered by the Nazis—but because the Holocaust revealed a painful and abiding truth about humanity that remains with us. In squalor of the camps, in the ashes of the crematoria, and in the fires of the ovens, it was demonstrated that the norms of civilization, the boundaries of morality, and the protections of society and government are no more protection than a fragile tissue of behavior, one torn aside with shocking ease to reveal the latent bestiality in human beings.

The imperative of Holocaust for us today, as legislators and participants in American government is the same for all Americans and, in truth, all humanity. That imperative is to remember. There are many reasons why: To remember all those people murdered for the crime of their birth and rededicate ourselves to preventing such a crime from being repeated. To remember that bigotry and ignorance can metastasize in politics with horrific consequences. To remember that whole communities can be wiped out with the power of the modern state and to recommit ourselves to the protection of the weak and powerless. To remember all those men and women and children who were cremated and dumped into mass graves, not just to end their lives, but to deny their very existence.

But most of all we must remember because it can happen again.

It is happening again. It is happening in Sudan. Right now. Today. Some 400,000 Sudanese have already been killed and, if today is a typical day, 500 more will join them as the world wrings its hands and wonders what to do. This lassitude, this fecklessness, this disgraceful toleration of genocide is nothing new either. We saw it when there was slaughter in Southeast Europe. And we saw it as a genocide was perpetrated with machetes in Rwanda. And even before the Holocaust, it happened to the Armenians and today we debate whether it ever happened at all.

We must remember the Holocaust because genocide is real. It is not history, it is reality.

Today, genocide is a reality in Sudan. Tomorrow, when Iran acquires nuclear weapons, will we see the mullahs attempt to finish Hitler's barbaric work? Impossible? Incomprehensible? Sophisticated people will ask, ''Who would harness the power of a modern state to the absurd goal of killing Jews? Who would risk their state over it?''

We must remember. A world that doesn't keep Auschwitz fixed in its mind will see it rebuilt. We must remember.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day, and to remember the 6 million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust.

Sixty years ago, as American, British, and Soviet soldiers moved across Europe in a series of offensives on Germany, they encountered and liberated concentration camp prisoners. Advancing from the west, U.S. divisions freed the major concentration camps of Dora-Mittelbau, Buchenwald, Flossenbuirg, and Dachau in Germany, and Mauthausen in Austria.

In northern Germany, British forces liberated Bergen-Belsen and Neuengamme.

In the east, Soviet divisions liberated Auschwitz in Poland in January 1945. Just a few weeks before the German surrender in early May 1945, they liberated the Stutthof, Sachsenhausen, and Ravensbrück concentration camps inside Germany.

In liberating the Nazi camps, the Anglo-American and Soviet soldiers exposed to the world the horror of Nazi atrocities.

Today, we must rededicate ourselves to fighting intolerance, racism and apathy so that future generations do not experience the suffering, terror and ultimate death endured by the victims of the Holocaust.

Remembrance Day serves as a reminder that we must never forget the appalling tragedy of the Holocaust, and the six million Jews who lost their lives.

Unfortunately, the struggle against anti-Semitism continues today, as recent reports indicate an increase in violence against the Jewish community around the world. Last year alone there were reports of anti-Semitic desecration and vandalism of about 40 schools, 140 statues and cemeteries, 60 synagogues and 60 businesses around the world. The number of anti-Semitic incidents in the United States also rose by 17 percent in 2004.

Sixty years after the end of the Holocaust, it is important that we strengthen our fight against anti-Semitism and religious intolerance.

It has been said that those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. Yom Hashoah reminds each of us where racism, bigotry and religious intolerance can lead, so that something as horrific as the Holocaust is never repeated.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bear witness to the millions who perished in the Holocaust.

From 1933 to 1945, a dark cloud descended on Europe and death rolled like thunder across the Continent. Six million Jews died unspeakable deaths at the hands of the Nazis. Thousands of homosexuals, political dissidents, blacks and gypsies were corralled into concentration camps, tortured, and killed. Righteous Germans gave their lives to protect their neighbors, and millions of civilians succumbed as bombs fell like rain during air raids.

Mr. Speaker, we hear the screech of sirens piercing the night, and we say ''Never Again.''

We see shattered glass littering the streets and we say ''Never Again.''

We feel bodies pressed against each other in cattle cars—no room to move, no air to breathe—and we say ''Never Again.''

We hear the hiss of gas pouring from shower spigots and see fingernails scratching at concrete walls, and we say ''Never Again.''

We remember the curl of smoke reaching toward a white winter sky and ashes drifting down amidst snowflakes. Never Again.

Mr. Speaker, in the 60 years since the liberation of Auschwitz, Holocaust survivors across the world have borne witness to the atrocities of the Shoah. They have taught us about the dangers of prejudice and ignorance.

They have shown us by their shining example the power of strength, education and activism. I rise today to thank these survivors for all they have taught us, and to express my sympathy for the loved ones they lost long ago.

But, Mr. Speaker, I also rise today because, somewhere in Darfur, Sudan the electricity has gone out in a small town, signaling that an attack is imminent. Soon, a village will be burned to the ground with only scorched earth to testify to the lives once lived there. When the sun sets on this day, 500 more innocent Sudanese will have died at the hands of Janjaweed killers, bringing the death toll to over 400,000.

Meanwhile, the rainy season is fast approaching in Sudan. In the coming weeks, it will become even harder for aid workers to reach those most desperately in need. Three million Sudanese have already been displaced, and children are dying in refugee camps from illness and malnutrition.

Mr. Speaker, innocent people are being killed because of their ethnicity, and I ask, ''Never again?''

Children are starving in relocation camps, and I ask, ''Never again?''

Homes are being burned, women raped, and men mutilated. Is this what we call Never Again?

Voices rise from the ashes at Auschwitz, the killing fields in Cambodia and the hills of Rwanda, begging us to intervene. It is time we answer their cries, not with words, but with action. It is time to pass the Darfur Genocide Accountability Act, H.R. 1424. We must increase our aid to refugee camps, halt the spread of disease, and provide food where there is famine.

Towards the end of her life, Anne Frank wrote, ''I feel the suffering of millions. And yet, when I look up at the sky, I somehow feel that everything will change for the better, that this cruelty too shall end, that peace and tranquility will return once more.''

Mr. Speaker, today, on this Day of Remembrance, let us make Anne Frank's vision our own, and ensure that this cruelty too will end.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today is Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, known in Hebrew as Yom Hashoah.

This is an appropriate date for this purpose because it is the anniversary of the beginning of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. But in reality, Americans and all other civilized people should consider every day a Holocaust Remembrance Day because forgetting the evils of the past can too easily be the prelude to their recurrence.

And never was this truer than this year, as we mark the 60th anniversary of the final days of the Second World War when Allied soldiers moving across Europe encountered and liberated concentration camp prisoners.

Advancing from the west, U.S. divisions freed the prisoners in the Dora-Mittelbau, Buchenwald, Flossenbürg, and Dachau concentration camps in Germany and the Mauthausen camp in Austria. In northern Germany, British forces liberated Bergen-Belsen and Neuengamme. And Soviet troops, after liberating Auschwitz in Poland in January 1945, in May, 1945 liberated the Stutthof, Sachsenhausen, and Ravensbrück concentration camps inside Germany.

We now understand that many people in Allied countries had known, in greater or lesser detail, about what had occurred in the camps. But it was these Allied soldiers who fully exposed the full horror of Nazi atrocities—and the combat-hardened soldiers were unprepared for what they found.

There were stacks of dead bodies, and barracks filled with dead and dying prisoners, while the stench of death was everywhere. And the camps still housed thousands of emaciated and diseased prisoners who resembled skeletons because of forced labor and lack of food. Many were so weak that they could hardly move. Disease remained an ever present danger and the liberators had to burn down many of the camps to prevent the spread of epidemics.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower made a deliberate visit to the Ohrdruf camp in order to witness personally the evidence of atrocities that ''beggar description.'' Publicly expressing shock and revulsion, he urged others to see the camps first-hand, lest ''the stories of Nazi brutality'' be forgotten or dismissed as merely ''propaganda.''

In the years that have followed, our memories of these atrocities have sometimes dimmed. But they have been refreshed by new histories or exhibits such as those in the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum here in Washington, while new barbarities in other parts of the world have reawakened some of the horror that was felt by Eisenhower and the other liberators of Europe.

And the sights and sounds of the liberated camps, so fresh in 1945, helped shape the laws and institutions that arose from the ashes of war.

Military tribunals prosecuted captured Nazi officials under a variety of charges, many of which paralleled what were later defined as ''crimes against humanity.'' The best-known of these prosecutions, of course, were those in Nuremberg, Germany, between November 1945 and August 1946 under the auspices of the International Military Tribunal (IMT). Prosecutors and judges from the 4 occupying powers tried some of the leading officials of the Nazi regime on four counts, including a newly defined count of ''crimes against humanity,'' in which significant evidence relating to the Nazi effort to murder the European Jews was introduced. Several prominent Nazis were sentenced to death, others received prison sentences, and a few were acquitted.

The Nuremberg trials, and others that followed, have had a major impact on international law over the last 60 years. The International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and the recently created International Criminal Court are all part of the legacy of Nuremberg and of ongoing efforts of the world community to prevent and punish the crime of genocide.

Today, on this Day of Remembrance, we should all look back to the horrors of the Holocaust. But we must also look at the world around us and ahead to what is to come.

If there had been any doubt, the 2001 terror attacks on New York and Washington, like the killing fields in Cambodia and so many other terrible events, made it clear that we have not reached the end of history—or the end of violence driven by fanaticism. As we struggle to respond to the challenges of our time, we must remember the need for eternal vigilance against those who are prepared to sacrifice others in the name of what they perceive as some transcendent cause.

Our fate, and the fate of humanity, depends on our remembering and our understanding.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, that 6 million innocent souls should not die in vain is the noble purpose of Yom Hashoah, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day. This is a day to remember the horror and solemnly swear that we will never let it happen again. This is a day to celebrate the resistance of the heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. We must remember the horror and we must remember to resist. A civilized nation with the most deadly war machine in history, descended to a level below any known beasts. A clear lesson to our civilization is still relevant: Decent citizens should never stand by passively and allow such atrocities to take place. And vigilant citizens should actively resist any erosion of their rights by a powerful few. Unfortunately, Rwanda and Darfur are present day examples of our failure to take the profound lesson of Nazi tyranny seriously. At the same time, submission to the U.S. government actions which arrest large groupings such as the Pakistanis without due process; and acquiescence to an administration which launches a massive and expensive war based on lies; these positions demonstrate a deep-seated failure to understand the need to resist immoral and dangerous government acts.

There is a need for our generation to make greater sacrifices and take greater risks if we truly want to honor the six million souls annihilated by the Nazi monsters.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. I join the Jewish people in the State of Israel and across the globe in remembering the 6 million Jews that were brutally murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust.

Today is a time for all of humanity to reflect upon that most horrid period of history. The Holocaust demonstrated the mass atrocities that a supposedly civilized society could tolerate. We must keep in mind, that the Nazi genocide against the Jews was not the action of a lone individual. It was a carefully thought out plan which sought the support of an entire nation. The Holocaust reflects the worst of international relations highlighting a time global politics was plagued by inaction and indifference. The complacency of the United States of America to the cries of those being slaughtered in Nazi death camps will forever tarnish our nation's history. The willingness of the Roosevelt administration to turn back 937 Jewish refugees on the St. Louis to their subsequent deaths in Europe will also not be forgotten.

I am privileged to represent a diverse portion of Brooklyn. In my district there is a large but dwindling population of Holocaust survivors. Many of these survivors rebuilt their lives with nothing more than the shirt on their back. Today, based on the strong foundations of those Holocaust survivors, the beautiful Jewish communities in Brooklyn of Williamsburg, Midwood and Canarsie were built. These communities represent the best of Jewish life and have been instrumental in resurrecting religious life in the aftermath of the Holocaust,

by creating synagogues, yeshivas, and other religious institutions.

When I see and hear tragic stories from these heroic individuals it provides living testimony to an event that is hard for many today to phantom. Educating people especially the young, about the events that transpired in Europe over 50 years ago is critical to halting the recent spread of anti-Semitism around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of organizations in my district that have taken extraordinary steps in servicing and caring for the Holocaust survivor population: The Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty; The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg; The Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush; The Jewish Community Council of Canarsie; The Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany; Peasch Tikvah and all the Bikkur Cholim organizations. Their selfless work for Holocaust survivors continues to serve as an inspiration to me and I am honored to recognize their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues here today in remembering the Holocaust. Because there are still Holocaust non-believers today it is imperative that we never forget and continue to learn from this terrible chapter in history.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I join my friends and colleagues around the world in commemorating the horrors inflicted during the Holocaust.

Today, we bear witness to the millions of Jews and countless other innocent people who were brutally murdered in Nazi concentration camps.

We bear witness to the horrors of genocide that shocked the world, and ask ourselves if we have truly upheld the promise of ''never again,'' when we hear the echoes of the Holocaust in the rising threat of anti-Semitism today.

We bear witness to the millions of people who were persecuted and enslaved for their political or religious beliefs, or their mental handicaps in the name of social cleansing.

But we also remember amazing acts of courage and kindness, when those with everything to lose risked their lives and freedom to help those most in need, and the bravery of those who would not go willingly to a certain death.

There is a reason why we call this day not an anniversary, but a remembrance. Every day, but especially today, we must remember not only the horrible acts committed by the Nazis but also the actions, and the lack of action, that led to those horrors.

In remembering, we honor those who suffered—but our memories must also serve as a constant reminder of the vigilance required from each of us to prevent it from happening again, or to take action if we see it happening.

Never again should the innocent be left to languish. For those who perished, for those who survived, for those who fought and for those who liberated, we must not falter and we must not fail. We must learn from history so that we are not doomed to repeat it.

We must bear witness.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker I rise to join people around the world who are commemorating Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom HaShoah, and mourning the six million people who were murdered simply because they happened to be Jewish. It is important that we take time each year to remind ourselves of the devastating horror of a world in which insanity ruled and it was possible for the Nazis to try to eradicate an entire people from the face of the Earth.

The horror of the Holocaust comes not merely from the fact that massive numbers of people were murdered—in truth the total civilian body count in World War II was enormous, including roughly 20 million Russians and 10 million Chinese. There have been other conflicts in which vast numbers of civilians have died. The true horror of the Holocaust is that a modern nation used organized, efficient, systematic, scientific methods to try to wipe out a minority population. What compounds the horror is that the Nazis brought their peculiar brand of death with them as they swept through Europe and rounded up Jews in occupied countries. We must not forget that the world watched silently and allowed the Holocaust to happen.

The Nazis could never have been as effective at targeting Jews if it were not for the collaboration of local populations. Tens of thousands of people assisted the Nazis in identifying Jews and herding them to the concentration camps and gas chambers. The Nazis succeeded in large part because hatred of Jews was already well entrenched throughout the countries they conquered.

There were always people of good heart who were willing to risk their lives to save Jews. Their bravery and selflessness must also be remembered on this Holocaust Remembrance Day. Jews were hidden in basements and attics. Jewish children were taken into friendly homes or transported to safety elsewhere. Diplomats issued visas, sometimes in violation of their country's policies. Most famous among them is Raoul Wallenberg who saved 100,000 Hungarian Jews. Few nations protected their Jewish populations as effectively as Denmark. The Danes saved virtually all of their Jewish population first by refusing to join the Nazis in singling out the Jewish minority and later by uniting to smuggle them to safety in Sweden.

One of the principal reasons we remember the Holocaust is to ensure that it never happens again. Anti-Semitism is an old hatred, and every generation seems to have a new version. Television and the internet provide new avenues for spreading hatred. Recently, Middle Eastern citizens' nations such as Egypt have been able to watch ''Horsemen Without A Horse,'' a television serialization of the vicious czarist hoax Protocols of the Elders of Zion.

Attacks on Jews and Jewish targets around the world are rising. The U.S. Department of State recently released a report on anti-Semitism around the world that found: ''Beginning in 2000, verbal attacks directed against Jews increased while incidents of vandalism (e.g. graffiti, fire bombings of Jewish schools, desecration of synagogues and cemeteries) surged. Physical assaults including beatings, stabbings and other violence against Jews in Europe increased markedly, in a number of cases resulting in serious injury and even death . . . Holocaust denial and Holocaust minimization efforts find increasingly overt acceptance as sanctioned historical discourse in a number of Middle Eastern countries.''

Mr. Speaker, the Holocaust could not have occurred without the complicity of governments and individuals who tolerated stark hatred of Jews. I am hopeful that by reminding ourselves of the horrors of that time, we will remain vigilant about preventing a recurrence of the widespread anti-Semitism that helped the Nazis rise to power.

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Martyr and Heroes Remembrance Day. I join the people of Israel and those around the world to memorialize the 6 million Jews who were murdered by the Nazis during World War II. The world is still feeling the Holocaust's effects.

In 1933, there were over 9 million European Jews. By 1945, nearly two of every three had been killed as part of the Nazis' Final Solution. European cities have never recovered the diversity and way of life they had prior to the war. The Jewish people killed were teachers, lawyers, doctors, musicians, parents, and children, and were killed only because they were Jewish and targeted for no other reason.

We must also remember the others who were murdered. Gypsies, the handicapped, and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons. Millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, and political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny for no specific reason except they were different than their captors.

As time moves forward, there are few Holocaust survivors still with us and it is important for them to share their stories and educate people about their experiences. Nearly 60 years have passed since the Holocaust but anti-Semitism still exists. However, I believe passing on the lessons learned from this horrible time from generation to generation will someday destroy the hateful attitudes and ignorance that resulted in the evil of the Holocaust.

The Holocaust was not an accident. It was a planned attempted extermination. Individuals, organizations and governments made choices that not only legalized discrimination but also allowed prejudice, hatred, and ultimately, mass murder to occur. The human race must constantly be reminded of the Holocaust and how the world stood idly by for too long. We must remember these painful events in order to prevent another Holocaust from ever occurring again.

We will never forget.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER FROM CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Resources, and the Committee on Veterans Affairs:

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 5, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, The Capitol Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER HASTERT: I have been informed that in accordance with a decision made by the Steering Committee to place me on the Committee on Ways and Means, I must resign my position on the Committees on Agriculture, Resources, and Veterans Affairs.

Please accept this as a formal letter of resignation from the Committees on Agriculture, Resources, and Veterans Affairs.

Best Regards,

DEVIN NUNES,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 264) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 264

Resolved, That the following Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Ways and Means: Mr. Nunes.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE CLINICAL RESEARCH ACT OF 2005

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to join with my colleague today, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DOYLE), to introduce the Clinical Research Act of 2005. This bill might be better referred to as the ''Curing Humans Rather Than Rats Act of 2005.''

This bill will address many of the problems confronting academic health centers as they attempt to leverage enormous biomedical research gains made in the past century and, in particular, in the last decade, by the vast investment of the U.S. taxpayers in the National Institutes of Health.

In 1994, when I was first elected, the NIH budget was just $10 billion, but today, they get $29 billion. This is a significant expansion of biomedical research funding. It is resulting in significant breakthroughs in a host of areas to include human genomics, biomedical engineering, molecular biology, and immunology. These have provided an unprecedented supply of information for improving human health.

Research often does not produce results overnight, but as stewards of the taxpayer dollars, we have every right to expect that the fruits of that research will result in better treatments for patients. Reaping the benefits of this bench research requires a Federal commitment to clinical research, including a commitment to ensuring that the infrastructure is capable of translating, in a systematic and rational way, the fruits of basic science research into improved patient care.

Unfortunately, while we have seen this dramatic increase in NIH funding, the Federal commitment to clinical research has not kept pace with rising costs.

Just what is clinical research? A great example has been the great breakthroughs in the treatment of AIDS in recent years. These new compounds are often developed in a laboratory, tested on laboratory animals, but then, at some point, academic research centers have to start giving these products, these compounds to humans. They interface with the lab and the patients. They bring these new interventions from the bench to the doctors and clinics all over this country.

What has happened to the clinical researchers and why? From 1970 to today, the percentage of clinical researchers and NIH study committees has dropped dramatically. These NIH study groups are the committees that score research proposals and make recommendations on which proposals will be funded. The costs of clinical research have increased dramatically as, obviously, we are working with humans. To many researchers, working with rats and tissues is just much easier. With rats, they show up to work every day, they follow the protocols and, if they die, they will not sue you. You just buy some more rats.

Also, academic health centers, under increased pressure to costs and the need to generate income, are putting increased pressure on the clinical researchers to spend more of their time seeing billable patients and less of their time on their clinical research projects. All of this hinders clinical research and makes it less likely that the cures will move from the lab to the bedside. This is a growing frustration, not just for the clinical researchers that work in this field, but for the patient advocacy groups.

I hear repeatedly from people who advocate for those suffering from kidney disease, heart disease, Parkinson's Disease that we are not moving the scientific information quickly enough into patient care. We have been too slow in getting improved patient therapies and interventions from the enormous investment we have made in basic research. It is important that this Congress step in now and address this challenge.

I believe we can and should do a better job in moving bench research to the bedside. That is what this bill is aimed at doing.

In addition to concerns about how NIH dollars are allocated, we must recognize the significant financial burdens that academic health centers are facing today associated with rising costs, inadequate funding, mounting regulatory burdens, fragmented infrastructure, incompatible databases, and a shortage of both qualified investigators and willing study participants.

Let me add that some of my colleagues have suggested that NIH should focus on basic research and that private industry will focus on clinical applications. Those suggesting this lack a full understanding of the issues at hand. Industry is much less likely to dedicate tens of millions of dollars to research clinical applications to address the needs of millions of Americans who suffer from one of the hosts of small and less profitable to treat diseases. Industry does not, nor will it, spend tens of millions of dollars on nonpatentable therapies and interventions. If you cannot patent it and you will not make a profit, industry just will not fund it.

Of note, however, is that the NIH will and does devote significant taxpayer funding in partnerships with industry to develop patentable compounds and interventions. Absent the resources provided in this bill, patients will continue to suffer, I believe needlessly, from diseases for which we could and should develop definitive treatments.

The bill that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DOYLE) and I are introducing today, and that Senator SANTORUM is preparing to introduce in the Senate, will provide our Nation's academic health centers with the crucial resources they need and the opportunity to meet the public's expectation.

If we are going to reap the full benefit of the enormous investment of taxpayer dollars in biomedical research, it is important that we move this legislation forward. I would say to my colleagues, if you think that we have cured enough rats and believe it is time that we look to cure a few more humans, join me and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DOYLE) in the bipartisan Clinical Research Act of 2005.

HONORING CINCO DE MAYO

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Cinco de Mayo. I rise to recognize and remember the importance of this day and salute the millions of Mexicans and Americans of Mexican descent that will celebrate throughout the Americas this day, this important day.

While the War Between the States was raging in the 1860s, at the same time, on May 5 in 1862 an undersized, inadequately armed band of Mexicans determined to defend their land, fought a lopsided contest against their oppressors, those oppressors who were invading their homes.

Many people assume that Cinco de Mayo is Mexico's Independence Day from Spain, but that is not correct. Mexico's actual Independence Day is September 16, 1821. Some 40 years after Mexico achieved independence from Spain, their country was once again threatened, this time by the French. And that year, Napoleon III sent a massive, mighty military force to Mexico to unseat President Benito Juarez.

The French plan was to overthrow Juarez and take over the country. However, their overconfidence brought about their proudful downfall. They even brought along a Hapsburg prince, Maximilian, to be the new king over the Mexican empire. They were sorely mistaken in their ideal.

Napoleon's French army had not been defeated in 50 years and did not expect to lose this battle with these people. This distinguished, well-trained Army marched in with the finest equipment and the arrogance to go along with it. The French were not afraid of anything, but they should have been. Little did they know that the Mexicans would give them a fight to remember.

On May 5, 1862, the French Army left the Port of Vera Cruz to attack Mexico City. The French assumed that if they could take down the capitol, all of Mexico and their people would surrender.

The Mexicans were under the command of a Texas-born general, General Ignacio Seguin Zaragosa, and they waited and waited for the French, determined, diligent, and dedicated to defending this land. As the French Army headed to Mexico City, they were halted on the way. On May 5, 1862, while the cannons roared and rifle shots rang out, the French attacked 2 Mexican forts. Before the day was over, more than 1,000 French soldiers were dead. Against all odds, this hastily-assembled Mexican Army had routed the French imperialism in the city of Puebla, despite being outnumbered 2 to 1. The French left Mexico, and they have never returned.

So Cinco de Mayo is a day of celebration in Mexico as well as the United States. In my home State of Texas, where there are over 6 million Americans of Mexican descent, there are numerous celebrations taking place all over the State and in towns on this date. Cinco de Mayo is a wonderful opportunity to salute the contributions being made by all Hispanics in the Lone Star State and all of America. In my district, the second district of Texas, we have over 80,000 Hispanic members of the community. I feel fortunate to represent and live in a community that benefits from the dynamic presence of this richly proud culture.

So, Mr. Speaker, I rise to join all Americans and all Mexicans in recognition of this important day in history. The Mexicans who fought and died on a battlefield near Puebla 143 years ago represent the ideal and spirit of all humans, no matter what their race or their culture, to be free and be a free people.

Their determination embodied a spirit of freedom and patriotism. Cinco de Mayo is a chance for everyone to remember how essential our freedom is, how difficult it is to obtain, and how vigilant we must remain to defend it, no matter the cost.

□ 1500

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

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

SUPPORT FOR THE NOMINATION OF JANICE ROGERS BROWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the nomination to the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals of Janice Rogers Brown. Janice Rogers Brown is a member of the California Supreme Court, a former member of perhaps our most distinguished district court of appeals that meets in Sacramento, a former distinguished top legal advisor to then Governor Pete Wilson, formerly a distinguished deputy attorney general in the office of the California attorney general's office, one who has come from humble beginnings.

An Alabama sharecropper's daughter who attended segregated schools while she was growing up, graduated from UCLA, has practiced law in the private sector, but has spent most of her time in the public sector, either as the attorney representing the State, as a legal advisor to the Governor of the State, or as one who has served well as a member of the judicial branch in the State of California.

Her nomination is one of those that has been held up in the other body. Hers is one that has been suggested as the price of the President receiving consideration of his other nominations, that is, the suggestion is made that hers is one of the nominations that should be withdrawn because she is, ''out of the mainstream.''

Well, Mr. Speaker, in the short time I have available, I would like to speak to that point. In the State of California, we have a requirement that when one is nominated by the Governor of the State to either the appellate court or the California Supreme Court, they must undergo a rigorous review, which is concluded by a confirmation hearing and vote by a confirmation panel made up of three members: the chief justice of the California Supreme Court; the attorney general of the State of California; and in the specific instance of someone being nominated to the appellate bench, the chief presiding officer of that appellate bench. And for one who is being nominated to the California Supreme Court, that third person would be the seniormost serving presiding officer of any of the appellate benches in the State of California.

On two occasions I had the opportunity, as the attorney general of California, to be a member of that panel and had the opportunity to review her consideration, her nomination. And in both of those nomination processes, she received a unanimous vote of the 3-member panel.

When we considered her past legal work, when we considered her past judicial work, when we considered her qualifications, her education, her character, her philosophy, that is, whether or not she was committed to doing the job that judges are supposed to do, that is, interpreting the law as opposed to making the law, being constrained by the Constitution of the United States, by the Constitution of the State of California and by the statutes of the State of California, and where they apply, the statutes of the United States.

In that instance, she received a 100 percent vote from us in both cases. It is interesting that in the State of California, once one receives such an appointment, one has to go before the people of the State of California in a vote. And in that vote, when she was considered, after she had rendered opinions, after she had had her opinions published, when she was considered by the people of the State of California, she received, I believe it is, more than a 75 percent vote of the people.

Some say, well, that happens all of the time. Well, in my memory, we have had at least three members of the California Supreme Court basically voted down by the people. So there is a real contest; there is a real review by the people of the State of California.

Approximately 75 percent of the people of the State of California, when given the chance, upheld her continued activity on the court, that is, the Supreme Court of California. Now she has been nominated to serve the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals by the President.

To this day, there has been reluctance, if not refusal, on the part of the other body to have her considered before the whole body. There has been the suggestion that rather than being submitted to the entire body and a vote up or down where a majority would prevail, she is being subjected to a 60-vote rule, a 60-percent rule. One searches in vain in the Constitution to find any reference to that.

I would suggest, as a matter of fact, it is questionable whether the Constitution would allow that kind of constraint on the prerogative of the President, as to whether or not advice and consent means that.

But be that as it may, it is interesting that the two representatives from the State of California who will have a vote in that body have chosen not to support her. And while they have been elected and reelected by the people of the State of California, that very same electorate has voiced their opinion in an official vote by giving her a mandate of 75 percent. That hardly

suggests that she is out of the mainstream, unless one suggests that California is out of the mainstream.

She has been criticized for upholding Proposition 209, a proposition that was put to the vote of the people of the State of California to determine whether or not we in California believe that racial quotas and set-asides were, in fact, appropriate under the law. The people of the State of California decided that they were inappropriate by a large margin, and she interpreted that in accordance with the people of the State of California, and for that she is criticized and considered to be out of the mainstream.

My suggestion, Mr. Speaker, is that she ought to have the opportunity to have her voice heard, her case heard by the entire body in the other body, and that it is my belief, given that opportunity, the people of California will be well served by a reaffirmation of the fact that she is well within the mainstream of judicial decision-makers in the United States.

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.)

TRIPLING THE INNOVATION BUDGET OVER THE NEXT DECADE

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, I wrote President Bush urging him to boldly triple the innovation budget—federal basic research and development—over the next decade.

America today finds herself at a crossroads when it comes to leading the world in science and innovation. We can continue down the current path, as other nations continue to narrow the gap, or we can take bold, dramatic steps to ensure U.S. economic leadership in the 21st century and a rising standard of living for all Americans.

Our current levels of investment in innovative research and development are not enough to keep us at the forefront. Countries such as China and India are quickly gaining ground on the United States and few people realize it.

The United States faces stiff competition in sheer volume because our population is a fraction of that of China and India.

In 2000, Asian universities accounted for almost 1.2 million of the world's science and engineering degrees and European universities accounted for 850,000. North American universities accounted for only about 500,000.

Additionally, according to the National Science Foundation, the United States has a smaller share of the worldwide total of science and engineering doctoral degrees awarded than either Asia or Europe.

This is most alarming when you consider that since 1980, the number of science and engineering positions in the United States have grown at five times the rate of positions in the civilian workforce as a whole. This trend should be setting off alarm bells, especially as more high-tech products, and the high-tech jobs behind them, are located elsewhere.

America has a proud history of rising to the occasion. We need to be mobilized as we were after the former Soviet Union launched Sputnik, when we made a commitment in the late 1950s to build our space program and greatly enhance our educational system in the name of national defense through the passage of the National Defense Education Act.

Recently we fulfilled the commitment to double the National Institutes of Health budget to jump-start work on medical research to help find cures to debilitating and fatal diseases. Our nation must make a similar bold commitment to invest in the future of our country by tripling the innovation budget—federal basic research and development—over the next decade.

I believe that a bold initiative like this is necessary to ensure for future generations that America continues to be the innovation leader of the world.

I know my colleagues share my concern about the future competitiveness of American industry and are committed to improving job opportunities for all Americans. Your attention will send a clear message about the gravity of this situation.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, May 3, 2005.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
The President, the White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: America today finds herself at a crossroads when it comes to leading the world in science and innovation. We can continue down the current path, as other nations continue to narrow the gap, or we can take bold, dramatic steps to ensure U.S. economic leadership in the 21st century and a rising standard of living for all Americans.

I know you share my concern about the future competitiveness of American industry and are committed to improving job opportunities for all Americans. However, our current levels of investment in innovative research and development are not enough to keep us at the forefront. Countries such as China and India are quickly gaining ground on the United States and few people realize it. This trend should be setting off alarm bells, especially as more high-tech products, and the high-tech jobs behind them, are located elsewhere.

The United States faces stiff competition in sheer volume because our population is a fraction of that of China and India. In 2000, Asian universities accounted for almost 1.2 million of the world's science and engineering degrees and European universities accounted for 850,000. North American universities accounted for only about 500,000. Additionally, according to the National Science Foundation, the United States has a smaller share of the worldwide total of science and engineering doctoral degrees awarded than either Asia or Europe. This is most alarming when you consider that since 1980, the number of science and engineering positions in the United States have grown at five times the rate of positions in the civilian workforce as a whole.

Foreign advances in basic science also now often rival or even exceed America's, and published research by Americans is lagging. Physical Review, a series of top physics journals, last year tracked a reversal in which American scientific papers, in two decades, dropped from the most published to minority status. In 2004—the most recent year statistics are available—the total number of American papers published was just 29 percent, down from 61 percent in 1983.

America also is losing ground in the area of patents. The percentage of U.S. patents has been steadily declining as foreign nations, especially in Asia, have become more active and in some fields have seized the innovation lead. The U.S. share of its own industrial patents now stands at only 52 percent. Another measuring stick is number of Nobel prizes won. From the 1960s through the 1990s, American scientists dominated. Now, the rest of the world has caught up as our scientists only win about half of the Nobel prizes with the rest going to Britain, Japan, Russia, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, and New Zealand.

Federal research support serves two essential purposes. First, it supports the research required to fuel continued innovation and economic growth. Second, because much of it takes place at the nation's colleges and universities, it plays a critical role in training our next generation of scientists, engineers, mathematicians and others who will comprise the future scientific and technological workforce. I am concerned that with the current levels of federal investment in research and technology our country will fall victim to the fierce manpower competition we face from developing countries.

America has a proud history of rising to the occasion. We need to be mobilized as we were after the former Soviet Union launched Sputnik, when we made a commitment in the late 1950s to build our space program and greatly enhance our educational system in the name of national defense through the passage of the National Defense Education Act. Most recently we fulfilled the commitment to double the National Institutes of Health budget to jump-start work on medical research to help find cures to debilitating and fatal diseases.

Our nation must make a similar bold commitment to invest in the future of our country by tripling the innovation budget—federal basic research and development—over the next decade. We need to inspire young people to study math and science. As chairman of the Science-State-Justice-Commerce Appropriations subcommittee, I understand the difficult budget environment the nation is facing. But bold leadership from the White House will help establish this as a national priority in your next budget request to the Congress.

We must ensure for future generations that America continues to be the innovation leader of the world. Investing in research and development is a critical part of optimizing our nation for innovation, a process that will require strong leadership and involvement from government, industry, academia and labor. We must choose whether to innovate or abdicate.

I urge you to seize this opportunity to rally our nation to the cause of innovation and stand ready to assist you in this 21st century challenge. I hope you will work with Congress, with manufacturers and other producers and services providers, and with the academic and scientific communities to develop the necessary consensus that will ensure America will remain the world's leader in innovation. The competitive and economic future of America is at stake.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

SUPPORT PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT CARDS

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, I rise today in strong support of the bipartisan Medicare Modernization Act, which Congress passed in December of 2003. In particular, I would like to praise the prescription drug benefit that is already providing seniors with more affordable medication under the Medicare-approved prescription discount cards.

Mr. Speaker, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare estimate that our seniors will save up to 60 percent off the current price of their prescription drugs under this new benefit. Sixty percent, that is a huge savings. And our seniors are already reaping the benefits of Medicare prescription drug coverage.

I would like to tell you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues, the story of one such senior, a constituent of mine from Talbot County named Lizzie Menefee. Ms. Menefee lives in Talbot County, Georgia. She will be 80 this May.

I met her at a town hall meeting I was holding on strengthening Social Security. Her story inspired me, and I wanted to share it with my colleagues here today and with seniors across our Nation.

Ms. Lizzie, as her friends call her, has not lived an easy life, though you would never know it from her spirited attitude. She has a heart condition, she has high blood pressure, arthritis and one functioning kidney.

As you might guess, her medical bills, in particular the cost of her monthly medications, are exorbitant. In fact, the cost of medication nearly bankrupted Ms. Menefee. It is easy to see why. She takes Zocor for her cholesterol, which is high. That medication runs $155 a month.

Add another $140 for the purple pill, Nexium, which she takes to control her acid reflux and heartburn, and $20 a month for medication to lower her blood pressure.

When Ms. Lizzie gets a kidney infection, and this happens often with her condition, she pays an additional $300 a month for antibiotics.

Before Congress passed the Medicare Modernization Act in 2003, Ms. Menefee regularly spent more than $500 a month, Mr. Speaker, just on prescription drugs. As a senior with limited income and a widow, these costs were simply prohibitive. But there is good news for her and for all seniors out there. It comes in the form of the Medicare prescription drug benefit, part D, if you will.

Last year, Ms. Lizzie signed up for the new temporary provision under Medicare, the discount card. She is incredibly happy with her coverage, and I can see why. Today this lady spends a mere $7 a month on prescription medication. Yes, you heard me correctly: $7 a month.

Mr. Speaker, there are hundreds of Ms. Lizzies out there who have benefited from substantial savings on their prescription drugs, and there are millions more not yet enrolled in the program who would benefit from these savings as well.

When our seniors have to choose between buying food or buying medicine, their health suffers. Seniors on fixed incomes cannot afford $500 a month in medicine; heck, most of us cannot afford $500 a month. Congress undoubtedly, undoubtedly, Mr. Speaker, did the right thing when we added prescription drug coverage under Medicare. And there is more we can do.

In January 2006, the permanent Medicare drug benefit goes into effect. If our seniors do not know how to sign up, or if they do not understand the benefits that it offers, the good legislation we have passed will go to waste.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and educating our seniors about the extensive savings available to them through the Medicare drug benefit and to help seniors sign up for the plan that is right for them. Do not let the other side poison the well and scare our seniors and discourage them from signing up for this great plan.

Nothing would make me happier than to have millions of Lizzie Menefees across our great Nation staying healthy because we helped lower the prices of the drugs that they need.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Congress on the successful legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to educate their constituents on this valuable benefit.

COMMEMORATING HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, let me join other colleagues of mine in standing today in commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day. We celebrate this year, 2005, the 60-year anniversary of the end of World War II.

We also look back at the enormous human loss that occurred in concentration camps all over Eastern Europe, all over that continent during World War II, and I think it is enormously important that if we can somehow distill just three lessons from this time frame, that it be the following things: first of all, we instill in our society and contemplate the question of hatred, of intolerance, of racial and religious bigotry, and we still try to put it in perspective, how some human beings can have animus toward other human beings.

The reality is that in 1930 in the depths of Nazi Germany, there were many people who did not take seriously the rhetoric of the Third Reich. There were many who did not take seriously the venom that came from Adolph Hitler. They had this mindset that it was simply a misbegotten ideology. They had the mindset that it was simply words that were meant to wound or meant to win an election. They did not realize that there was a comprehensive plan to destroy another set of human beings that was at stake.

Similarly today, when we hear lingering anti-Semitism in our society, when we hear lingering bigotry and racism in our society, we have a tendency at first to think that it is mere words. We have a tendency to try to strip those words from any context or any meaning.

The reality is that what the Holocaust teaches us is that words do matter, because they can signal the human soul and just how depraved it can be. That is an important lesson that we take from that time frame.

There is another important lesson that we take. Every now and then, there is this tendency to engage in a hierarchy of suffering, to ask which was worse, slavery or the Holocaust; which is worse, racial bigotry or anti-Semitism or religious bigotry.

The reality is that there is no hierarchy of hatred. All hatred has a tendency to wound and corrupt and to spoil the human soul. All hatred has a tendency to degrade both the person who hates and the target. And what we have seen in our last half century of human conduct, indeed our last century of human conduct, is that neither the left nor the right has given ground to each other on this front.

Both the left and the right have shown enormous capacity to pick up weapons against each other and to degrade each other. And it is a lesson in these contemptuous times in American politics.

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It is a lesson that if we want to build a sense of humanity in this country, that we have to find a way to see past the bitterest and darkest divisions of the left and right.

There is a third lesson, Mr. Speaker. As we look at our place in the world today, this is only several weeks after the world lay to rest Karol Wojtyla, John Paul II, the leader of the Catholic Church, the leader of 1 billion Catholics around the globe. He had a particular insight about humanity.

He understood that poverty and totalitarianism are both threats to the human condition. They are both threats to the human soul. Frankly, neither the left nor the right in our country have done a good job of appreciating the linkage. Neither the left nor the right in our country has done a good job of appreciating that these two sources of darkness, totalitarianism and intense poverty, are just as destructive of what human beings can be. Well, John Paul II understood that.

As we look at the last 50 or 60 years of suffering in this world, I hope we can, as a Congress, challenge the world to a higher standard. One that from a standpoint from the left and the right manages to condemn political and economic threats to the human spirit.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me speak for a moment about these victims. I had an opportunity in August 2003 to visit the state of Israel and I remember going to the museum commemorating the concentration camps in the Holocaust. And I remember going specifically to the children's section of that museum. As some Members of the Chamber recall, when you walk inside the children's section, you are in this very small circular room and in the middle of the room sits a glass case. Inside the glass case are pictures and photos of children who lost their lives in the Holocaust and their voices who read their names over and over again.

I will remember that image, Mr. Speaker, as I conclude, for a very, very long time because it speaks of a Europe and a history that never was. It speaks of a destiny for the world that never was. Somewhere in those pictures is someone who would have been a chief of state, someone who would have been an Olympic athlete, someone who might have discovered a cure for cancer.

As we contemplate this last 60 years may we remember that every time we lay waste to a human being, every time we lay waste to a child, that there is all kinds of promise that is lost and there is another destiny that was there waiting to be born.

So on behalf of these 6 million victims who were murdered by a state, may we think of them today and may we think of them on this Holocaust Remembrance Day. May we remember in conclusion the danger whenever human beings are degraded and belittled by others.

CRIMINAL EXTORTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS) for his touching remarks. He is so right.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to pay tribute as my colleague, a former judge, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) has indicated a celebration of Cinco de Mayo. We will be enjoying that this weekend there in Tyler. I appreciate Gus Ramirez and Salvador Sanchez and other friends that are putting that on again this year.

Last week I read an article about the ongoing investigation in Austin by the local Democrat District Attorney, Ronnie Earl, and became concerned. I had previously understood that he had convinced a grand jury to indict a number of corporations regarding contributions they had made from which he was raising the issue of legality. For some reason I had the impression that a few of those corporations had pled either no contest or guilty, and as part of a plea agreement, they had agreed to make contributions to some educational entity.

Now, I realize I cannot always rely on every newspaper to always get the facts right, so I went back and looked at other newspaper articles about other cases after I saw that one, and according to those articles the Austin District Attorney got potentially four corporate defendants to promise to pay financial support to the LBJ School of Public Affairs there in Austin and in return he would dismiss all charges.

Now, as a former District Judge and Chief Justice this caused me a great deal of concern. As a former District Judge who believes strongly in law and order, so much so that I have sent friends or children of friends to prison while my friends were weeping and asking me not to do so, because I knew that is what the law required and that is what I would do in any other case if they were not the children of my friends.

So I believe that there is a crime and there is an appropriate punishment. And I do not know all the facts or evidence in these cases and I am not here to defend anyone involved. But I do know that District Attorneys take an oath as attorneys and they also take oaths as a District Attorney. They are not supposed to prosecute or persecute people or entities unless there is a case.

Now, if there is evidence to support that a crime has been committed, then he should prosecute. When the District Attorney in Austin files a motion to dismiss, it should be because there is no case with which to go forward.

If a district attorney drops charges after soliciting and requiring a defendant to pay money to an entity of the District Attorney's choosing, it has a rather unseemly odor to it. Let me explain one of the reasons that it may.

Under the Texas Penal Code Section 36.02, it indicates in part, and there is a bunch of different wording in parts to it but I will read potentially applicable parts that may have a ring to them.

A, a person commits an offense if he intentionally or knowingly, there are different words, but intentionally or knowingly solicits from another any benefit as consideration for the recipient's decision, vote, recommendation, or other exercise of official discretion in a judicial or administrative proceeding.

An offense under the section is a felony under the second degree. It may be the ''benefit'' under this would have to go to the individual itself but since the law does not say, we will let somebody else determine that. But regardless, if a D.A. can force people or entities to pay in order to avoid being prosecuted, then no one is safe from extortion. Whether or not the entity receiving the benefit is worthy is not the issue.

Whether it is a criminal offense to get someone to agree to pay money to another in order to avoid being prosecuted under the law is raised here. Whether or not such conduct rises to the level of criminal status is for others to decide, but it sure smells like extortion, even if the law allows it. A fine institution like the LBJ School should not have to rely on extortion in order to funds its education.

Right now the legislature is meeting in Texas to try to fund our education. How tragic if it turns out it was legal to fund educational institutions just by threatening to prosecute if somebody does not pay the chosen school of the bullying law enforcement agency.

In Austin, the district attorney is allegedly investigating illegal payments. What irony if he will only drop charges as part of his official duties if you make the very kind of payments he was supposed to be investigating.

Sounds like the wolf is in charge of the hen house in Austin.

RECENT BIG EVENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, we have had several important events occur in the last weeks and days, and today of course we passed a very historic piece of legislation in the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to make sure that our country is safer, that our troops have what they need for this war on terror.

All of this prompted me to think that it was time to sort of recap where we are, where we have been, where we are, and where we are going in this war against the Islamic extremists who attacked us so horrifically and so viciously on September 11.

We also have coming up tomorrow Military Spouse Appreciation Day, and that certainly is one of those events that the timing of which has come together to make me want to come to the floor and discuss with my colleagues our progress in this war on terror.

I hope to be joined by some more of my colleagues here in a minute. We had a little bit of scrambling to get the timing right. The early vote today had people out of pocket, as we used to say.

Let me start by just recapping some of the really, really big events that we have seen happen in the last few months. I have a picture here next to me that I think is absolutely astonishing in its implication.

These are women in Afghanistan who are serving now as police officers in the Afghani security forces. Just think about that. Before September 11, before we were attacked, before our country decided to step out and defend itself and freedom loving nations of the world by going after the brutal terrorists who had attacked us in Afghanistan, these women could not be seen in public without being shrouded from head to toe. They had no place in official Afghani society. They could not go to school.

It is remarkable to think what has happened with the free elections last

year in Afghanistan that elected President Karzai and has resulted in women going to school, a woman, a 19-year-old Afghani woman being the first Afghani in history to cast a vote in a free election, and look at them today. To me it is just remarkable and speaks volumes about what has happened in the last couple of years and in the last few months.

Often we see the news here and I have got to tell you that our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq see the news as well. I was just over in both Afghanistan and Iraq in January of this year before the elections in Iraq, and I had the chance to talk to many of our soldiers and Marines who were engaged in combat. And they almost universally, their only complaint was that their story, the story of their hard work and their successes was not being told in the news, because the news that shows up on television and in our newspapers is so heavily weighted to the tough events.

It is a tough security situation in and around Baghdad. There is no question about it. But those soldiers and those Marines, they see the stories of the explosions and the attacks and they do not see the stories of their successes and the friendships that they are making and the progress they are making in helping free countries to become established as democracies in this world.

There is another picture which I want to put up here and share. And I know many of you have seen this picture many times and it speaks absolute volumes about the difference in Iraq today and when Saddam Hussein had the Iraqi people under his iron fist. What a telling story this young woman with the purple ink on her fingers indicating that she had voted. And I know when I was over in Iraq with my colleagues in January, and this was before this historic election, and we were talking with American forces and with Iraqi leaders including then the Interim Prime Minister Allawi, and the then U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte.

We were talking about the prospects for the election coming up and they were great concerns, you may remember, that the election could not go off on time, that no one would show up to vote. That it was going to be a disaster. And I can tell you that the American forces and the Iraqis and our coalition partners were adamant in saying that the elections must go forward. To not have those elections go forward on time would be a disaster, and one which it would be almost impossible to recover from.

And they told us, my colleagues and I, the five of us, three Republicans and two Democrats, and by the way, it is sometimes forgotten, I know that it is sometimes forgotten around America that we can come together and work together in a bipartisan way on a number of issues. And certainly taking care of our troops and doing everything we can to ensure victory in this absolutely tough war that we are engaged in is one of those times.

□ 1530

But we were told by the leaders in Iraq that the elections must go forward, that they would go forward, and that there was security on a scale that had not been seen before, to do everything in the power of the Iraqi security forces and the Americans to make sure that the election took place.

I know that, like my colleagues, I was glued to the television and watching this election day unfold in Iraq, throughout the country; and I was astonished as the day unfolded that the Iraqis were coming, sometimes walking for miles, walking for miles to cast their vote and to proudly dip their finger in the purple ink and thus brand themselves to the terrorists as someone who has defied their threats, the threats to kill them and to cast their vote. They came by the millions and voted.

Today, we have seen this week the Iraqi government sworn in as a result of those elections. They get engaged in politics there like we do here, and not everybody agrees on everything. There was a great deal of wrangling going on there by people who do not have experience in a democracy, and I found that they engaged in it a lot of the same ways as we do here. They tried to cajole each other and threaten each other and twist each other's arms and make deals and move forward towards democracy.

So this week, May 3, Iraq's first democratically elected government in over half a century was sworn in. This event is yet another historic milestone in Iraq's progress toward a representative and transparent government. Our goal, can my colleagues imagine when we have a free Iraq, Iraq with a democratically elected government in power, the force that that free country will have in this region, the help that it will give us in the war on terror in which we are so heavily engaged?

The freedom epitomized by this picture in Afghanistan and this picture from Iraq is so important to our success in defeating these Islamic extremists in gaining back peace for us and security and safety for us and for our neighbors and for the world.

Iraq's new prime minister, Mr. Jafari, has completed the selection of cabinet members, and again, remember how tough this is to do, of different factions in Iraq. He is trying to work with all of them; and even though the Sunnis, in large measure, had boycotted the January election, they have been seeking to be included in this government. I think it is fair and safe to say that many of them wish that they had not chosen to boycott, that they, too, had chosen to walk the miles and stick their finger in the ink and be a part of this great step for freedom and democracy in the world.

According to the report that I am looking at here, the position of defense minister will now be held by a Sunni Arab, even though the Sunnis had largely boycotted the election. The current composition of the cabinet is as follows: 15 Shiite Arab ministers, 7 Kurds, 4 Sunnis, and 1 Christian. This newly formed cabinet is now tasked to write a permanent Iraqi Constitution and must organize fresh elections for the end of this year. This process continues, ever growing, ever adding to their freedom and to democracy in that country, and thereby, I believe, very strongly, adding to our own security and to a better world.

Now, we know that the fight still goes on, and we see those news reports that the soldiers and Marines were a little bit unhappy. But unhappy or not, the facts are that it is still pretty tough out there, and our soldiers and Marines are engaged in combat. U.S. and Iraqi forces have captured over 100 insurgents in Baghdad in 1 day this week. Twelve al Qaeda members were killed close to the Syrian border on Monday of this week. The fighting goes on.

We took, as I said in my opening comments, a very important step today in passing the supplemental funding bill. It did some very major things, and I see that one of my colleagues has walked in, and I do not know if he is ready to talk about that bill. I see a nod from his head, and so I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCAUL).

Mr. McCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman for his leadership on this issue.

As I look at the poster of the purple finger, I can only think back to the State of the Union address where the President stood right here, talked about the brave men and women fighting in Iraq, and many of us stood with our purple fingers in the air in solidarity with the Iraqi people and the voters from Iraq who exercised that great freedom that great day.

I also recall the Norwoods who live in my district, Janet and Bill, who lost their son in Iraq as he fought to save seven Marines held hostage by insurgents, successfully freeing them and giving his own life in the process. I was proud to have authored a bill to name the Pflugerville post office after Byron Norwood, a true hero; and that is what Janet Norwood told me was such a great comfort. This is really what it is all about.

I rise today in support of America's brave troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and all over the world who are protecting the cause of freedom, both here and abroad.

Today, my colleagues and I showed this commitment to these young men and women of the Armed Forces by passing and sending to the President an emergency wartime supplemental aimed at giving our fighting forces the very best in equipment, intelligence, and support.

Included in this bill was $75.9 billion for defense-related spending, including

improvements in troop armor, additional force protection and a desperately needed increase in military pay and health benefits so that military families are secured while their loved ones are on duty.

We additionally authorized funding for the FBI and the ATF to actively pursue drug and crime syndicates that are often fronts for laundering money to terrorist organizations.

I was pleased to see also that we included important funding to improve security here at home for such items as an additional 500 border patrol agents, 50 new immigration and customs investigators, 168 new enforcement agents and detention officers, and critically, almost 2,000 detention beds so as to limit the number of illegal border crossings which pose a threat to our national security.

We also successfully included almost all the provisions of the REAL ID Act that passed the House last month in this Chamber, including provisions on political asylum, border infrastructure, and basic Federal standards to State driver's licenses that will make it more difficult to counterfeit identification in this country. Let us not forget, the 19 hijackers on September 11 had over 63 fraudulent and false identification cards on them.

This coming Sunday, May 8, we celebrate the 60th anniversary of our victory in Europe, and that victory came at a great cost, but it was a great accomplishment. We achieved that triumph because Americans banded together to show their support for the brave soldiers, to ensure them that their cause was just.

Today, we fight the same causes of human dignity and freedom; and though it comes at a cost, we must be vigilant and see it through to the end. We are winning in Iraq and Afghanistan; and because of our efforts there, freedom is winning in Ukraine, in Georgia, in Lebanon, and Egypt. However, there are still groups of people in this world who hate us, who think they can defeat us, who look to shake the very foundations of our determination by hitting us here at home.

We have achieved a good beginning for securing our Nation at home, and I want to thank my colleagues and the administration for that effort. I and 44 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle drafted a letter to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), chairman of the Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, and the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, where we asked for full funding for the recommendations the 9/11 Commission made and what was authorized in the intelligence bill for 200 border patrol agents, 800 interior investigators, and 8,000 detention beds authorized in the Intelligence Reform Act.

In the post-9/11 world, this is no longer just an immigration issue. It is one regarding national security. As a former counterterrorism prosecutor in the Justice Department whose jurisdiction included the Mexican border, I experienced it firsthand.

I am pleased that in addition to the 500 new border patrol agents in this bill, we were successful in getting full funding for 2,000 new agents in the Homeland Security Authorization bill which passed last week by that committee, of which I am a proud member; and I hope to see this bill voted on by this Chamber in the next few weeks.

However, we have a long way to go. We need more detention beds to hold people who cross the border illegally. We need more interior investigators; and by securing our borders, we protect ourselves from terrorist threats. I look forward to continuing our work to make sure the terrorists do not get past our borders.

If we look around the world and what is happening on the world stage, dictatorships around the world have begun to fall like dominos, and democracies are rising in their place. We have much to be hopeful and optimistic about, but we have a lot of work left to do. This is an issue that crosses party lines, and I am excited about the cooperation that we have had on the other side of the aisle.

We recently saw another crucial victory in the war on terror, with the capture of the number three al Qaeda operative Abu Farraj al-Libi. By removing this direct threat to our country, we have taken another step towards peace; and because of it, the world is a safer place. I commend Pakistan for their efforts that brought this man to justice and recognize our troops and the soldiers of other nations that are working jointly to eradicate terror from the globe.

When President Bush pledged to fight terrorism in the days following September 11 with a mission and a megaphone on Ground Zero, he sent a clear message to the insurgents. Let today serve as a reminder of that message and of vindication for all those who lost loved ones at the hands of evil.

As long as we are asking the men and women of America's Armed Forces to risk their very lives to defend freedom and protect our Nation, so, too, we must not fail to do our part by supporting them and by funding our border security. Our troops are doing their job and doing it well, but it is time now for us in the Congress to do our part.

I would like to thank the gentleman for his leadership on the issue.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks today and for his passion about the issues.

We did many things in passing this supplemental, and the details on enhancing our border security are part of our war against the Islamic extremists in this war on terrorism. Those are important steps that we took today in terms of funding and beefing up that security that is so important to our safety here at home.

We did a number of other things in this bill that I think it is useful for us to think about and talk about for just a minute. Clearly, the bulk of the money that we are going to appropriate today, almost $76 billion, went for defense, things that our troops need in order to win in this war.

Today, in the Committee on Armed Services, we had a hearing and listened to testimony from generals in the Army and the Marine Corps about the progress that we are making in adding armor to our vehicles, to our wheeled vehicles in Iraq and Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa, and we are making progress. It seems never enough, armor's not thick enough, there is not enough of it. We should never be satisfied, I suppose, until every soldier and Marine is fully protected; but that is simply not possible.

This is a war. It is combat. We need to make sure that we are doing everything that we can to provide our soldiers and Marines with the tools that they need and yet know that combat is a dangerous and, sadly, sometimes fatal business.

□ 1545

I know in our office this week we have been very saddened. My Legislative Director, Miss Jean Hinz, lost her cousin, a Marine, who was killed flying an F–18 over Iraq. These stories wrench at your heart as you put the human and personal face on the result of the sacrifices that our troops are making in Iraq and Afghanistan and around the world.

We did something else in this bill that I think is important that we remember. We need very much for our new Democratic allies in the region, the people of Iraq and Afghanistan, to succeed. So we added money to help the people of Afghanistan, these women and their families and their fellow Afghani citizens, $1.7 billion to help them in Afghanistan. It is important for their development, it is important as they reach for democracy, and it is important for us as we seek victory in this war and peace in the world.

Well, it has been mentioned a time or two that we have a convergence of events here. I think most of my colleagues and most Americans know, or they will remember in sort of a cold sweat here in the next day or so, that this Sunday is Mother's Day, and I know there is always a rush to get those flowers and buy the candy and do those things. Tomorrow is also Military Spouse Appreciation Day. What a nice occurrence that we have Military Spouse Appreciation Day coming together with Mother's Day. This year Military Spouse Appreciation Day falls on the 6th, which is tomorrow. We celebrate this day each year on the Friday before Mother's Day.

So, you see, the confluence of those two events is not an accident, but a reinforcing one of the other. Military Spouse Appreciation Day is set aside to honor the many men and women who bravely support their spouses in uniform, and this reminds us of the importance of the families of our soldiers and

sailors, airmen and Marines who are making such sacrifices. So in the supplemental bill which we just passed, we add money for life insurance, we add money to give to the families of the soldiers who lose their lives, a death gratuity increase from $12,000 to $100,000 and the life insurance from $250,000 to $400,000.

We need to keep these families in mind. And I have another picture here, a scene seen so often as a member of our Armed Forces prepares to leave or comes home from or to the loving arms of his or her family. We need to make sure that we are doing the things that we can, those of us in this body, my colleagues and I, to make sure we are doing everything, not only for the soldier, but for the child as well.

So as we recognize Military Spouse Appreciation Day, I think we need to do it in the context of the family, of the military family. Now more than ever it is particularly important to recognize and celebrate, and celebrate, our military spouses, those thousands who remain on the home front while their spouses have been deployed overseas to help fight in this war on terror. Like our military men and women, the military spouse's bravery goes unparalleled. They remain the strength that we do not always see but is ever present. And I know that is true from my own experience in the military, the importance of that family and the love that goes with it.

This weekend we take the time to appreciate all military spouses and moms nationwide for their strength, unity, patriotism and bravery. Their jobs are not easy, but it is these wonderful individuals that keep this country strong and remind us every day, remind us every day, of what we are fighting for.

So on this weekend we want to say thank you to the military spouses across the Nation and, of course, happy Mother's Day to our mothers. And I, like many of you, will need to be on my way to the store to buy that box of candy. Such a simple gesture, but every gesture we make reaching out to those that are so important in our own lives and to our men and women in uniform is something we have to do.

I have one more picture I would like to put up as a way of kind of wrapping up my thoughts and comments today. Thanks for your support, the sign says, with these servicemen and women. And that thanks for your support needs to go every way in our country; them to their families, them to the rest of us in America, and we, the rest of us in America, to them and to our neighbors around the world. It takes support, it takes family support, it takes all of our support for our men and women in combat. And I believe it is incumbent upon all of us, all my colleagues, all Americans, every day in every way that we can to tell our men and women in uniform how much we love them and care for them and want to ensure their success and make sure that they have everything that they need in order to win this war.

So sort of wrapping up, if you look back to what we have done, and sometimes we forget, we now have free men and women in Afghanistan for the first time ever. A democracy in Afghanistan. The first time ever in 5,000 years. There were women who could not go outside the house who are now serving proudly, serving their country and serving their fellow citizens proudly and looking forward to the advancements of democracy in that country and giving them some hope for the future. One of the poorest countries in the world beaten down by the brutal dictatorship under the Taliban and now free in a democracy growing with hope for the future.

And in Iraq, in Iraq, the purple fingers, the Iraqis walking for miles, defying threats of death to vote in a free election and establishing Iraq not as a haven for terrorists, not as the home of a brutal dictator killing tens and hundreds of thousands of his own people, but as a free democracy.

Then, as we look at the progress our troops are making, their successes in battle, their successes in establishing relationships with the people of Afghanistan and of Iraq, their successes in helping rebuild the infrastructure, we have much to be thankful for, my colleagues. But let us remember that it is not easy and it is not over, and it will take our continued vigilance in making sure that we are supporting our troops, expressing our love and support, and as we might say around here, making sure we are putting our money where our mouth is.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LANTOS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 1:00 p.m.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a family medical emergency.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SCHIFF) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. WELDON of Florida) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, May 12.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WOLF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GINGREY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GOHMERT, for 5 minutes, today.

JOINT RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on May 4, 2005 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following joint resolutions.

H.J. Res. 19. Providing for the appointment of Shirley Ann Jackson as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

H.J. Res. 20. Providing for the appointment of Robert P. Kogod as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, May 9, 2005, at noon.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1845. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on U.S. military personnel and U.S. individual civilians retained as contractors involved in supporting Plan Colombia, pursuant to Public Law 106–246, section 3204 (f) (114 Stat. 577); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1846. A letter from the Acting Chief Counsel, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Iranian Transactions Regulations — received March 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

1847. A letter from the Acting Chief Counsel, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Administrative Collection of Civil Penalties in the Iranian Assets Control Regulations, the Libyan Sanctions Regulations, and the Iraqi Sanctions Regulations — received March 30, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

1848. A letter from the Acting Chief Counsel, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Syrian Sanctions Regulations — received April 5, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

1849. A letter from the Presidential Appointments Officer, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1850. A letter from the Presidential Appointments Officer, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1851. A letter from the Presidential Appointments Officer, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

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1867. A letter from the Presidential Appointment Officer, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1868. A letter from the Presidential Appointment Officer, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1869. A letter from the Deputy Archivist, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Presidential Records Act Procedures (RIN: 3095-AB40) received April 1, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

1870. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Law and Order on Indian Reservations (RIN: 1076-AE52) received March 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1871. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Public Conduct on Reclamation Lands and Projects; Extension of Expiration Date (RIN: 1006-AA49) received March 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1872. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest in Alaska; Harvest Regulations for Migratory Birds in Alaska During the 2005 Season (RIN: 1018-AT77) received April 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1873. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Riverside Fairy Shrimp (Streptocephalus woottoni) (RIN: 1018-AT42) received April 5, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1874. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Arroyo Toad (Bufo californicus) (RIN: 1018-AT42) received April 5, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1875. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in the West Yakutat District of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 04112633-5040-02; I.D. 032505B] received April 5, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1876. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands [Docket No. 041126332-5039-02; I.D. 031105A] received March 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1877. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processor Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 041126332-5039-02; I.D. 031105B] received March 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1878. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Specifications [Docket No. 050125017-5068-02; I.D. 011905E] (RIN: 0648-AR57) received April 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1879. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Revisions to Western Alaska Community Development Quota Program [Docket No. 041110318-5055; I.D110504E] (RIN: 0648-AS00) received April 7, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1880. A letter from the Acting Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Appeals Settlement Guidelines: Home Based Business — received March 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1881. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Guidance Under Section 1502; Application of Section 108 to Members of a Consolidated Group [TD 9192] (RIN: 1545-BC38) received March 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1882. A letter from the Acting Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Section 704(c), Installment Obligations and Contributed Contracts [TD 9193] (RIN: 1545-BB65) received March 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1883. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Taxation of fringe benefits. (Rev. Rul. 2005-14) received March 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1884. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Adjustments in Computing Alternative Minimum Taxable Income (Rev. Rul. 2005-11) received March 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1885. A letter from the Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Nonpayment of Benefits When the Social Security Administration Receives Notice that an Insured Person is Deported or Removed from the United States [Regulations No. 4] (RIN: 0960-AG16) received March 28, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. Supplemental report on H.R. 748. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent the transportation of minors in circumvention of certain laws relating to abortion, and for other purposes (Rept. 109–51 Pt. 2). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1279. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to reduce violent gang crime and protect law-abiding citizens and communities from violent criminals, and for

other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–74). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. WELLER (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. EVANS, Mr. HYDE, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. BEAN, Mr. HASTERT, and Mr. EMANUEL):

H.R. 2113. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2000 McDonough Street in Joliet, Illinois, as the ''John F. Whiteside Joliet Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. WELLER:

H.R. 2114. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1-propene-2-methyl homopolymer; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WELLER:

H.R. 2115. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Acronal-S-600; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WELLER:

H.R. 2116. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Lucirin TPO; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WELLER:

H.R. 2117. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Astacin Finish PUM; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WELLER:

H.R. 2118. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Sokalan PG IME; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WELLER:

H.R. 2119. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Paliotol Yellow L 2140 HD; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WELLER:

H.R. 2120. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Lycopene 10% 25kg 4G 3; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin (for himself and Mr. JEFFERSON):

H.R. 2121. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals to defer recognition of reinvested capital gains distributions from regulated investment companies; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MALONEY (for herself, Ms. LEE, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. OWENS, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 2122. A bill to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to protect breastfeeding by new mothers; to provide for a performance standard for breast pumps; and to provide tax incentives to encourage breastfeeding; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CASTLE (for himself, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. REGULA, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. PUTNAM, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

H.R. 2123. A bill to reauthorize the Head Start Act to improve the school readiness of disadvantaged children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. WELDON of Florida:

H.R. 2124. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for clinical research support grants, clinical research infrastructure grants, and a demonstration program on partnerships in clinical research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FILNER:

H.R. 2125. A bill to provide that unremarried former spouses of retired and career members of the Armed Forces shall be entitled to military health care and commissary and exchange benefits if married for at least 10 years during the member's military service and if the former spouse left the marriage due to domestic violence or unbearable conditions; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. FILNER:

H.R. 2126. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to reduce from 60 to 55 the age at which an individual who is otherwise eligible may be paid widow's or widower's insurance benefits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FILNER:

H.R. 2127. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a one-time increase in the amount excludable from the sale of a principal residence by taxpayers who have attained age 50; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 2128. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on cosmetic bags with a flexible outer surface of reinforced or laminated polyvinyl chloride (PVC); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. EHLERS (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. PETRI, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. UPTON, Mr. EVANS, Mr. CAMP, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. KIND, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, and Mr. MCCOTTER):

H.R. 2129. A bill to improve the coordination of programs for the Great Lakes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Resources, Agriculture, and Science, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GILCHREST:

H.R. 2130. A bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to authorize research programs to better understand and protect marine mammals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. EDWARDS (for himself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BACA, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BERRY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BOYD, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. CASE, Mr. CHANDLER, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DICKS, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FORD, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HOYER, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. JEFFERSON, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. KIND, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. OLVER, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. REYES, Mr. ROSS, Mr. ROTHMAN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SKELTON, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. STARK, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WATERS, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WEINER, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. WYNN):

H.R. 2131. A bill to improve benefits for members of the Armed Forces and veterans and for their dependents and survivors; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KLINE (for himself, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. KILDEE):

H.R. 2132. A bill to extend the waiver authority of the Secretary of Education with respect to student financial assistance during a war or other military operation or national emergency; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. LEE, Mr. STARK, Mr. OBEY, Mr. OWENS, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 2133. A bill to guarantee for all Americans quality, affordable, and comprehensive health insurance coverage.; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined

by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BECERRA (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. BACA, Mr. BEAUPREZ, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. WELLER, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. REYES, Mr. SALAZAR, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. STARK, Mr. TOWNS, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. WEINER, and Mr. WEXLER):

H.R. 2134. A bill to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino Community to develop a plan of action for the establishment and maintenance of a National Museum of the American Latino Community in Washington, DC, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BERRY:

H.R. 2135. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Mixtures of methyl 4-iodo-2-@3-(4-methoxy-6-methyl-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl)ureidosul fonyl]benzoate, sodium salt (Iodosulfuron) and application adjuvants; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BERRY:

H.R. 2136. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Ethyl 4,5-dihydro-5,5-diphenyl-1,2-oxazole-3-carboxylate (Isoxadifen-ethyl); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BERRY:

H.R. 2137. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 5-Cyclopropyl-4-(2-methylsulfonyl-4-trifluoromethylbenxoyl)i soxazole (Isoxaflutole); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BERRY:

H.R. 2138. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Mixtures of methyl 2-(4,5-dihydro-4-methyl-5-oxo-3-propoxy-1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-y l)carboxamidosulfonylbenzoate; sodium (4,5-dihydro-4-methyl-5-oxo-3-propoxy-1H-1,2,4-triazol-1-ylc arbonyl) (2-methoxy carbonylphenylsulfonyl) azanide (Propoxycarbazone), methyl 4-iodo-2-[3-(4-methoxy-6-methyl-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl) ureidosulfonyl[benzoate, sodium salt (Mesosulfuron-methyl), and application adjuvants; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BERRY:

H.R. 2139. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Methyl 2-[(4,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-2-ylcarbamoyl)sulfamoyl]-G6a-(met hanesulfonamido)-p-toluate whether or not mixed with application adjuvants; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BERRY:

H.R. 2140. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Mixtures of N,N-dimethyl-2[3-(4,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-2-yl)ureidosulfonyl]-4-formylaminobenzamide (Foramsulfuron), methyl 4-iodo-2-[3-(4-methoxy-6-methyl-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl)ureidosul fonyl]benzoate, sodium salt (Iodosulfuron), and application adjuvants; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BERRY:

H.R. 2141. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1-Propanone, 2-methyl-1-[4-(methylthio)phenyl]-2-(4- morpholinyl)-(9cl); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BERRY:

H.R. 2142. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1,6-Hexanediamine, N,N'- bis(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4- piperidinyl)-, polymer with 2,4,6-trichloro-1,3,5-triazine, reaction products with N-butyl- 1-butanamine and N-butyl- 2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4- piperidinamine; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BERRY:

H.R. 2143. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Anthra[2,1,9-mna]naphth[2,3-h]acridine-5,10,15(16H)-trione,3 -[(9,10-dihydro-9,10-dioxo-1-anthracenyl)amino]-; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BERRY:

H.R. 2144. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Cobaltate(1-), bis[3-[[1-(3-chlorophenyl)-4,5-dihydro-3- methyl-5-(oxo-.kappa.O)-1H- pyrazol-4-yl]azo-.kappa.N1[-4-.(hydroxy-.kappa.O)- benzenesulfonamidato(2-)]-, sodium; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2145. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on TMQ; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2146. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 4-ADPA; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2147. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Vulkanox MB (MBI); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2148. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Vulcuren UPKA 1988; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2149. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Vullcanox 4010 NA/LG; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2150. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Vulkazon AFS/LG; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2151. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Vulkacit MOZ/LG and Vulkacit MOZ/SG; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2152. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Vulkanox ZMB-2/C5; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2153. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Anisic Aldehyde; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2154. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Methyl Salicylate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2155. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1,2 Octanediol; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2156. A bill to extend the duty suspension on 2,2-Dimethyl-3-(3-methylphenyl)propanal; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2157. A bill to extend the duty suspension on p-Methylacetophenone; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2158. A bill to extend the duty suspension on Cyclohexadec-8-en-l-one; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2159. A bill to extend the duty suspension on methanol, sodium salt; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2160. A bill to extend the duty suspension on 2-Phenylbenzimidazole-5-sulfonic acid; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2161. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1,2 Pentanediol; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2162. A bill to extend the duty suspension on Methyl cinnamate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2163. A bill to extend the duty suspension on cyclohexanol; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2164. A bill to extend the duty suspension on Thymol; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2165. A bill to extend the duty suspension on Menthyl anthranilate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2166. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Frescolat MGA; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2167. A bill to extend the duty suspension on o-tert-Butylcyclohexanol; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2168. A bill to extend the duty suspension on 5-Methyl-2-(methylethyl)cyclohexyl-2-hydroxypropanoate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2169. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Cohedur RL; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2170. A bill to extend the duty suspension on isothiocyanate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2171. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Vulkalent E/C; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2172. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on MBTS; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 2173. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1,2 Hexanediol; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. CAPPS (for herself, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. FARR, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. LEE, and Ms. WOOLSEY):

H.R. 2174. A bill to provide for qualified withdrawals from the Capital Construction Fund for fishermen leaving the industry and for the rollover of Capital Construction Funds to individual retirement plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 2175. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain rayon staple fibers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Mr. GOODE, Mr. COX, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, and Mr. PAUL):

H.R. 2176. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a 100 percent deduction for the health insurance costs of individuals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CHOCOLA (for himself, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. SHAW, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. CAMP, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. WELLER, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. BEAUPREZ, Ms. HART, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BACA, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. BUYER, Mr. CARTER, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. DENT, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. FORD, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. GOODE, Mr. GORDON, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. KLINE, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCHUGH, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. PENCE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. PORTER, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. TERRY, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 2177. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit tax-free distributions from governmental retirement plans for premiums for health and long-term care insurance for public safety officers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FATTAH (for himself, Mr. WEINER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. LEE, Mr. WYNN, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. CARSON, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. HERSETH, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. OLVER, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. WATT, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. FILNER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. BERMAN, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. MOORE of Kansas):

H.R. 2178. A bill to provide for adequate and equitable educational opportunities for students in State public school systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FORBES:

H.R. 2179. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on hexanedioic acid, polymer with 1,3-benzenedimethanamine; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FORTUÑO:

H.R. 2180. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the proper tax treatment of variable contracts issued by life insurance companies subject to the laws of Puerto Rico; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FORTUÑO:

H.R. 2181. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the manufacturing deduction provided by the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 with respect to income attributable to domestic production activities in Puerto Rico; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FORTUÑO (for himself and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin):

H.R. 2182. A bill to promote freedom, fairness, and economic opportunity by establishing a National Enterprise Zone system to promote prosperity in economically depressed areas; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FOSSELLA (for himself, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. WALSH, Mr. WEINER, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. OWENS, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. SWEENEY, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 2183. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 567 Tompkins Avenue in Staten Island, New York, as the ''Vincent Palladino Post Office''; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 2184. A bill to provide for a study by the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences to identify constraints encountered by schools of nursing in admitting and graduating the number of nurses sufficient to meet the health care needs of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 2185. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to allocate transportation funds to metropolitan areas and increase planning funds to relieve metropolitan congestion, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KLINE:

H.R. 2186. A bill to convey all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in this Act to the Secretary of the Interior for the Prairie Island Indian Community in Minnesota; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. SHAYS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

H.R. 2187. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for a corporate responsibility investment option under the Thrift Savings Plan; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island):

H.R. 2188. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the placement in a national cemetery of memorial markers for the purpose of commemorating servicemembers or other persons whose remains are interred in an American Battle Monuments Commission cemetery; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 2189. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the two-year waiting period for divorced spouse's benefits following the divorce; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 2190. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for increases in widow's and widower's insurance benefits by reason of delayed retirement; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 2191. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for full benefits for disabled widows and widowers without regard to age; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 2192. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the 7-year restriction on eligibility for widow's and widower's insurance benefits based on disability; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. HOLT, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. OLVER, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. ROSS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. WEINER, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. FILNER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. CAPPS, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. ALEXANDER):

H.R. 2193. A bill to provide that service of the members of the organization known as the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II constituted active military service for purposes of laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California:

H.R. 2194. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide additional protections for law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 2195. A bill to provide for the withdrawal of the drug OxyContin from the commercial market; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MALONEY (for herself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mrs. MCCARTHY):

H.R. 2196. A bill to provide that Federal funds for the relief and revitalization of New York City after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack shall not be subject to Federal taxation; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 2197. A bill to provide health benefits for workers and their families; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and

in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Government Reform, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PETRI (for himself, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, and Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin):

H.R. 2198. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on fixed ratio speed changers for truck-mounted concrete mixers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. OWENS, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Ms. LEE, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD):

H.R. 2199. A bill to provide for compassionate payments with regard to individuals who contracted human immunodeficiency virus due to the provision of a contaminated blood transfusion, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RUPPERSBERGER:

H.R. 2200. A bill to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide to the Secretary of Health and Human Services authority similar to the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to negotiate the lowest possible prices for outpatient prescription drugs, to include in the determination of best price for covered outpatient drugs under the Medicaid Program prices charged by manufacturers to certain Federal agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RUPPERSBERGER:

H.R. 2201. A bill to amend chapter 7 of title 11 of the United States Code, to exclude medically distress debtors from the application of the means test, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to require certain disclosures in connection with credit card applications and solicitations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RYUN of Kansas (for himself, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia):

H.R. 2202. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the base and adjusted base amounts used for purposes of determining the amount of Social Security benefits excluded from gross income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SHADEGG:

H.R. 2203. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals a refundable and advancable credit against income tax for health insurance costs, to allow employees who elect not to participate in employer subsidized health plans an exclusion from gross income for employer payments in lieu of such participation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SHAW (for himself, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, and Mr. FOLEY):

H.R. 2204. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose penalties for the failure of 527 organizations to comply with disclosure requirements; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 2205. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to extend the veterans' preference provisions of such title to individuals who served on active duty in the armed forces for a period of more than 180 consecutive days any part of which occurred after September 11, 2001, and before January 1, 2006, and separated from the armed forces under honorable conditions; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PENCE, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. NADLER, Mr. WOLF, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. WEINER, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. WYNN, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PLATTS, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. OTTER, and Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania):

H.J. Res. 48. A joint resolution conferring honorary citizenship of the United States on Anne Frank; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. PETRI, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, and Mr. HOBSON):

H. Con. Res. 145. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress in support of a national bike month and in appreciation of cyclists and others for promoting bicycle safety and the benefits of cycling; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (for herself and Mr. ROHRABACHER):

H. Con. Res. 146. Concurrent resolution honoring the victims of the Cambodian genocide that took place from April 1975 to January 1979; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. PAUL:

H. Con. Res. 147. Concurrent resolution supporting the designation of a National American Waters Heritage Month each year; to the Committee on Resources.

By Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas:

H. Res. 263. A resolution recognizing the Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr., on the occasion of the establishment of an endowment for trial advocacy called the ''Andrew L. Jefferson Endowment for Trial Advocacy'' at Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston, Texas; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WELDON of Florida:

H. Res. 264. A resolution electing a certain Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. BERKLEY (for herself and Mr. BURGESS):

H. Res. 265. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HEFLEY (for himself and Mr. STUPAK):

H. Res. 266. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Ms. HOOLEY:

H. Res. 267. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 376) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate fair prices for Medicare prescription drugs on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Rules.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 22: Mr. GIBBONS and Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 25: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 36: Mr. PENCE.
H.R. 98: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
H.R. 131: Ms. HOOLEY and Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 147: Ms. BEAN and Mr. OSBORNE.
H.R. 154: Mrs. MALONEY and Mr. STUPAK.
H.R. 166: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H.R. 215: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. SIMMONS, and Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 282: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. KIND, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 284: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.
H.R. 297: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WEINER, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 303: Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 304: Mr. WEXLER.
H.R. 312: Ms. NORTON, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. HOLT, Mr. WEINER, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. OWENS, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. BARROW, Mr. WU, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. FARR, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 323: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 331: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 341: Mrs. MCCARTHY.
H.R. 371: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 376: Mr. OBERSTAR.
H.R. 389: Mr. SAXTON.
H.R. 420: Mrs. CUBIN.
H.R. 475: Mr. MEEKS of New York and Mr. MEEK of Florida.
H.R. 501: Mr. SANDERS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. CASE, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. PASCRELL, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 537: Mr. LINDER.
H.R. 550: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 551: Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 554: Mr. SAXTON and Mrs. NORTHUP.
H.R. 558: Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mr. SANDERS.
H.R. 575: Mr. STARK.
H.R. 581: Mr. JENKINS.
H.R. 583: Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 613: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.

H.R. 676: Mr. WYNN, Mr. STARK, Mr. FARR, Ms. LEE, Ms. WATSON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 688: Mr. ALEXANDER.
H.R. 698: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. EVERETT, and Mr. WAMP.
H.R. 699: Mr. TERRY, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.
H.R. 700: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 710: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BOSWELL, and Ms. HOOLEY.
H.R. 713: Mr. REHBERG.
H.R. 719: Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.
H.R. 737: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 759: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 761: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Ms. PELOSI.
H.R. 765: Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mr. SIMMONS, and Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 791: Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, and Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 793: Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 808: Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARROW, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Ms. FOXX, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. MACK, Mr. PETRI, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
H.R. 817: Mr. PORTER, Mr. RENZI, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota.
H.R. 819: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan and Mr. KNOLLENBERG.
H.R. 827: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 831: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts and Mr. CASE.
H.R. 844: Mr. SIMMONS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. SANDERS.
H.R. 846: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 877: Ms. SLAUGHTER and Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 896: Mr. TIBERI and Mr. OSBORNE.
H.R. 908: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 921: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 923: Mr. BISHOP of New York and Mr. HULSHOF.
H.R. 925: Mr. HAYWORTH.
H.R. 930: Mr. HERGER, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 934: Ms. SLAUGHTER and Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 935: Mr. ISSA and Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 946: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 949: Mr. CUNNINGHAM.
H.R. 968: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TANNER, and Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 977: Mr. SOUDER, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 978: Mr. SOUDER, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 979: Mr. SOUDER, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 980: Mr. SOUDER, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 981: Mr. SOUDER, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 995: Mr. SHAW.
H.R. 997: Mr. SAXTON, Mr. TIAHRT, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 1002: Mr. PLATTS, Mr. DINGELL, and Mr. WATT.
H.R. 1028: Mr. SOUDER, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 1048: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 1100: Mr. LINDER.
H.R. 1150: Mr. JONES of North Carolina.
H.R. 1156: Mr. MANZULLO.
H.R. 1175: Mr. RAMSTAD.
H.R. 1182: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 1218: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 1243: Mr. JENKINS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. MCCOTTER,
H.R. 1251: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 1259: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H.R. 1269: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 1279: Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 1288: Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. BONNER, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. BOUSTANY, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mrs. NORTHUP, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. SODREL, and Mr. GOODE.
H.R. 1295: Mr. COX, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, and Mr. FOSSELLA.
H.R. 1298: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 1306: Ms. FOXX, Mr. GORDON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Mr. DELAY.
H.R. 1307: Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. SAXTON, and Mr. MENENDEZ.
H.R. 1308: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. SIMMONS.
H.R. 1309: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H.R. 1316: Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. POMBO, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. KLINE, and Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California.
H.R. 1330: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1351: Mr. MORAN of Kansas.
H.R. 1352: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. PALLONE, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 1365: Mr. DAVIS of Alabama.
H.R. 1366: Mr. HAYES and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1376: Mr. WEXLER.
H.R. 1380: Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 1401: Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 1402: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 1405: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 1409: Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 1413: Mr. SIMMONS and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 1419: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 1424: Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. POE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 1426: Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. KIND, and Mr. SIMMONS.
H.R. 1435: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, and Mr. SANDERS.
H.R. 1443: Mr. OWENS, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. WELDON of Florida, and Mr. OSBORNE.
H.R. 1471: Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 1492: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. BACA, Mr. CASE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr ABERCROMBIE, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. FILNER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. ISSA, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BONO, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. FARR, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. COOPER, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. COSTA, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. LEE, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. LANTOS, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. SOLIS, and Mr. JINDAL.
H.R. 1505: Ms. CARSON.
H.R. 1517: Mr. HALL.
H.R. 1520: Mr. BAKER.
H.R. 1538: Mr. WEINER.
H.R. 1548: Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. EMANUEL, and Mr. BOOZMAN.
H.R. 1558: Mrs. BONO.
H.R. 1578: Mr. CLAY, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. HAYWORTH.
H.R. 1588: Mr. SPRATT.
H.R. 1591: Mr. CASE, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota.
H.R. 1592: Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CASE, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 1594: Mrs. DRAKE.
H.R. 1613: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 1630: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MCNULTY, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. BACA, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. EVANS, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
H.R. 1631: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MCNULTY, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. BACA, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. EVANS, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 1633: Mr. OXLEY.
H.R. 1637: Mr. POTTER.
H.R. 1638: Mr. GUTKNECHT.
H.R. 1649: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 1652: Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. OWENS, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. LEE, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. MEEHAN, and Ms. HARMAN.
H.R. 1663: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. KUHL of New York.
H.R. 1671: Mr. CONAWAY.
H.R. 1709: Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. CLAY, Mr. EMANUEL, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. HOLT, and Ms. CARSON.
H.R. 1738: Mr. STARK, Mr. WU, and Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 1745: Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mrs. MCCARTHY, and Mr. DEAL of Georgia.
H.R. 1760: Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 1769: Mr. MCCAUL of Texas.
H.R. 1770: Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. ISSA.
H.R. 1776: Mr. MACK.
H.R. 1792: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. STARK, Mr. KIND, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1819: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H.R. 1823: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 1835: Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. OWENS, Mr. CASE, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 1851: Mr. OSBORNE, Mr. REHBERG, and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
H.R. 1879: Mr. FOLEY and Mr. DOOLITTLE.
H.R. 1898: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. PORTER, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. STEARNS, and Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 1932: Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 1946: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. STUPAK, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. FARR, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 2014: Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. ROSS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. FARR, and Mr. WALSH.
H.R. 2018: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 2034: Mr. OSBORNE, Mr. WALSH, and Mr. MURPHY.

H.R. 2037: Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 2046: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.

H.R. 2049: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 2071: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.

H.J. Res. 23: Mr. INSLEE.

H. Con. Res. 44: Mr. UDALL of Colorado and Mr. ENGEL.

H. Con. Res. 59: Mr. WYNN, Ms. LEE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. WATSON, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. RUSH.

H. Con. Res. 70: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H. Con. Res. 71: Mr. BECERRA.

H. Con. Res. 85: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin and Mr. JINDAL.

H. Con. Res. 90: Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H. Con. Res. 97: Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H. Con. Res. 105: Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HONDA, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. BACA, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. CLAY, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. SOLIS, Ms. WATSON, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HOYER, Mr. FILNER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. STRICKLAND, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. BONILLA, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H. Con. Res. 128: Mr. WOLF.

H. Res. 37: Mr. MACK, Mr. CARDOZA, and Mr. CHANDLER.

H. Res. 76: Mr. RANGEL.

H. Res. 123: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.

H. Res. 137: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida and Mr. GILLMOR.

H. Res. 146: Mr. PENCE, Mr. HENSARLING, and Mr. KING of Iowa.

H. Res. 166: Mr. PALLONE, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, and Mr. MCCOTTER.

H. Res. 196: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, and Mr. MEEKS of New York.

H. Res. 209: Mr. GILLMOR.

H. Res. 246: Mr. HONDA.

H. Res. 247: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. WATSON, Mr. BACA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. HONDA, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. OWENS, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FORD, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. WAXMAN.

H. Res. 250: Mrs. BONO, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, and Mr. GERLACH.

H. Res. 260: Mr. NORWOOD and Mr. KING of New York.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 513: Ms. LEE.

H.R. 1638: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES AND SECRETARY RICE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Last week, the Community of Democracies held its third meeting of Foreign Ministers in Santiago, Chile. This unique group of democracies from around the world met to discuss how democratic nations can cooperate to promote democracy around the world.

I would like to inform my colleagues that at the opening plenary meeting of that Ministerial on Thursday April 29, 2005, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made a compelling speech regarding United States support for those efforts. She expressed her deep seated views regarding the responsibilities of all democratic nations to do so and welcomed the establishment of a new International Center for Democratic Transition to be established in my hometown of Budapest, Hungary. Mr. Speaker, when Hungary was under the communist Boot, I would have never dreamed that such a Center would become a reality.

I am putting Secretary Rice's speech in the RECORD and I urge all my colleagues to read it in the coming days.

REMARKS AT THE COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES OPENING PLENARY

(By Secretary Condoleezza Rice)

Thank you very much to the Chilean government, particularly to President Lagos and to Foreign Minister Walker for hosting this year's meeting of the Community of Democracies I think we have been all warmly welcomed here in Chile. I know that I speak for all my distinguished colleagues when I say that we are honored to gather here together in the name of democracy.

Every democracy in the world has shared the triumph of Chile's citizens, as they have renewed their commitment to democracy. Indeed we have all experienced the profound hope of people here throughout Latin America, who have transformed their continent through their desire to live in liberty. Today, all the members of the Community of Democracies declare our deep conviction that freedom is the universal longing of every soul and democracy is the ideal path for every nation.

The past year has brought forth a dramatic shift in the world's political landscape. Since our last meeting in Seoul, we have seen free elections in Afghanistan and in Iraq, and in the Palestinian territories. We have witnessed tremendous developments in places like Georgia and Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan and Lebanon.

There comes a time when the spark of freedom flashes in the minds of all oppressed people, and they raise their voices against tyranny. The Community of Democracies must match the bravery of these men and women with the courage of our own convictions. We on the right side of freedom's divide have an obligation to help those on the wrong side of that divide.

To support democratic aspirations, all free nations must clarify the moral choice between liberty and oppression. We must let all governments know that successful relations with our democratic community depend on the dignified treatment of their people. To strengthen democratic principles, all free nations must demand that leaders who are elected democratically have a responsibility to govern democratically. Abandoning the Rule of Law for the whim of rulers only leads to the oppression of innocent people.

To advance our democratic consensus, all free nations must insist that upholding democratic principles is the surest path to greater international status. The Community of Democracies is one of a growing number of international organizations that make democracy an actual condition for membership.

In the western hemisphere, the Organization of American States has adopted the Interamerican Democratic Charter and here in the southern cone, Mercosur is helping to bolster democracy. In Europe, only democracies can belong to the European community, and democratic principles have always been the cornerstone of NATO. The democratic character of states must become the cornerstone of a new, principled multilateralism.

The real division in our world is between those states that are committed to freedom, and those who are not. International organizations like the Community of Democracies can help to create a balance of power that favors freedom. One positive action that we can take together is to work through the United Nations Democracy Caucus, to support reform of the United Nations. In particular, we should encourage the creation of a legitimate human rights body within the United Nations. Serious action on human rights can only come from countries that respect and protect human rights. Our Democratic Community can cooperate in other ways at the United Nations. The UN Democracy Fund, which President Bush proposed last fall at the general assembly, is an ideal way to provide tangible support to emerging democracies. Financial assistance is essential for all nations working to build firm foundations for freedom.

The world's democracies must also help countries with their democratic transitions, every nation in this room has experienced a democratic transition of its own, some quite recently. Hungarian Foreign Minister Somogyi has proposed the creation of a democratic transition center. This is a terrific way, Minister, for our community to share with young democracies and democratic movements, the important lessons that we have learned from our own traditions and transitions.

Democratization is after all, not an event, it is a process. It takes many years, even decades to realize the full promise of democratic reform. For nearly a century after the founding of the United States, millions of black Americans like me were still condemned to the status below that of full citizenship. When the founding fathers of America said ''We the People'', they did not mean me; many of my ancestors were thought to be only 3/5 of a man. And it is only within my lifetime that the United States has begun to guarantee the right to vote for all of our citizens. And so we know, in the United States, that this is a long and difficult process, and every nation in this room has experienced moments of tyranny in its history, some not too long ago.

Today, our citizens share the common bond of having overcome tyranny through all our commitment to freedom and democracy. Now it is our historic duty to tell the world that tyranny is a crime of man, not a fact of nature. Our goal must always be the elimination of tyranny in our world. We, at the Community of Democracies must use the power of our shared ideals to accelerate democracies movement, to ever more places around the globe. We must usher in an era of democracy that thinks of tyranny as we thought of slavery today, a moral abomination that could not withstand the natural desire of every human being for a life of liberty and of dignity: This is our great purpose, together we will succeed.

KAWASAKI DISEASE AWARENESS

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, an organization dedicated to the awareness of Kawasaki Disease, A Kawasaki Heart, is striving to increase public knowledge of Kawasaki Disease (KD) throughout the United States and, more particularly, among medical professionals.

I recently learned of a close call suffered by 3-year-old Bailey Buffkin, the granddaughter of Janis Moore of Thomasville, North Carolina, and the daughter of Amber Brewer. Bailey became ill this past March and her mom wasted no time in seeking medical care. Fortunately, her pediatrician was familiar with the symptoms of KD. The accurate diagnosis and timely treatment means that Bailey has a better chance to live a happy and healthy life.

According to the American Heart Association, KD is a disease that primarily affects children under the age of 5 years. It is the leading cause of acquired heart disease in children. There are a few thousand new cases each year in the U.S. If not detected and treated immediately, it can result in permanent heart damage or even death. The cause of KD is unknown, but scientists who have studied KD think the evidence strongly suggests it is caused by an infectious agent such as a virus. Children with KD have high fever, red eyes and lips, strawberry tongue, a rash, swollen lymph nodes, and inflamed arteries. The usual treatment, intravenous gamma globulin, is highly effective at preventing the heart complications if administered within the first few days of illness. That is why it is so important that a child who is suspected of having KD is seen by a doctor quickly and diagnosed correctly.

Because there are relatively few instances of KD diagnosed in the United States, it is important that parents, guardians and the medical community become familiar with the signs and symptoms so that other children are diagnosed and treated as quickly as Bailey Buffkin.

Additional information may be located on the web site of the American Heart Association (www.americanheart.org) and A Kawasaki Heart (www.kawasakidisease.us).

RECOGNIZING EARTH DAY IN HARLEM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Earth Day events in Harlem, New York, and to recognize the dedication of advocates of environmental justice. This year, Harlem will celebrate the 35th anniversary of Earth Day—a day designed to raise our collective awareness of the challenges facing our environmental and global communities.

In the first Earth Day celebration, the Nation directed its attention to the issues of the environment and ways to ensuring its protection for years to come. Congress adjourned—on a Wednesday—for the day to allow Members to hear from their constituents. Roughly 20 million Americans united to express their collective demand for a safer, cleaner, and healthier global community. The Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency followed shortly after that momentous day. These were true efforts, not in name alone, to provide important and needed protections to our environment and to make our communities safe, clean, and healthy.

This year, Harlem will focus on the environmental problems of communities of color. West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc (WE ACT) is a non-profit grassroots environmental group that has worked to improve environmental quality and to address equity and justice in environmental issues for predominately African-American and Latino communities. For the last 7 years, they have worked to raise community awareness of environmental hazards, to identify and research ecological threats to minority communities, and to attain governmental policies to protect local communities.

As part of their Earth Day celebrations, WE ACT will honor six luminaries in the field of environmental justice: Alphonse Fletcher, the chairman of Fletcher Asset Management; Dr. Kenneth Olden, the director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Services (NIEHS); Dr. Joseph Graziano from the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at Columbia University; Lucille McEwen, Esq., president and CEO of Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement; Dr. Rafael Lantigua, associate director of General Medicine at New York Presbyterian Hospital; and Full Spectrum Building and Development, Inc., a Harlem-based development firm that built the first green building in Harlem. These individuals will be awarded WE ACT for Environmental Justice Awards for making ''substantial inroads to preserve natural and built environment, and improve environmental health in communities of color.'' They will be honored for their hard work in ensuring that minority communities are safe, clean, and healthy communities.

Fellow Members of Congress, please join me in thanking WE ACT for its hard work in organizing Earth Day activities in Harlem, New York. This is a significant day in American history and to our future. We must do more to truly protect our environment from the threats of pollution, industrial contamination, and abuse. We must find a balance that will protect our nature, the environment, and our communities.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS AND THE AMERICAS SOCIETY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Americas Society and Council of the Americas, based in my congressional district, on their 40th anniversary.

I believe the work of these organizations is invaluable in educating all of us about matters related to the Western Hemisphere. The Americas Society promotes cultural understanding through an exchange of ideas among writers, artists, musicians, filmmakers, and the general public. The Council of the Americas promotes open markets, democracy and the rule of law, through active engagement with U.S. and hemispheric governments.

Founded by David Rockefeller in 1965 as a private sector parallel to President Kennedy's Alliance for the Americas initiative, the Council of the Americas/Americas Society is now in its 40th anniversary year.

During the past 40 years, the Americas Society has promoted many of the great cultural achievements of the Western Hemisphere by showcasing Latin artists, musicians, and authors and contributing to the vibrant cultural diversity of New York City and especially my district.

I am also pleased to note the organization's commitment to arts education, which I believe is a crucial component of school curricula not only in New York, but across the country. By exposing New York City's underprivileged children to the music of the Americas, the Americas Society helps to instill a lifelong appreciation of music.

We must continue to strengthen relations among the nations in the Western Hemisphere. Like the Council of the Americas, I strongly support democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, and I commend the Council for its promotion of these ideals in U.S. policy in the Western Hemisphere.

Under the leadership of Chairman William Rhodes and President and CEO Susan Segal in New York, the Council of the Americas and the Americas Society have raised their profile significantly, adding new value to members while becoming even more active in the hemispheric policy debate. As consistent advocates for constructive engagement of the Western Hemisphere countries, the Americas Society and the Council of the Americas are contributing to peace, democratic stability, and shared prosperity in the Americas.

Today, Hispanic Americans are the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population. They are making dynamic contributions to the U.S. economy and culture. As the U.S. population becomes more and more diverse, it will be even more important to foster deeper cultural understandings and cross-border cooperation.

I congratulate the Council of the Americas and Americas Society on their 40th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF IRVING H. LEVIN

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend former state legislator Irving H. Levin on his retirement from his profession as a real estate broker and insurance agent and thank him for his long career of service. Over his lifetime, Mr. Levin has worked on behalf of Rhode Islanders as a community activist, business leader, and model citizen.

Born July 21, 1915, in Providence, Irving Levin has dedicated his life to making Rhode Island a better place. He graduated from Hope High School in 1934 and attended Johnson & Wales College. He then served in the Army during World War II, which inspired his lifelong advocacy for veterans.

Mr. Levin received his real estate license in 1959, and he earned numerous honors and awards for his practice over the years. He was twice recognized as Realtor of the Year by the Greater Providence Board of Realtors, and he was honored as the Rhode Island Realtor of the Year in 1993. A true leader, Mr. Levin also served as the President of the Rhode Island Association of Realtors in 1990.

From 1971 to 1991, Mr. Levin represented Cranston and the citizens of the 27th district of Rhode Island in the General Assembly. During his tenure at the State House, he served as Vice Chairman of the House Corporations Committee and Chairman of the Joint Committee on Veterans Affairs. By the time he retired, Mr. Levin was the longest-serving member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives. In the General Assembly, Mr. Levin focused his priorities on veterans and senior citizens' issues.

In addition to realtor, insurance agent, and State Representative, Mr. Levin served as president of the Greater Cranston Chamber of Commerce and the National Conference of Insurance Legislators. After leaving public office, Mr. Levin continued his activism with the Jewish War Veterans and served as President of the United Veterans Council of Rhode Island. Mr. Levin's distinguished career has no doubt inspired countless others to follow in his footsteps.

I am proud to honor Mr. Levin today. It is through the efforts of dedicated public servants and community leaders like Mr. Levin that Rhode Island has moved into the 21st century ready to face whatever problems arise. I am confident that if other leaders follow the model set forth by Mr. Levin, Rhode Island and our Nation will continue to be a source of pride for all of us. I hope my colleagues will join me in commending Irving H. Levin.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CLAIRE McMILLEN

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Claire McMillen, a fine gentleman from Fort Collins, Colorado, who passed away tragically on Sunday, April 3, 2005 in an airplane crash.

The 72-year-old, accomplished pilot had a passion for flying. When Claire wasn't spending time with his wife Janet, he spent it in the air, flying.

Claire McMillen was a majority shareholder at the Fort Collins Downtown Airport, he bought it to help further aviation in Colorado. Claire was also the owner of the Kiva Inn in Fort Collins.

Claire and Janet came out to Colorado from Beacon, New York to try working in the business profession. They fell in love with the area and have lived here for more than 30 years.

This tragic accident will be difficult for the McMillen family, the Fort Collins Downtown Airport, and the community. I ask my colleagues to extend their sympathies to the McMillen family.

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE KHMER ROUGE CAMBODIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, we solemnly commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Khmer Rouge regime when they deliberately and systemically massacred millions of innocent Cambodians, with a large percentage of women and children. However, in the midst of this past sorrow, we have seen great hope as a result of the strength, resiliency, and courage of the Cambodian people. So while we mourn the loss, we celebrate the future filled with hope and promise.

In 1975, Pol Pot led the Communist guerrilla group, the Khmer Rouge, in a large-scale insurgency that resulted in the removal of Cambodians from their homes and into labor camps in an attempt to restructure Khmer society. The Khmer Rouge maintained control by mass public tortures and executions. Families were separated. Men, women and young children were sent into labor camps and forced to do strenuous farm work with very little food. Famine and disease were epidemic while health care was non-existent. Between April 1975 and January 1979 more than 1.7 million Cambodians were killed.

When the Khmer Rouge was overthrown in 1979, thousands of Cambodians fled to nearby refugee camps, and over 145,000 Cambodians made their way to the United States. With the assistance of the Federal government, state, local, and voluntary agencies, Cambodians were resettled in communities across America.

Despite the tremendous loss of family members, home, and even parts of their heritage, Cambodians have shown enormous resiliency. I am proud that the largest Cambodian population in the United States resides in my District. Their culture and contributions have enriched our communities and the American landscape.

Finally, Cambodians have been waiting for the past twenty-five years for the Khmer Rouge perpetrators to be brought to justice. Just a few days ago, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan declared that UN-Cambodian agreement funding requirements had been met and there is now enough funds to finance the Tribunal's staffing and operations for a sustained period of time.

This means that the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, only a dream for twenty-five years, will now become a reality. This means that the Cambodians can finally find closure on this brutal part of their history. As Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends towards justice."

RECOGNIZING ROBERT HUGHES

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and commitment of Robert Hughes. Mr. Hughes, our Nation's all-time "winningest" high school boys basketball coach, has dedicated 47 years of service to coaching and educating students; helping them to succeed not only on the court but also in life.

As Mr. Hughes retires this year we will no longer be measuring his wins on the court, but rather the wins, the lives, he has helped to create off the court. In taking the time to teach his students Mr. Hughes chose not only to teach them about health and basketball, but about values and self esteem as well. The loyalty with which Mr. Hughes has served his students and Dunbar High School is a testament to his passion of seeing every child succeed in life.

It is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize a man who has been a leader to so many. The legacy of Mr. Hughes, on and off the court, shall serve as an inspiration to all those who wish to pursue their passion and make a difference in the lives of others.

TRIBUTE TO LUISA TRUJILLO VASQUEZ

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, Luisa Trujillo Vasquez was born in Nogales, Territory of Arizona on May 22, 1906. In the fall of that same year, Luisa's parents, Salome Vasquez and Reyes Trujillo, loaded their six sons and baby daughter into a horse-drawn wagon and made the journey to Tucson. Tucson has been Luisa's home since her arrival as an infant; earning her the title of a "Native Tucsonan."

The Trujillo family lived on the corner of Simpson Street and Main Avenue, across from the famous "Elysian Groves," where Luisa and her siblings often played as children and adolescents. Luisa attended Drachman and Safford Elementary schools until 6th grade when she left school in order to help her mother look after her brothers and help with household chores. The end of her formal education did not mark the end of Luisa's learning; indeed, Luisa's character was strengthened and her practical education supplemented when she joined the workforce at the young age of 13 in order to help support her family. Never one to complain, Luisa accepted this challenge willingly and with dignity and resolve.

Luisa has held many job titles throughout her lifetime, but she considers herself first and foremost to be a seamstress. She sewed for Levy's Department Store, Kaufman's Department Store (later known as Saccani's), the Lyric Outfitters, and she worked at Davis Monthan Air Force Base sewing and mending thousands of military uniforms for soldiers stationed there during World War II. Luisa is also known for designing and fitting many of the Hispanic brides and their bridesmaid dresses during the 1930's, 1940's and early 1950's.

Luisa has many fond memories of the Tucson of her youth where she used to ride the mule-drawn trolley named "El Urbano," danced at the old Armory Park Dance Hall, took in films at the Old "Opera House," and attended shows at the Teatro Carmen. She also vividly remembers family outings to Sabino Canyon, trips to Old Fort Lowell and Vail Communities, and Sunday outings to the old Southern Pacific Railroad Depot to listen to the military bands from Fort Lowell and the SPRR Civic Band.

Luisa raised her four children as well as her beloved niece and nephew in Tucson. Throughout the years and particularly during the Great Depression, Luisa struggled with quiet resolve to provide for her immediate and extended family and even her neighbors from time to time.

Though Luisa is proud of her Mexican-American heritage, her loyalty has always been to her American homeland. Since World War I, Luisa has also had a deep love for America's servicemen and women. Following the death of her much-loved nephew during World War II (whom Luisa raised), Luisa was recognized as a "Gold Star Mother." In honor of her nephew and the sacrifice he made for his country, Luisa has requested that her Gold Star be pinned to her dress and buried with her upon her death.

Luisa has been the recipient of many well-deserved awards throughout the course of her lifetime. Most recently, the "Los Descendientes del Presidio de Tucson" recognized Luisa's achievements and her commitment to her native city.

Luisa has led a life full of love and friendship and distinguished by uncommon hospitality and service to her loved ones as well as her community. She is an exceptional woman, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and citizen. Her life has left an indelible mark on Tucson and the lives of its citizens.

OPPOSE HR 6, THE ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, in 2001 the newly elected President George W. Bush visited St. Paul to announce his vision of energy independence to the American people. Unfortunately, the President's vision of limitless domestic petroleum exploration, natural resource exploitation and consumption are becoming a reality. Today, tragically, House Republicans expand the Bush agenda of tax cuts for the energy industry, dependence on foreign oil and destruction of our environment.

With only two percent of world oil reserves, the U.S. will never be able to produce enough petroleum to be self-sufficient. America needs a comprehensive energy policy that prioritizes incentives for efficiency, conservation, alternative energy sources. Our nation needs to invest in the development of the next generation fuel sources like fuel cells, hydrogen power and home grown Minnesota fuels like ethanol. A major commitment and investment in these advancements has the potential to create a revolutionary transformation of the global economy, liberate our nation from our addiction to oil from Saudi Arabia and the Middle East, and start the environmental healing that will keep our planet alive.

Unfortunately, H.R. 6 fails to even attempt to meet these goals and in fact undermines them. Instead, the Republican energy bill spends 93 percent of the $8.1 billion in tax incentives it provides to oil and coal companies. The same companies that are already making huge profits from the skyrocketing gas prices our families are paying to heat our homes and put gas in our cars. The President doesn't even believe these companies need incentives. At a recent speech to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, President Bush said, "I will tell you with $55 oil, we don't need incentives for oil and gas companies to explore. There are plenty of incentives. What we need is to put a strategy in place that will help this country over time become less dependent."

This Republican bill wastes enormous amounts of taxpayer money and it contributes to the destruction of our environment. It tramples the 'polluter pays' principle and forces the American people to pick up the $29 billion cost to clean up the mess created by MTBE—the mess that is contaminating the drinking water of tens of millions of Americans. It's an outrageous abuse of power to let these MTBE polluters off the hook and force a billion dollar unfunded mandate onto our counties and cities.

There were amendments that would have improved this bill, which I voted for, but they were defeated by Republican majorities. These amendments intended to protect our environment and our families while providing for responsible policies to advance a sustainable energy future for our nation.

It is with great disappointment that my colleagues and I who have visited the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge were unable to stop the majority party's obsession with destroying this pristine wilderness by allowing oil drilling. I also supported an amendment to stop MTBE producers from passing the $29 billion cost of cleaning up their pollution to the U.S. taxpayer. I also voted for an amendment to increase fuel-efficiency standards for our cars and trucks, saving billions of barrels of oil and improving our nation's air quality.

Each of these amendments failed because policy makers with a vision of a sustainable U.S. energy policy lost out to special interests determined to create larger corporate profits, but only after they receive the billions of dollars of corporate welfare benefits this Republican bill provides them.

Our nation cannot sustain its addiction to petroleum consumption. Incentives for efficiency, conservation and alternative energy sources combined with responsible leadership from the White House and Congress are all required if the U.S. is to lead the world in energy self sufficiency, rather than leading the world in energy dependency.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE TWO-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS CRACKDOWN IN CUBA

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 81, expressing the sense of Congress regarding the two-year anniversary of the human rights crackdown in Cuba.

The people of Cuba have suffered under the authoritarian dictatorship of Fidel Castro for more than 45 years. Rather than allowing Cubans to thrive and live prosperous lives, the Castro regime has instead created a legacy of suppression, harm and failure. Cubans are ready for freedom, but their government does not want them to have even a taste.

Freedom-loving countries widely recognize that human rights violations against innocent Cubans are a sign Castro is afraid. Whether it is fear that Cubans will love freedom more than socialism, fear that a faltering economy will lead to more unrest, or fear of political opposition, it is clear Castro's government is a regime of fear. Rather than securing rights for the good of the people, Fidel Castro has imprisoned those who have spoken against human rights violations and other injustices within Cuba.

I hope with the passage of this resolution we will again unite our voices with those who dream of a free Cuba and join with those whose voices have been silenced by a repressive government.

In March 2003 Castro arrested 75 people who were bold enough to speak out against harmful policies of the government. Men and women whose occupations included librarians, union organizers and civic leaders were charged with innocuous crimes and sentenced to long prison terms. While a few of those arrested have been conditionally released, most of these voices of freedom remain behind bars.

Ignoring international condemnation for its actions, the Cuban government continues down its path of suppression.

However, as history has shown, when one group of voices are silenced, other voices will fill the void and cry out. The yearning for freedom within the human spirit can be suppressed, but it cannot be extinguished.

One Cuban group speaking on behalf of Castro's political prisoners are the mothers, daughters, wives and sisters of those arrested more than two years ago. Every Sunday for the past two years, a band of 30 women, called the Women in White, attend mass at Santa Rita Catholic Church before proceeding down a sidewalk on a silent protest. Even after intimidation from Castro's thugs, this little band of women are determined to peacefully expose the injustice of what is happening to their relatives. I hope the Women in White, along with thousands of other Cubans, will have the strength to continue fighting for the right to live in freedom.

I urge my colleagues to join me today in voting for H. Con. Res. 81 and send a strong message that the American people stand in solidarity with all freedom-loving Cubans.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF QUEEN BEATRIX OF THE NETHERLANDS ON APRIL 30, 2005

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of her coronation as Queen on April 30, 1980. Beloved by the people of the Netherlands, millions of Dutch citizens filled the streets of their cities to celebrate the event on April 30, 2005.

Since Queen Beatrix was installed in the Council of State and assumed the royal prerogative on her 18th birthday, she has accomplished a tremendous amount of good for the Netherlands. After completing college, she turned her attention to social welfare and the needs of disabled people. She became Patron of the National Fund for the Prevention of Poliomyelitis, which was later renamed the Princess Beatrix Fund in recognition of her work and contributions. She has assumed an active role in the formation of new governments in the Netherlands. Her dignity, grace and guiding presence underpin her importance as a unifying leader in her country.

The Netherlands has long been an important ally of the United States. From 1625 when the colony of New Amsterdam was first founded by the Dutch, the immigrants exemplified the ideals of tolerance, inclusion and the notion that hard work and study lead to success—important American values that endure today.

On April 19, 1982, the Netherlands and the United States celebrated the 200th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. As Queen Beatrix stated at that celebration, "There are few countries whose relations down the centuries have been so genuinely cordial and mutually beneficial as those between your great country, Mr. President, and my own." We thank Her Majesty for her devotion to fostering that relationship and join her country in celebrating her long service to her Nation. Her enduring leadership continues to

provide the strength and openness fundamental to helping lead the world against the tyrannies of oppression.

The Congress of the United States thanks Queen Beatrix and wishes her continued success.

UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE ACTION ON DARFUR: MORE IS NEEDED

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker I rise today to discuss the ongoing crisis in Darfur. As many as 400,000 have died throughout the course of this crisis, and more than 10,000 continue to die each month. While the death and suffering continues, action on the part of the Administration has, in recent months, been subdued at best. A May 3, Op-Ed in the New York Times, entitled "Day 113 of the President's Silence", points out that the Administration's silence on the issue has been noticeable. This new stance is extremely perplexing considering the Administration's heavy engagement on the issue previously.

Part of that engagement involved early pressure on the Sudanese leadership to agree to a Darfur cease fire. The United States also had the distinction of being the first and only major world power to label the offenses of the Sudanese government in Darfur as genocide. The Administration was also generally supportive of the Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act passed in late 2004, which admonished the Sudanese government for its actions in Darfur, provided humanitarian assistance for the region, and reiterated United States sanctions on Sudan.

The United States has also provided large amounts of assistance to the Darfur region, totaling some $615 million since 2003 ($357.6 million in FY 2005 alone). The 2005 Emergency Supplemental agreed to on Tuesday included $50 million to strengthen the African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur, as well as $40 million in general humanitarian aid.

Despite the financial assistance, the Administration has been quiet on the political front recently. In fact they have seemingly backed away from referring to the crisis in Darfur as genocide, and have down played the casualty count in the region. As the New York Times Op-Ed asserts, Sudan's recent cooperation with the United States on intelligence matters, may be placating the Administration's stance towards the regime regarding Darfur.

In the most recent indication of its new stance on Darfur, the Administration came out in opposition to the Darfur Accountability Act introduced by Senator CORZINE. Among other things the act called for wide-ranging sanctions against the Sudanese government, the establishment of a special presidential envoy for Darfur, and a military no-fly zone for the region. The bill also sought to provide for the protection of Darfurian civilians by strengthening the African Union force in Darfur through a broadened Chapter 7 UN mandate and deployment of a supplemental UN force.

The bill was attached to the Emergency Supplemental which passed the Senate in late April, and was awaiting approval in conference committee. If accepted the bill would have represented a major step forward in bringing peace and security to the people of Darfur. However, the Administration made clear its opposition to the bill, and it was subsequently deleted from the final Emergency Supplemental Conference Report agreed to this week. With the Darfur Accountability Act off the table, what will the Administration do now regarding Darfur?

Financial assistance is not enough—there needs to be real political action. Though the Darfur Accountability Act was not passed, most of its provisions called for action at the Executive level. Thus, the Administration still has an opportunity to become effectively engaged on the Darfur issue. Most of the solutions to the Darfur crisis will entail a multi-lateral effort, so the President must become more involved in eliciting a response from the international community.

Though several UN Security Council resolutions have been passed to date, the UN has yet to agree on a comprehensive Security Council resolution which would cease the transgressions of the Sudanese government and its Janjaweed militia, and provide adequate protection for Darfurian civilians. The African Union will not be able to handle the situation in Darfur on their own. They need the troops, mandate, and logistical resources to effectively protect civilians dispersed across an area the size of Texas.

The Administration can bring this about; they need only increase their engagement. To that end the US must provide more leadership in the United Nations, especially the Security Council, to get a comprehensive resolution passed. It also needs to be especially forceful with China and Russia, who have been a major hindrance to achieving progress on the Darfur issue. The Administration must also sustain pressure on the Sudanese regime. We can not turn a blind eye to their transgressions in Darfur, simply because they are now cooperative with us on intelligence matters. Not only is that short-sighted, it is morally wrong.

In the cases of the Holocaust and Rwanda, inaction on the part of the international community allowed the mass murder of millions of innocent people. Now we find ourselves on the brink of a similarly momentous error. Once again, politics and national interests are delaying the type of action needed to make a significant impact on the Darfur Crisis.

During the observation of the Auschwitz anniversary in February 2005, Dr Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of Great Britain, wisely commented that "We can't bring the dead back to life, but we can fight for the sanctity of life." It is my hope that we take up the fight to which Rabbi Sacks refers: Unlike the Holocaust and Rwanda, the final story of Darfur has yet to be written. We still have the chance, however faint, to prevent the triumph of evil. Mr. President, we must do more for Darfur. If we choose not to act, history will forever echo our failure, and our consciences will forever hold our shame.

[From the New York Times, May 3, 2005]

DAY 113 OF THE PRESIDENT'S SILENCE

(By Nicholas D. Kristof)

Finally, finally, finally, President Bush is showing a little muscle on the issue of genocide in Darfur. Is the muscle being used to stop the genocide of hundreds of thousands of villagers? No, tragically, it's to stop Congress from taking action.

Incredibly, the Bush administration is fighting to kill the Darfur Accountability Act, which would be the most forceful step the U.S. has taken so far against the genocide. The bill, passed by the Senate, calls for such steps as freezing assets of the genocide's leaders and imposing an internationally backed no-fly zone to stop Sudan's Army from strafing villages.

The White House was roused from its stupor of indifference on Darfur to send a letter, a copy of which I have in my hand, to Congressional leaders, instructing them to delete provisions about Darfur from the legislation.

Mr. Bush might reflect on a saying of President Kennedy: "The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who in a period of moral crisis maintain their neutrality."

Aside from the effort to block Congressional action, there are other signs that the administration is trying to backtrack on Darfur. The first sign came when Condoleezza Rice gave an interview to The Washington Post in which she deflected questions about Darfur and low-balled the number of African Union troops needed there.

Then, in Sudan, Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick pointedly refused to repeat the administration's past judgment that the killings amount to genocide. Mr. Zoellick also cited an absurdly low estimate of Darfur's total death toll: 60,000 to 160,000. Every other serious estimate is many times as high. The latest, from the Coalition for International Justice, is nearly 400,000, and rising by 500 a day.

This is not a partisan issue, for Republicans and the Christian right led the way in blowing the whistle on the slaughter in Darfur. As a result, long before Democrats had staggered to their feet on the issue, Mr. Bush was telephoning Sudan's leader and pressing for a ceasefire there.

Later, Mr. Bush forthrightly called the slaughter genocide, and he has continued to back the crucial step of a larger African Union force to provide security. Just the baby steps Mr. Bush has taken have probably saved hundreds of thousands of lives.

So why is Mr. Bush so reluctant to do a bit more and save perhaps several hundred thousand more lives? I sense that there are three reasons.

First, Mr. Bush doesn't see any neat solution, and he's mindful that his father went into Somalia for humanitarian reasons and ended up with a mess.

Second, Mr. Bush is very proud—justly—that he helped secure peace in a separate war between northern and southern Sudan. That peace is very fragile, and he is concerned that pressuring Sudan on Darfur might disrupt that peace while doing little more than emboldening the Darfur rebels (some of them cutthroats who aren't negotiating seriously).

Third, Sudan's leaders have increased their cooperation with the C.I.A. As The Los Angeles Times reported, the C.I.A. recently flew Sudan's intelligence chief to Washington for consultations about the war on terror, and the White House doesn't want to jeopardize that channel.

All three concerns are legitimate. But when historians look back on his presidency, they are going to focus on Mr. Bush's fiddling as hundreds of thousands of people were killed, raped or mutilated in Darfur—and if the situation worsens, the final toll could reach a million dead.

This Thursday marks Holocaust Remembrance Day. The best memorial would be for more Americans to protest about this administration's showing the same lack of interest in Darfur that F.D.R. showed toward the genocide of Jews. Ultimately, public pressure may force Mr. Bush to respond to

Darfur, but it looks as if he will have to be dragged kicking and screaming by Republicans and Democrats alike.

Granted, Darfur defies easy solutions. But Mr. Bush was outspoken and active this spring in another complex case, that of Terry Schiavo. If only Mr. Bush would exert himself as much to try to save the lives of the two million people driven from their homes in Darfur. So I'm going to start tracking Mr. Bush's lassitude. The last time Mr. Bush let the word Darfur slip past his lips publicly (to offer a passing compliment to U.S. aid workers, rather than to denounce the killings) was Jan. 10. So today marks Day 113 of Mr. Bush's silence about the genocide unfolding on his watch.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BREASTFEEDING PROMOTION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Breastfeeding Promotion Act with my colleagues CHRIS SHAYS of Connecticut, ROBERT WEXLER of Florida, ADAM SCHIFF, LYNN WOOLSEY and LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD of California, BERNARD SANDERS of Vermont, BRAD MILLER of North Carolina, DONALD PAYNE of New Jersey, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE of Texas, JOHN CONYERS and DALE KILDEE from Michigan and MAJOR OWENS and JOSEPH CROWLEY from New York.

Mr. Speaker, statistical surveys of families show that over 50 percent of mothers with children less than one year of age are in the labor force. Whereas women with infants and toddlers are a rapidly growing segment of the labor force today, arrangements must be made to allow a mother's expressing of milk if mother and child must separate.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that mothers breastfeed exclusively for six months but continuing for at least the first year of a child's life. Research studies show that children who are not breastfed have higher rates of mortality, meningitis, some types of cancers, asthma and other respiratory illnesses, bacterial and viral infections, diarrhoeal diseases, ear infections, allergies, and obesity. To encourage and promote breastfeeding we are introducing the Breastfeeding Promotion Act.

Specifically, the Breastfeeding Promotion Act includes four provisions:

Protects Breastfeeding Under Civil Rights Law: The bill clarifies the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 to protect breastfeeding under civil rights law. This will ensure that women cannot be fired or discriminated against in the workplace for expressing milk or breastfeeding during lunch or breaks.

Provides Tax Incentives for Employers: With more than half of mothers with infants (less than one year of age) in the work force, it is important to promote a mother-friendly work environment. The bill encourages employers to set up a safe, private, and sanitary environment for women to express (or pump) breast milk by providing a tax credit for employers who set up a lactation location, purchase or rent lactation-related equipment, hire a lactation consultant or otherwise promote a lactation-friendly work environment. Many companies would be able to receive a tax credit of up to fifty percent of their related expenses.

Seeks Minimum Safety Standards for Breast Pumps: The bill requires the Food and Drug Administration to develop minimum quality standards for breast pumps to ensure that products on the market are safe and effective based on efficiency, effectiveness, and sanitation factors (in addition to providing full and complete information concerning breast pump equipment).

Allows Breastfeeding Equipment to Be Tax Deductible: The bill amends the tax laws to include breastfeeding equipment and services as deductible medical care expenses.

I ask all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 366) to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 to strengthen and improve programs under that Act:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 366, the Vocational and Technical Education for the Future Act, which reauthorizes the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act. For over 20 years, the programs authorized in this bill have offered students across America the opportunity to develop their academic and technical skills.

Perkins supports vocational education programs that prepare students for both postsecondary education and the careers of their choice. H.R. 366 maintains many of the aspects of the current legislation that have made these programs successful. In my home state of Rhode Island, federal funding is instrumental in the operations of nine regional centers, each offering a different mix of technical training programs. Additional career and technical programs are provided in numerous comprehensive high schools and at post-secondary institutions throughout the state. These services are an integral component of education in Rhode Island and I strongly support a continued federal role in career and technical education.

The bill we are voting on today incorporates several new "local uses of funds" that will help postsecondary programs serve their students better—particularly adults that take the initiative to return to school, enrolling in community college career and technical education programs.

I want to take this opportunity to express one reservation about the reauthorization. The merger of the Tech Prep program into the Basic State Grants will result in the loss of a separate line item for Tech Prep. Although the bill seeks to ensure continued funding for Tech Prep activities, community colleges fear that the end result will be the loss of those funds, rather than an addition to the Basic State Grants. Tech Prep programs utilize a proven, successful school-to-work transition strategy to assist students making the connection between school arid employment. I hope that a dedicated funding stream for Tech Prep will be reinstated in the conference on this bill with the Senate.

With this in mind, I thank the House leadership for pursuing the reauthorization of the Perkins Act and encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 366.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BECKY ZERLENTES

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Becky Zerlentes who died, tragically, on Sunday, April 3, 2005 after a fatal blow from a boxing match the day before.

Becky was a well-loved member of the Fort Collins community; she was a geography and economics instructor at Front Range Community College. She taught swimming and had a black belt in Goshin Jitsu, and she had brown belts in other forms of martial arts.

In 2002, Becky won the Regional Golden Gloves in women's boxing. She took a short break and recently began to box again. Becky was knocked unconscious during a match, and never regained consciousness. She died the following day at the Denver Health Medical Center.

I ask my colleagues to extend their sympathies to Becky's family, including her husband, Stephan Weiler, and the Fort Collins community. Becky has touched the lives of many at Front Range and beyond.

A TRIBUTE TO PHIL FRIEDMAN AND COMPUTER GENERATE SOLUTIONS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on May 5, 2005 thirty years to the day after he arrived on this country's shore, Phil Friedman will once again cast his gaze on the awesome spectacle of the Statue of Liberty as so many other immigrants before and after him have done.

But this time, he will be seeing that spectacular symbol of America's promise from his new office, as the successful company that he founded two decades ago celebrates its move from Broadway to Lower Manhattan.

Phil's story is a singularly American one that would have done Horatio Alger proud. It can inspire other people who are U.S. citizens by choice, such as me and my wife, as well as anyone who understands what the American dream is about.

Phil Friedman came of age in the Soviet Union, where he was trained in electronic engineering, accounting and finance before fleeing the oppressive Soviet system. After surmounting the challenge of emigrating, he found that life in America as a new arrival was no walk in the park—in order to succeed, he needed a better facility in English, and even more professional credentials. So he went back to school while his wife, Rose, studied accounting. After earning multiple degrees from New York University, he spent eight years in various positions in the information technology industry—first as a programmer,

and then director of management information systems.

Phil then took the plunge of entrepreneurship and began his own company, which he called Computer Generated Solutions (CGS). Like its founder, CGS rose from humble beginnings. At the start there were five employees in a small office in New York. The company now employs more than 1000 professionals in offices across the country and around the globe. Since its inception, both CGS and Phil have won numerous awards and gained the respect and praise of business analysts.

As CGS has expanded its operations, Phil Friedman has been mindful of the potential effect on the U.S. workforce. He has resisted the industry trend toward outsourcing services and management positions, and has used the company's overseas facilities primarily to serve customers in those regions. Not long ago, he told a reporter that "In the rush to send so many jobs offshore," the IT industry in this country was "neglecting our moral responsibility to our employees. We said we needed these skills; now we're abandoning these people." CGS has made substantial investments in training its U.S. employees and developing their skills.

On May 5, 2005 Computer Generated Solutions will inaugurate its new headquarters at the World Financial Center in Lower Manhattan, an event significant in its own right, since it marks the continued rebirth of an area devastated by the September 11th attacks. It is a fitting conclusion to this story that when Phil Friedman moves into the new CGS office building, he won't be gazing up at the Statue of Liberty looming overhead, but gazing out at the broad panorama of the harbor, Ellis Island and a horizon as full of promise as any immigrant's aspirations for a new life in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, Phil Friedman and his wife Rose have given much back to this country. They have thrown their time and energy into countless philanthropic efforts on behalf of numerous causes both here in America and in Israel, for which they have received widespread and well-deserved recognition. The Friedman's and their children, Alyx and Jeffery, are truly the personification of the American dream. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on their successes, and wishing CGS the best of luck in its new home.

RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF U.S. MILITARY FAMILIES AND SPOUSES

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the families and spouses of our United States Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, the family members of America's men and women in uniform have always been one of our Nation's greatest assets, and often our unsung heroes. Perhaps now as much as ever, the support of our military families on the Homefront is crucial to maintaining the spirit of our warfighters.

I would like to pay special recognition to the work of the Kious family of Mundelein Illinois. While Kevin Kious served as a Navy Seabee in Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, his son Marshall and wife Debbie organized a care package program called "Treats For Our Troops" which accepts and delivers hard to find supplies to our forces stationed overseas. Now, Mr. Kious is back home, but Treats For Our Troops—and countless other family-run efforts—still continues to send a small piece of home to our brave men and women across the globe.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions—and sacrifices—of our military spouses and families like the Kiouses who selflessly do so much for our country while their loved ones answer their nation's call to service.

CELEBRATING CINCO DE MAYO

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, today Mexican American communities throughout America are celebrating Cinco de Mayo, and I want to take this opportunity to join in commemorating this important day in Mexico's history. Today marks the triumphant victory of the Mexican Army over the French that led to Mexico's self-rule. It is a day that symbolizes Mexican unity and patriotism, and is a time of joy and national pride.

The United States and Mexico have a long history of friendship and economic partnership. Today, there are more than 25 million men and women of Mexican American origin who call America home. Mexican Americans have made great contributions to our nation.

They are our small business owners creating jobs for our communities, teachers and other professionals. Mexican Americans are government leaders, and today, there are eighteen Mexican American Members of Congress.

Mexican American culture has been deeply interwoven into the fabric of daily American life and is part of the American experience. Their contributions have made us a stronger and more vibrant nation. Mexican Americans have served in the Armed Forces defending our country and our freedom. In fact, today, more than 8,700 men and women born in Mexico now wear the United States military uniform.

The United States and Mexico are neighbors united by the common interests of security, prosperity and friendship. As we move forward in the 21st Century, we will continue working together with respect and commitment to our mutual goals.

So to my Mexican American constituents and colleagues, I extend my warmest tribute in celebration of Cinco de Mayo.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS AT FLOWER MOUND ELEMENTARY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Flower Mound Elementary School as it celebrates 20 years in the 26th District of Texas. Flower Mound Elementary, a Blue Ribbon School, prides itself on offering students opportunities, which allow them to go farther than an average education.

Flower Mound Elementary has been enriching the lives of students, teachers and our community for two decades now. The foundation that Flower Mound Elementary and primary schools across our country provide is essential to the development and success of our children in the long-term. Education is one of the most important gifts we can give our children and I commend Principal Gail Ownby and all the teachers and staff at Flower Mound Elementary for their continued commitment to our future, our children.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to honor Flower Mound Elementary and all those who serve the greater good by making the choice to teach in today's education system.

HONORING DR. ALICE S. PAUL

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Alice S. Paul, an exceptional citizen of my community, our country, and the Tohono O'odham Nation. Dr. Paul's life, which unfortunately ended too soon on May 3, 2005, exemplifies the impact of public education at a time when we need to speak about its power.

Dr. Alice Paul is a product of public education and leaves a legacy of its worth. As a life-time educator, she extended the power of public education far beyond her own experience. Her focus was early childhood education, and she traveled widely helping communities improve their early childhood educational systems. Her work had direct impact on the lives of young children and their families throughout the United States, from rural Alaska to urban New Jersey. After her retirement she even served as a consultant to the Taiwanese educational system.

Alice Paul accomplished many firsts. She was the first Tohono O'odham to receive a doctorate degree and the first to teach in Tucson Unified School District. She was rooted in her tribal identity, but her openness reached far beyond. Whether meeting Native or non-Native people, Americans or Chinese, Christians or Muslims, her strong and gentle wisdom left a positive mark—because of who she was.

Combining her exceptional personal qualities, life experiences, and academic expertise, Dr. Paul touched individuals, organizations, and institutions. She was a classroom teacher. She was a Field Representative of Tucson's Early Education Model and later Director of its Follow Through Program which worked with former Head Start children and their families through the third grade. She was a University of Arizona Associate Professor of Education, and she served as head of its Department of Teaching and Teacher Education. In later years, she was a member of the Arizona State Museum Board of Directors. She was Chair of the T'ohono O'odham Community College Board of Trustees and realized its accreditation. The honors she received over the years would fill a page.

Initially, she postponed finishing college when the family could not afford to send both her and her younger brother to college. She joined the United States Navy where she met Richard Paul. When they married in 1952, it was illegal for a Native American and a non-Native American to marry in Arizona, so they traveled to New Mexico for a civil ceremony before returning to Tucson for a church wedding at Southside Presbyterian Church. Dr. Paul grew up as a member of that faith community and served as an Elder for over 50 years. Her leadership abilities were recognized by the wider church, and she was elected Moderator of Presbytery de Cristo, was a consultant to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) regarding its Christian education curriculum for children, and served on the national church's Task Force on Reparations and its Commission on Preparation for Ministry.

Dr. Paul had a wide world view which allowed her to rise above conflict. She saw real problems and shared her opinions, but in a way which did not demean or incapacitate those with whom she disagreed. She credited her parents, Jones and Marianna Narcho, with teaching her the value of generosity and service. Once when asked how she happened to get a doctorate degree, Dr. Paul laughed and said, ''My mother told me to learn all I could.''

As a Native American, Dr. Paul observed and experienced serious inequities and violations of civil rights. She recalled that her father was arrested when he had a stroke on the sidewalk in front of their home. Because he was an Indian, the police presumed him to be drunk, and he died in jail of wounds that could never be explained. Even though the pain of that recollection stayed fresh, she used all her life experiences to become the outstanding woman she was.

As a Congressional District, as Nations, we could not be more privileged than to have had Dr. Alice Paul live and work among us.

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY QUEJA

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Shirley Queja, a dear friend and undeniably one the most dependable, dedicated and trustworthy individuals on Capitol Hill. After twenty-seven years of service to three members of Congress, she is retiring. As her friends, family and peers gather to celebrate Shirley's wonderful career, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring one of the Capitol's finest professional. staff members.

The child of Millie and Sabas Dumlao and an older sister to four brothers, Shirley grew up in the small town of Wahiawa on the island of Oahu. She is a graduate of the University of Hawaii and came to Washington in 1978 to work for the late Senator Spark Matsunaga. Shirley served as the Senator's longtime assistant from 1978 until his passing in 1990.

In 1990, my husband Bob was looking for a new Executive Assistant. That was when Neil Dhillon, his Chief of Staff, came across Shirley's resume. After speaking to Shirley, Neil was immediately drawn to her, not by her impressive professional experience, but instead, he was drawn to her passion for this institution, the history of this chamber and the process of law making. As their initial conversation ended, Neil was so intrigued with Shirley that he immediately rushed over to the Senate side to speak with her in person.

As one who also was enamored with Congress and its steep traditions, I can see why Bob was impressed by these same qualities. Since that first meeting, she has served at the side of Bob, and later, myself as a trusted confidant and assistant.

Bob was always proud of the caliber of his staff, and Shirley was their foundation for her fifteen years as Bob's Executive Assistant. No matter the crisis or the challenge of the request, Shirley was always there for her co-workers with steady-hand solutions. Bob always noticed her central role in holding staff together and he loved how her quiet leadership allowed her co-workers—his staff—to reach their full potential.

Shirley possesses a dedication to her job and her co-workers that is unmatched by most. She often worked deep into the night, on weekends and routinely came in over the holidays. At times she placed her job before her family and it was clear that Bob and I could always count on Shirley. A trusted confidant to many, she was always prepared and left nothing to chance. Over time it was easy to see why so many of the people who worked with her hold Shirley in such high regard.

When I think of Shirley many things immediately come to mind. As many of you know, she might just have the biggest heart of anyone in this town. She was always perfectly poised, even on the most hectic of days and under the most trying of circumstances. For fifteen years she was the hub of the wheel that kept the Matsui office strong.

Shirley Queja is the mother of two beautiful and intelligent daughters, Noelani and Haunani. Both get their artistic talents and love for the Hawaiian culture from their parents. Haunani attends the University of Hawaii and Noelani attends the University of Maryland.

She is the devoted wife to Irving, her husband of twenty-three years. They are both undoubtedly looking forward to her retirement. Irv too worked for Senator Matsunaga and now works with the Senate Sergeant at Arms. In his spare time he plays guitar and sings with the Aloha Boys, a local Hawaiian musical group. Both Shirley and Irv plan to remain active with the Halau O'Aulani, a Hawaiian cultural school in Maryland.

Shirley, from the bottom of my heart, I thank you for everything you have done for the Matsui family. I am sure you never planned to stay in Washington so long, but we are all so glad that you have. All of us wish you a joyful and long retirement. Brian, Amy, Anna and I keep a special place for you in our hearts.

Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress search far and wide for staff members like Shirley, but if we are honest with ourselves, we will admit that she is an original. I am honored to pay tribute to Shirley Queja as she ends her twenty-seven years of distinguished service on Capitol Hill. Her contributions to my office and this body are immense and her personal friendship has been immeasurable. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the career of this consummate professional and extraordinary person.

HONORING FLORENCE TREPP ON HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, devoted to her family and her community, Mrs. Florence Trepp stands as a role model and inspiration to so many people in Nevada. As she prepares to celebrate her 80th birthday, she maintains an unyielding commitment to serve her community. She has served as an advocate for abused children, a dedicated volunteer with numerous community organizations, and a committed supporter of the Parasol Community Foundation.

Florence's work with the Parasol Foundation specifically has enabled over 100 local non-profit organizations to communicate and work together towards improving their community and achieving their goals. Her son, Warren, cofounded the Parasol Foundation almost 10 years ago as a model for promoting collaboration among non-profit organizations. As an umbrella organization for numerous charities, the Parasol Foundation creates an all inclusive, safe environment encouraging groundbreaking ideas, sharing of information avoiding duplication of projects, programs and services, producing efficiency by saving time and money for each agency. Florence has staunchly supported these efforts which in turn, have benefited the entire Lake Tahoe community.

Florence is guided by her passion and by her faith. Her passion to help others and her sense of civic duty has propelled her to help others and better her community. In her short time in Nevada, she has become an inspiration for all. Florence has also a strong faith that helps her navigate the challenges of life. One of her most cherished memories is meeting the Pope and actually speaking to him in Polish, her native tongue.

Thirteen years ago, Florence had surgery for lung cancer. She thankfully is a survivor and never takes one day for granted. She enjoys the simple pleasures of life . . . including a good cup of hot coffee and America's favorite pastime, baseball. And Florence has a deep appreciation for her family, her friends, and people in general. She is always ready to lend a helping hand to those in need.

Her nickname in Polish is yacumda which means joy . . . and joy is what Florence brings to everyone she meets. Her commitment to helping people and her community is admirable. I am proud to call her a Nevadan and to call her my friend. I wish her a very happy birthday and thank her for her unyielding commitment to serving her community.

THE GENERATING RETIREMENT OWNERSHIP THROUGH LONG-TERM HOLDING ACT OF 2005

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Congressman WILLIAM JEFFERSON,

introduced today the Generating Retirement Ownership Through Long-Term Holding ("GROWTH") Act of 2005. We introduced this important legislation in an effort to address one of the issues making it difficult for today's working investors to save for retirement. Most of our Nation's mutual fund shareholders report that retirement is the primary purpose for which they are saving. Almost 50 percent of U.S. households now own mutual funds, and 72 percent of fund investors say that their primary goal is to save for retirement.

Mutual fund investors are overwhelmingly middle-income Americans investing for the long term. For many of these investors, mutual funds are the low-cost, professionally managed, diversified way in which they are saving on their own for retirement. Currently, investors who buy shares in a mutual fund and hold for the long term nevertheless find themselves taxed as they go—even though no fund shares were sold and no income was received. This legislation, which I'm proud to introduce along with my distinguished colleague, Congressman JEFFERSON of Louisiana, allows mutual fund shareholders to keep more of their own money to work for them longer by deferring—not avoiding—capital gains taxes until they actually sell their investment. The "GROWTH" Act makes it easier for these individuals to meet their goals and enjoy a secure retirement.

Those investors who opt in advance to leave capital gains generated by the fund manager reinvested in the fund are doing what so many policymakers want to see—they are holding for the long term, contributing to national savings, and building up their own retirement nest egg. Tax treatment that annually shrinks the amount saved—rather than taxing the sale of fund shares when the investor taps the savings—only frustrates the behavior that so many other provisions in the tax code try to encourage.

The GROWTH Act will encourage Americans to save more and to save for the long term to better prepare for a secure retirement. I urge my colleagues to join us in this effort and cosponsor this legislation.

IN HONOR OF THE RESEARCH AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE LATE DR. KENNETH B. CLARK

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the research and contributions of the late Dr. Kenneth B. Clark who passed away on Monday. In his 90 years, Dr. Clark through his research helped to end segregation, fought to improve educational opportunities and services in minority communities, and drew attention to the psychological challenges of minorities.

Dr. Clark's research as an educational psychologist focused on the effects of racial prejudices in shaping identity and influencing educational achievement. His research demonstrated that segregation cultivated feelings of inferiority in minority students. Thurgood Marshall convincingly used Dr. Clark's research on inferiority in segregated school systems to argue that "separate but equal" was unconstitutional.

Like most of us, Dr. Clark's mother played an important role in his educational commitment. She insisted in 1920's America that he not go to vocational school as advocated by guidance counselors. Instead, she was determined that her son could do and was worthy of much more. She stressed to him the value of a quality education and he worked to ensure that same standard for all Americans.

Dr. Clark worked to restructure the public school systems in New York and Washington. Committed to the importance of integration and the value of a quality education, Dr. Clark proposed major reforms in the school systems that would bring students from different backgrounds together and would challenge them academically.

Needless to say, Dr. Clark has long been a vocal and critical advocate for sound education policy and social justice. His research has already had a great impact on this country. I would further honor my dear friend, Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, by inserting the following two tributes to his memory. The first is a statement issued by Dennis Courtland Hayes, Interim President and CEO of the NAACP, and Julian Bond, Chairman of the NAACP Board of Directors. The second is a piece from the Washington Post about the research and life of Dr. Clark.

NAACP MOURNS DEATH OF KENNETH B. CLARK, PSYCHOLOGIST AND EDUCATOR WHO HELPED END SCHOOL SEGREGATION

Dr. Clark was a national authority on the negative effects of entrenched segregation.

May 2, 2005.—The NAACP mourns the passing of Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, whose groundbreaking studies of African American children in the south influenced the U.S. Supreme Court to rule that school segregation was unconstitutional. Clark died yesterday at his home in Hastings-on-the-Hudson, N.Y.

NAACP Interim President and CEO Dennis Courtland Hayes said: "Dr. Clark made a monumental contribution to the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision that has proven so important in this country. His research has been key to the understanding by African Americans that we are all created equal in the eyes of God and to value our heritage."

Clark's research verified the damaging effect of racial segregation to black school children in the early 1950's. This testimony was used by attorney Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP to challenge the constitutionality of the separate-but-equal doctrine that violated the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Clark's testing of children in South Carolina showed that African American children educated in a segregated school system saw themselves as inferior and, as he wrote, "accepted the inferiority as part of reality."

In 1961, Clark was awarded the Spingarn Medal, the NAACP's highest award. Clark, a longtime professor at City College of New York, wrote several influential books and articles advancing the cause of integration.

Founded in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its half-million adult and youth members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities and monitor equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.

KENNETH CLARK DIES; HELPED DESEGREGATE SCHOOLS

May 3, 2005.—Kenneth B. Clark, 90, an educational psychologist whose experiment with dolls of different colors helped convince the U.S. Supreme Court that racially segregated public schools were inherently unequal, died of cancer May 1 at his home in Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y.

In the seminal 1954 desegregation case in U.S. history, Brown v. Board of Education, the court used Dr. Clark's findings to buttress its ruling that "separate but equal" public schools encouraged feelings of inferiority among black children, not only damaging their self-esteem but also adversely affecting their ability to learn.

As early as 1939, Dr. Clark and his wife, Mamie Phipps Clark, had begun conducting tests to assess black youngsters' self-perception. Using dolls they bought for 50 cents apiece at the Woolworth's on 125th Street in Harlem (one of the few places that sold black dolls), they showed groups of black and white children two black dolls and two white dolls and asked them to choose which doll was nice, which was pretty and which was bad. The data from their tests showed that both groups overwhelmingly favored the white dolls.

Dr. Clark concluded that the children he studied, "like other human beings who are subjected to an obviously inferior status in the society in which they live, have been definitely harmed in the development of their personalities; that the signs of instability in their personalities are clear. . . ."

Dr. Clark repeated the experiment in 1950 in Clarendon County, S.C., where white students in the school system received more than 60 percent of the funds earmarked for education, even though the schools had three times as many black students. The results confirmed, in Dr. Clark's view, that the black children saw themselves as inferior.

Thurgood Marshall, then an attorney for the NAACP, seized on Dr. Clark's findings as evidence that segregated schools did harm and that minority-only schools violated the 14th Amendment because they could not meet the separate-but-equal standard enshrined by the court in the case of Plessy v. Ferguson more than a half-century earlier.

Some of Marshall's colleagues on the case were dismissive, even derisive, of Dr. Clark's dolls. They assumed Marshall would use the social-science findings tangentially, but the data turned out to be decisive. The court accepted Dr. Clark's premise that school segregation contributed heavily to the psychological damage of black youngsters.

Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote that separating black children from white children "solely because of their race generates a feeling of inferiority as to their status in the community that may affect the children's heart and minds in a way unlikely ever to be undone."

A decade later, Dr. Clark observed: "The court saw the issue clearly and in the same human terms in which [African Americans] had felt it. A racist system inevitably destroys and damages human beings; it brutalizes and dehumanizes them, blacks and whites alike."

Kenneth Bancroft Clark was born in the Panama Canal Zone in 1914. When he was 5, his mother decided to move to the United States with her son and 2-year-old daughter, even though her husband vehemently objected. The family, without the father, settled in Harlem.

Dr. Clark recalled that when he started school, Harlem was still integrated. By the time he reached the ninth grade, his school was predominantly black, and teachers were encouraging black students to go to vocational school.

"Mama stormed into school, more the shop steward than the lady she usually was," Dr. Clark recalled in a 1964 interview with the New York Post. "She told my counselor, 'I

don't give a damn where you send your son, but mine isn't going to any vocational school. . . .''

Dr. Clark graduated from George Washington High School in New York City and then enrolled at Howard University, where Ralph J. Bunche, a political science professor and later a Nobel Peace Prize winner, became a mentor. He received his undergraduate degree in psychology from Howard in 1935 and his master's degree in the same discipline from there the following year. He taught psychology at Howard in the 1937–38 school year.

In 1940, he became the first black person to receive a doctorate in psychology from Columbia University. Years later, while teaching at Columbia, he would mediate between students who had taken over a campus building and administrators trying to oust them.

From 1939 to 1941, Dr. Clark participated in a study of U.S. race relations headed by the Swedish economist Gunnar Myrdal. The results of the study were published in the book ''An American Dilemma: The Negro Problem and Modern Democracy'' (1944), a milestone in the nation's gathering awareness of the corrosive effects of racial prejudice.

Dr. Clark was an assistant professor of psychiatry at the Hampton (Va.) Institute in 1940–41, and he joined the psychology department at the City College of New York in 1942.

In 1946, Dr. Clark and his wife founded the nonprofit Northside Testing and Consultation Center in New York City to provide psychological services to Harlem residents. He later accused the New York City school system of allowing de facto segregation in some of its schools. Although school officials denied his charges, an investigation confirmed them and led to major reforms.

In 1960, Dr. Clark became the first black tenured professor at City College, and in 1966 the first black person to be elected to the New York state Board of Regents, where he served for 20 years.

In the early 1970s, the District of Columbia school board hired Dr. Clark as a consultant to revamp the schools. He submitted a comprehensive plan to focus on reading, mathematics and the measurement of teacher skills through student achievement. The ''Clark plan'' sparked controversy between the school board and the teachers union, and Dr. Clark cut his ties with the District after two years, with only pieces of his plan implemented.

He left with a rebuke of Superintendent Hugh Scott. ''I'm glad the superintendent laughs at critics,'' he told The Washington Post in April 1972. ''I'm glad he can laugh at anything. I can't laugh at the fact that these kids are no better off now than two years ago.''

Dr. Clark retired from teaching in 1975 and formed a consulting firm that specialized in equal employment opportunity and affirmative action. He was the author of numerous books, including ''Prejudice and Your Child'' (1955), ''Dark Ghetto'' (1965), ''A Possible Reality'' (1972) and ''Pathos of Power'' (1975).

Dr. Clark's wife, his closest colleague, died in 1983.

Always one to speak his mind, Dr. Clark continued to express his support for integration, although as the years passed he began to express dismay at the lack of progress in race relations.

''I believed in the 1950s that a significant percentage of Americans were looking for a way out of the morass of segregation,'' he told the New York Times in 1984. ''It was wishful thinking. It took me 10 to 15 years to realize that I seriously underestimated the depth and complexity of Northern racism.''

Once described by a colleague as ''the incorrigible integrationist,'' he lamented in later years that perhaps he had devoted himself to a lost cause. He felt that many old allies in the battle for an integrated, nonracist society, both black and white, had abandoned the struggle. He also lived long enough to witness an evolving uncertainty about Brown v. Board of Education and the unrealized benefits of school integration.

''I look back and I shudder and say, 'Oh God, you really were as naive as some people said you were,' '' he told The Post in 1990. ''My life has been a series of glorious defeats.''

Survivors include a daughter, Kate C. Harris of Lausanne, Switzerland, and Osprey, Fla.; a son, Hilton B. Clark of New York City; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

HEALTH INSURANCE CRISIS

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge ''Cover the Uninsured Week.'' Many of us have heard from our constituents this week, asking that we make health insurance coverage a top priority in the 109th Congress. America's families are living in fear that someone they love might develop a health problem they can't afford. We must begin a meaningful dialogue about this problem that will continue until every American has access to quality, affordable health insurance.

This national disgrace has reached crisis proportions. Forty-five million Americans—more than 8 million of whom are children, and more than 80 percent of whom live in working families—are one ambulance trip away from financial devastation.

I was pleased to join Leader PELOSI and other Democrats in cosponsoring three bills introduced this week as part of the Democrats' plan to build on programs that already work. Together, the Family Care Act, the Medicare Early Access Act and the Small Business Health Insurance Promotion Act would cover over half of all uninsured Americans. I have also been proud to be a part of other initiatives, both nationally and in my home state of Rhode Island to preserve and expand existing health insurance programs for retirees, children with disabilities, and adults attempting to return to the workforce. These are all important aspects to addressing the health care crisis, and I am honored to be part of building momentum around a solution.

Our small business owners know we are in a crisis. Rising health care costs are undermining their ability to purchase coverage for their employees. They are frustrated with the increasing burden of negotiating and administering health care plans, and they are taking on extra costs or passing them on to employees just to maintain level coverage. Without systemic change, these problems will continue to threaten the health security of all Americans.

What frustrates me most about the health insurance crisis is what little attention it receives. But I believe that with the proper amount of consideration and planning, the health care system in America can be saved. An enormous amount of money circulates through our health care system—we spend $35 billion on uncompensated care for individuals who don't have health insurance, with federal, state and local governments covering as much as 85 percent. Wouldn't it be better for American families, and also more cost effective, to transfer a large share of these funds to a new program to subsidize the cost of covering the uninsured? We spend millions treating illnesses diagnosed at later stages, thus requiring more costly treatments, because we didn't offer people the screenings to catch these problems earlier. This is the least efficient way possible to treat people. While we may not be in the best of economic times, if we made this issue a priority and committed ourselves to spending our health care dollars more wisely, we could offer all Americans access to quality, affordable care.

With these principles of efficiency and inclusion in mind, I have developed a model for universal health insurance. Introduced last year as the American Health Benefits Plan. This bill is modeled after the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program—which everyone in this chamber is familiar with, as it offers coverage to Members of Congress, their families and staffs.

Under my proposal, private companies will compete to offer health insurance, attracting enrollees on the basis of benefits as well as efficiency, service, and lower premiums. The government should make a substantial contribution to every American's premium, and for those for whom paying a portion of the premium would be a hardship, the government should offer subsidies—as we currently do under Medicaid. Employers should continue to contribute to the health care system, and they can do so through a payroll tax, which would fund the government contribution—but the burden of negotiating and administering health care plans should be taken on by the government.

A national template for this model already exists. FEHBP manages health insurance for more than 8 million federal employees, annuitants and dependents. This program is administered by the Office of Personnel Management, which assumes responsibility for approving or disapproving carriers, negotiating benefit and rate changes, and auditing carriers' operations under the law. With administrative costs of less than 1 percent, OPM has managed to offer a wide variety of health care choices and protections to federal employees.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the federal government should offer this kind of coverage and oversight to all Americans. I sincerely hope to continue this dialogue with my colleagues, beyond ''Cover the Uninsured Week,'' but this is an important place to start.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JOHN D. MOONSHOWER ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce

that John D. Moonshower of Ohio City, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

John's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2009. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

John brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Van Wert High School in Van Wert, John has attained a grade point average of 3.97, which places him near the top of his class of more than one hundred fifty students. While a gifted athlete, John has maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. John has been a member of the National Honor Society, Honor Roll, Beta Club, Key Club, and has earned awards and accolades as a scholar and an athlete.

Outside the classroom, John has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, John has earned letters in Varsity Football, Baseball and Basketball. He was named Co-Captain of the Varsity Basketball team and served as President of the Spanish Club, Vice President of the Beta Club and as Senior class representative. John's dedication and service to the community and his peers has proven his ability to excel among the leaders at West Point. I have no doubt that John will take the lessons of his student leadership with him to West Point.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating John D. Moonshower on his appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that John will do very well during his career at West Point and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the nation.

FREEDOM FOR LEONEL GRAVE DE PERALTA ALMENARES

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Leonel Grave de Peralta Almenares, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Grave de Peralta is a member of the Christian Liberation Movement and an independent librarian. According to Human Rights First, as director of the Bartolomé Masó Library, Mr. Grave de Peralta had a circulation record of over 700 book loans. His life is dedicated to the proposition that the men and women of Cuba must be free: free to learn, free to worship, free to enjoy their inalienable human rights.

Unfortunately, Mr. Grave de Peralta has been targeted by the totalitarian regime because of his belief in freedom and democracy. According to Amnesty International, he was harassed in 2002 when his home was besieged by the tyrant's thugs. Despite the constant threat of oppression, harassment, and torture, Mr. Grave de Peralta continued his peaceful, pro-democracy activities.

In March 2003, as part of Castro's heinous crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Grave de Peralta was arrested. Subsequently, in a sham trial, he was sentenced to 20 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Grave de Peralta is representative of the fighting spirit of the Cuban people: of their rejection of the brutality, discrimination, depravity, and oppression of the totalitarian tyranny. Thousands languish in the gulag because, like Mr. Grave de Peralta, they refuse to accept the tyrannical dictatorship in Cuba today.

Mr. Speaker, it is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, Mr. Grave de Peralta languishes in the horror of the totalitarian gulag because of his belief in freedom, democracy, and human rights. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Leonel Grave de Perlata Almenares and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SEPTEMBER 11TH ASSISTANCE TAX CLARIFICATION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I and several other New York Lawmakers introduced legislation to protect lower Manhattan businesses and residents from having to pay any taxes on 9/11 recovery assistance.

Despite a prior announcement by the IRS they were planning to exempt Lower Manhattan residents from most, if not all taxes, on Federal Grants given to them to recover from 9/11 or grants given as incentive to move to or stay in the area, the IRS has made a determination to tax aid received. A February 5, 2003 letter received by the Acting Commissioner, Bob Wenzel, stated the following:

> The legislation enacted in 2001 and 2002 that appropriated $2.7 billion of CDBG funds to aid in the recovery of New York City did not provide that the grants made from those funds were exempt from income tax. In addition, neither the Victims of Terrorist Attacks Relief Act of 2001 nor the Liberty Zone Benefits provision of the Job Creation and Workers Assistance Act of 2002 specifically exempted the grant payments from income tax. Therefore, we have had to apply existing general federal tax law principles to determine the tax status of the grants.

As incredible as it sounds, the IRS will tax this assistance unless we act. It was never the intention of this Congress to tax any of this money and it is time to pass this legislation to prevent this unfair and unjust tax.

HONORING MERRITT COLLEGE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Merritt College, one of the 9th Congressional District's outstanding institutions of higher education, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Located in the East Oakland hills, Merritt College is part of the Peralta Community College District in Alameda County. Merritt College is named for one of the pioneer developers of Oakland, Dr. Samuel Merritt, who first came to Oakland in 1850. When the community college concept was still evolving, Merritt College and one of its sister campuses, Laney College, were known earlier as the Merritt School of Business and the Joseph C. Laney Trade and Technical Institute. In July of 1953, the Board of Education created Oakland Junior College, developing Laney and Merritt as separate and distinct campuses of the new institution. The following year Merritt added a liberal arts curriculum to the already established business program, and in June 1955, the first students graduated with Associate in Arts degrees.

In November 1963, local residents voted to establish a separate junior college district, which was named in honor of Sgt. Luis Maria Peralta, the 19th-century owner of the 44,800 acres throughout which the district campuses are located. The following summer, the Board of Education voted to offer vocational, technical and liberal arts courses on each of the existing campuses. In 1965, voters passed a $47 million bond issue for the construction of additional campuses, and in 1971 Merritt College moved from Grove Street to its current home in the East Oakland hills.

Since that time, the faculty and students at Merritt College have continued the campus' tradition of academic excellence. Offering programs in over 70 different academic and vocational fields, Merritt enrolls more than 6,500 students each semester and equips its graduates for careers in law, medicine, art, nursing, government, radiological technology, early childhood education and more. Merritt offers day and evening programs of transfer, technical, occupational and basic skills education, and its programs and services have historically been provided by distinguished faculty and staff who are widely known and respected in their disciplines.

In addition, the student body at Merritt College represents a variety of cultures from throughout the U.S. and the world. Merritt is known for its outreach efforts and initiatives that seek to make education available to all, as evidenced by its work at the Fruitvale Education Center, local high schools and child care centers, and at Oakland City training centers for the police and fire departments. Merritt College sets a leading example of the steps that our educational institutions must take in order to make high-caliber educational experiences and credentials available, accessible and affordable to all.

On Friday, May 6, 2005, our community joins together to celebrate the innumerable contributions Merritt College has made to Oakland and the East Bay during the past half-century. Particularly during a time when our educational system is facing new and growing

challenges, it is important for us to be able to look to exemplary institutions such as Merritt for encouragement and inspiration. On behalf of the 9th Congressional District, I salute and congratulate Merritt College for 50 extraordinary years of service to our community. Merritt's students and stewards have demonstrated that an institution of higher education can not only be dynamic and innovative, but can truly be a force for hope, community empowerment and social change.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MONTH

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, just last week, our nation recognized April as Occupational Therapy Month. Occupational therapy is a health, education, wellness, and rehabilitation service that helps individuals engage in everyday activities, or ''occupations.'' More than 100,000 licensed occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants provide services to children and adults in a variety of settings across the nation, including 766 in my home state of Rhode Island. Services are provided by qualified professionals whose training includes anatomy and physiology, sociology, and psychology, including how disability affects an individual's ability to develop ''skills for the job of living.''

Occupational therapy focuses on performance of meaningful daily life activities, such as education, work, play, leisure, and social participation, despite impairments or limitations in physical or mental functioning. Occupational therapy not only helps children with disabilities to learn in school, but, also assists adults recovering from stroke to lead full and productive lives.

With its roots in mental health, occupational therapy focuses on the relationship between the client and their performance abilities, the demands of the activity, and the physical and social contexts within which the activity is performed. An individuals' performance is evaluated through their psychological, social, and emotional responses, which assists the therapist in implementing specific treatments to address the patients current needs and problems. Occupational therapy was recently profiled by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) on its National Mental Health Information Center's website.

I am pleased to recognize the importance of occupational therapy and the valuable service that it provides for millions of individuals and families.

IN HONOR OF THE CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION AT PIKE PARK

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cinco de Mayo celebration at Pike Park in Dallas, Texas.

Cinco de Mayo is a day for special pride and remembrance for the Hispanic community. It's a reminder of the proud heritage of many Americans and the warm and growing friendship between two great nations. It's a day worth celebrating. Today we recognize the continuous efforts to bring the community together through the Pike Park Advisory Council and the Pike Park Preservation League.

Originally called Summit Play Park, Pike Park was constructed in 1915 and through the efforts of the Consul General from Mexico. The Mexican American children of the neighborhood were finally allowed to use the park and swimming pool in the mid 1930's

The name changed in 1927 to Pike Park Recreation Center named after Mr. Edgar Pike, a member of the Dallas Park Board. Pike Park has served as the site of the ''Fiestas Patrias'' (Cinco de Mayo and Dies y Sies de Septiembre) since the late 1930's.

Pike Park has also served as the bastion for civic and social events of the Mexican-American community for over 65 years.

It is with great pride that I recognize the Pike Park Advisory Council and the Pike Park Preservation League are duly recognized as the future coordinators of the ''Fiestas Patrias''.

VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 366) to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 to strengthen and improve programs under that Act:

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 366, the Vocational and Technical Education for the Future Act. I want to commend my esteemed colleague, Mr. CASTLE, for his leadership on educational issues and particularly for sponsoring this important legislation.

Vocational and technical education is critically important in American Samoa. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, only 13 percent of 18 to 24 year-olds were enrolled in college classes, leaving a large number of the Territory's youth out of school, but unprepared for the skilled labor market.

In order for American Samoa to continue our economic development, our youth need skills training in construction skills, including carpentry, welding, and electrical engineering. We need architects, engineers and auto mechanics. The funding H.R. 366 provides will allow American Samoa to give our people the necessary skills to compete in this economy.

I support this legislation and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 366.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY IN EUROPE (V–E) DAY DURING WORLD WAR II

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, today the Congress recognized the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. World War II was a defining moment in the lives of our Nation's Greatest Generation. Men and women whose early youth was shaped in the ordeal of the Great Depression showed the values formed in that crucible when tyranny threatened a world. More than 4 million Americans served in our armed forces in the cauldron of Europe. Nearly 200,000 of them made the ultimate sacrifice there serving the cause of freedom. Today, as we must every day, we recognize and honor the service and sacrifices made by them and by our allies fighting by their side. Their legacy—and the legacy of their generation—is a freer world of opportunity and equality, which we inherit with gratitude and serve with humility.

HONORING THE SERVICEMEMBERS LEGAL DEFENSE NETWORK (SLDN)

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work and dedication of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), a national non-profit organization dedicated to ending the military's failed ''Don't Ask, Don't Tell'' policy.

SLDN was co-founded by Dixon Osburn and Michelle Beneke in 1994 as a legal service agency with the mission of providing counsel to service members discharged under ''Don't Ask, Don't Tell.'' Since that time, SLDN has assisted more than 6,500 gay and lesbian troops and obtained thirty-five improvements to military regulations related to the policy.

Today, SLDN is the Nation's leading advocacy organization dedicated to repealing ''Don't Ask, Don't Tell'' and ensuring open service in our armed forces. Through tenacity and strong leadership, the organization has made significant steps forward in breaking down the barrier that bans gays and lesbians from serving openly in the military. The gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community looks to SLDN as a model for accomplishing policy change.

2004 was a groundbreaking year for the organization. SLDN filed a monumental lawsuit on behalf of twelve veterans of the War on Terror, challenging the constitutionality of ''Don't Ask, Don't Tell'' in federal court. SLDN's legal expertise also paved the way for two victorious cases before the Army Court of Criminal Appeals, overturning military sodomy convictions. And the staff mobilized veterans and supporters from twenty-two states to meet with 90 Congressional offices on their annual ''Lobby Day.''

I have had the pleasure of working with SLDN since my freshman term in Congress.

Most recently, we came together to draft the Military Readiness Enhancement Act, historic legislation to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and replace it with a nondiscrimination policy. Because of SLDN's staunch efforts to win support in Congress, I introduced the bill with more than fifty cosponsors on March 2, 2005. We now have more than eighty cosponsors of this bipartisan bill today.

As SLDN celebrates its national dinner on May 7th, I commend the staff, board, and supporters for their commitment and perseverance. Just as the advocacy of civil rights groups paved the way for desegregation in the military, I am confident that SLDN's hard work will soon lead to the demise of the discriminatory and counterproductive "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

"THE BIG SHOTS WALK"

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, many Americans continue to be gravely embarrassed by our country's failure to address in a forthright manner the abuse of human rights which occurred at Abu Ghraib prison under our control. Clearly the great majority of Americans who have served in Iraq are innocent of any such pattern of abuse, but it is simply a defiance of common sense and the facts to hold accountable only a handful of low-level military personnel on the scene, while exonerating those in charge who are in various degrees culpable for either encouraging or allowing this to happen.

Bob Herbert's column in the New York Times on April 27 makes this point forcefully, noting that "under Commander in Chief George W. Bush, the notion of command accountability has been discarded. In Mr. Bush's world of war, it's the grunts who take the heat. Punishment is reserved for the people at the bottom. The people who foul up at the top are promoted."

Mr. Speaker, our country deserves better of its leadership, and so do the men and women in the armed services who should not see a small number of their comrades held accountable for their actions while those in charge suffer no such penalty. I ask that Bob Herbert's thoughtful discussion of this matter be printed here.

ON ABU GHRAIB, THE BIG SHOTS WALK

(By Bob Herbert)

When soldiers in war are not properly trained and supervised, atrocities are all but inevitable: This is one reason why the military command structure is so important. There was a time, not so long ago, when commanders were expected to be accountable for the behavior of their subordinates.

That's changed. Under Commander in Chief George W. Bush, the notion of command accountability has been discarded. In Mr. Bush's world of war, it's the grunts who take the heat. Punishment, is reserved for the people at the bottom. The people who foul up at the top are promoted.

It was a year ago today that the stories and photos of the shocking abuses at Abu Ghraib prison first came to the public's attention. It was a scandal that undermined the military's reputation and diminished the standing of the U.S. around the world.

It would soon become clear that the photos of hooded, naked and humiliated detainees were evidence of a much larger problem. The system for processing, interrogating and detaining prisoners at Abu Ghraib and elsewhere in Iraq was dangerously out of control, and the command structure responsible for it had collapsed. Detainees were beaten, tortured, sexually abused and, in some instances, killed. Many detainees should never have been imprisoned at all, as they had committed no offenses.

So what happened? A handful of grunts were court-martialed, a Marine major was cashiered, and the Army plans to issue a new interrogation manual that bars certain harsh techniques. There was no wholesale crackdown on criminal behavior.

We learned last week that after a high-level investigation, the Army had cleared four of the five top officers who were responsible for prison policies and operations in Iraq. The fifth officer, Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski of the Army Reserve, had already been relieved of her command of the military police unit at Abu Ghraib. (She has complained, and not without reason, that she was a scapegoat for the failures of higher-ranking officers.)

As Eric Schmitt wrote in The Times: "Barring new evidence, the inquiry by the Army's inspector general effectively closes the Army's book on whether the highest-ranking officers in Iraq during the Abu Ghraib prison scandal, should be held accountable for command failings described in past reviews."

This is the way atrocities are dealt with in Mr. Bush's world of war. The higher-ups responsible for training, supervising and disciplining the troops—in other words, the big shots who presided over a system that ran shamefully amok—escaped virtually unscathed.

The abuses at Abu Ghraib, which seemed mind-boggling at the time, turned out to be symptomatic of the torture, abuse and institutionalized injustice that have permeated the Bush administration's operations in its so-called war against terror. Euphemisms like rendition, coercive interrogation, sleep adjustment and waterboarding are now widely understood. Yes, Virginia, it is the policy of the United States to kidnap individuals and send them off to regimes skilled in the art of torture.

Two things are needed. First, a truly independent commission, along the lines of the bipartisan 9/11 panel, should be set up to thoroughly investigate U.S. interrogation and detention operations and make recommendations to correct abuses.

Second, the U.S. government should make it clear, beyond any doubt, that torture and any other inhumane treatment of prisoners is wrong, just flat wrong, and will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

"In our contemporary world, torture is like the slave trade or piracy was to people in the 1790's," said Michael Posner, executive director of Human Rights First, which is suing Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld over the prisoner abuse issue. "Torture is a crime against mankind, against humanity. It's something that has to be absolutely prohibited."

If the president made it clear that men and women up and down the chain of command would be held responsible for the abuses that occur on their watch, the abuses would plummet. Instead, the message the administration has sent is that its demands for accountability will be limited to a few hapless, ill-trained grunts.

The big shots who presided over behavior that has shamed America in the eyes of the world can count on this president's embrace.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AICPA'S JOURNAL OF ACCOUNTANCY

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Journal of Accountancy, the Journal of record for the accounting profession, on its 100th anniversary this year.

The Journal of Accountancy, which is published by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, is read by nearly 400,000 readers each month. Its contents include official releases of technical requirements for CPAs as well as news and information that enlighten readers about important relevant developments in and outside the profession and that enhance their professional competency.

As a CPA, I am keenly aware of the value of this publication. CPAs play a vital role in our economy, and since 1905 the Journal of Accountancy has helped keep them informed about key business trends.

I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution that the JofA has made during its first century and to recognize its editors, authors and art and production staff for their hard work. I extend my best wishes to the JofA for its continued success.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO AND HONORING 75 YEARS OF INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY BANKING

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, on May 9, 1930, a group of Minnesota community bankers held their first official meeting in Glenwood, Minnesota, in my district. The agenda that day was to focus on how to respond to the broad challenges facing the nation, as well as the specific challenges to community banks—the stock market crash the year before, a nation struggling to get back on its economic feet, a rash of bank foreclosures, and the rapid growth of chain banks.

This meeting of 28 bankers grew from a one-state organization, focused on state issues, into today's Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA), the largest constituency of community banks in the nation. 2005 marks ICBA's 75th anniversary. In 1962 the bankers returned to their original mission and set up the Independent Community Bankers of Minnesota (ICBM), to focus again on issues specific to Minnesota.

This year also denotes a special milestone for the state association, ICBM. Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty proclaimed May 9th Independent Community Bankers of Minnesota Day, commemorating the founding of the only state association that exclusively serves the independent community banking industry.

Initially, industry consolidation and interstate banking heightened the need for legislative representation of community bankers. Today that need remains strong as community banks continue to serve a vital role in our state and

national economies by consistently reinvesting deposits in the communities they serve in the form of agricultural, educational, small business, real estate and consumer loans. Moreover, as industry consolidation continues, community banks stand out as the only financial institutions that keep control in local hands.

ICBM serves nearly 300 statewide members through its unique programming. In addition to its annual convention, various publications and wide-ranging committees, ICBM offers valuable services and products through its partnerships and associate memberships; a technology tradeshow; legislative representation; education resources; and networking opportunities.

ICBM continues the tradition started 75 years ago of innovation and community concern while it partners with the Pohlad Family Foundation to offer T.E.A.M. (Training, Educating, And Mentoring) Future Bankers, a unique summer youth jobs program that introduces students to community banking and invests in the futures of the next generation of community bankers. This year, 75 interns will be hired statewide to work in this valuable program. Every intern also will be invited as a guest of Twins owner Carl Pohlad at a baseball game on June 19th.

On the political side, ICBM launched a separate non-profit in 2004 called Debate Minnesota, a unique effort to bring civility back to Minnesota politics by hosting a series of roundtable debates that focus on issues. The Star Tribune, the state's largest daily newspaper, in an editorial on Election Day 2004, had this to say about Debate Minnesota, "Their concept for candidate debates is what made them stand out this year. The result was a series that drew considerable local media coverage, and expressions of appreciation from participants and observers alike. Debate Minnesota established a good name for itself in its first year. Debate Minnesota ought to be back, in more places and races in 2006."

From 28 original founders to a nationwide network of 5,000 banks, ICBA and ICBM continue to bring much-needed diversity and leadership to the banking world as well as the communities in which their members serve. I would like to commend both organizations for their innovative spirit and community dedication, and wish them well on their journey toward their 100th anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL BIKE MONTH RESOLUTION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution in support of National Bike Month. The League of American Bicyclists has celebrated every May since 1956 as National Bike Month. With this resolution, Congress will recognize the enormous role bicycling has in our lives. This month provides an opportunity to promote the benefits of cycling, appreciate those in the cycling community, and to encourage bicycle safety.

Bicycling is one of the cleanest, healthiest, most efficient, and environmentally friendly modes of transportation that exists. It is the most efficient form of urban transportation in history. There are over 57 million adult cyclists in the United States, 5 million of whom choose to commute to work by bike. This transportation choice helps ease congestion on our roads and reduce environmental pollution while allowing cyclists to incorporate exercise into their everyday lives. In an age of high energy prices, overcrowded roads, and a growing obesity epidemic, biking is more important to the well being of our communities than ever before.

Communities throughout the Nation have reaped the positive benefits of biking. According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, bicycles are second only to cars as a preferred mode of transportation. National Bike Month provides the opportunity to recognize the significant impact of this noble invention and to inform others of the healthy, environmental, efficient, and neighborhood-friendly form of transportation.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate, with my colleagues, the extraordinary accomplishments of the Asian Pacific American (APA) community and to recognize the sacrifices they have endured. Their struggle to find a place in America without prejudice and repression is a story that all Americans should know, and I am pleased that the month of May has been set aside for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

I am so proud to represent the 12th Congressional District of California because its amazingly diverse population includes a large APA community, as well as the largest population of Filipinos outside of the Philippines.

Looking back over our history, it is heartening to see the advances that the APA community has made as a whole, in spite of setbacks and sometimes horrific treatment in our government's name. One of the most compelling stories came to an end earlier this year with the passing of my good friend Congressman Robert Matsui, with whom I served for 24 years. His tragic and unexpected death struck a chord deep in the hearts of all those who served with him. His success story is quintessentially American, despite the fact that when he was young, the U.S. government denied him the freedom bestowed to him under the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, even though his family had been in the United States for two generations, Bob and his family, like 114,000 other Americans of Japanese descent, were rounded up and sent to detention camps. The courage it took, not only to survive and to prosper from this slap in the face to all Americans, but to go on to become part of the government in the hope of changing the government's policies and working atmosphere is extremely commendable. And change the atmosphere he did, passing the Japanese-American Redress Act, which produced an official apology from the Federal Government. He became one of the highest-ranking Asian Pacific Americans in Congress during the 108th while serving as the Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. He exemplified the fight for freedom and liberty and he is sorely missed. We welcome Bob's wife, and my friend DORIS, as she begins her Congressional service.

Many other Congressional colleagues of APA heritage have served our country with distinction. Currently there are over 300,000 veterans of Asian or Pacific Islander decent, and while many served our country with distinction, no unit in the armed forces deserves more credit than the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Comprised solely of persons of Japanese background, this band of brothers was the most decorated unit for its size in U.S. history. My good friend and colleague, Senator DANIEL INOUYE earned the Medal of Honor fighting in the 442nd.

As a group, the people of the APA communities are fighters, throwing off the second class citizenship that was foisted upon them during immigration battles throughout the 19th and 20th centuries to become among the highest achieving Americans. Half of all members of the APA adult community have college degrees, compared with one quarter of the adult U.S. population is but one mark of excellence.

Mr. Speaker, although it is important to recognize the achievements made, this month will also allow us to renew our focus on the problems that face the APA community, problems like affordable housing, racial profiling, language barriers and unfair immigration laws. One of the largest problems facing the Asian Pacific Community is the perception that the community is thriving without exception. With a record amount of those in the APA community going to college, one would tend to think that way, but in reality there are large sections of the APA populations who have very little education, and who experience financial depths that no American should have to face. There remains a problem that must be addressed when language barriers contribute to leaving one out of ten Asian Pacific Americans in poverty.

I continue to work with other members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus to create a better environment for Asian Pacific Americans in my Congressional District. I wrote H.R. 139, which helps to alleviate the nursing shortage seen throughout California and the nation by allowing Filipino nurses to use some of the unused employment-based immigrant visas. I am an original cosponsor of a bill that would authorize grants for institutions of higher education that serve disproportionately low income and underserved Asian American and Pacific Islander students. During the 108th Congress, I was a cosponsor of a bill that would give Filipino Americans residing as legal aliens or citizens of the U.S. the same health and pension benefits that all other veterans of World War II receive, as well as many other bills that support the APA community.

The Bay Area is lucky to be home to one of the largest populations of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States, particularly San Francisco and San Mateo County. For centuries it has been one of the great gateways to America, just like St. Louis for those coming west. I thank San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsome and the members of the Board of Supervisors for their proclamation officially

dedicating the month of May in San Francisco as Asian Pacific Heritage month.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we have come full circle as a nation in our attitudes toward Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. This vibrant part of our community offers an array of perspectives that are firmly woven into the fabric of America, and I am extremely proud to serve as a representative of the community. I invite my colleagues of all backgrounds to join me in observing this wonderful month and recognizing the contributions that they have made in fighting for liberty and freedom for this great nation.

HEALTH INSURANCE CRISIS

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take time today to recognize ''Cover the Uninsured Week,'' a project of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation designed to raise awareness of the issue of access to health care.

It may be hard to believe, but more than a decade has passed since the Clinton Administration's health care plan died in Congress. In survey after survey, Americans consistently rate access to health insurance as one of their top concerns. But unfortunately, our nation's political leaders have failed to lead on this critical issue.

The facts reveal a startling truth—as a Nation, we are facing a crisis of the uninsured. In just the last four years, the number of uninsured Americans has ballooned to 45 million, an increase of more than 5 million people. If the millions that go without health insurance for some period during the year are included, the number of uninsured dramatically increases to more than 85 million people.

To dispel one myth: This rise in the number of uninsured is not the result of people deciding not to work. Rather, an overwhelming majority of the uninsured—80 percent—are working families, many employed by businesses that have become less able to provide health coverage for their employees.

And if things weren't bad enough, the Administration has proposed broad cuts to Medicaid, essentially gutting the healthcare system of last resort for poor Americans, by at least $10 billion. In these worsening times, how can we justify pulling the rug out from underneath our community's most vulnerable?

In my home state of Massachusetts, we have been fortunate; we are among those states with the lowest percentage of uninsured. But, even there we have a lot more work to do. According to a recent Urban Institute report, there are currently 532,000 uninsured people in Massachusetts, and most of the health care available to these people is provided by local hospitals.

And like many other states, since 2000, Massachusetts workers have seen their health premiums rise three times faster than their wages. If these trends continue, fewer individuals and families will be able to afford to pay for coverage, and fewer small businesses will be able to provide this vital benefit to employees.

As we all know, we often tend to ignore that, which does not directly affect us, but we can no longer afford to do so; there are clear consequences to all of us for ignoring the plight of the uninsured. According to a recent Institute of Medicine report, the United States loses $65–$130 billion each year as a result of the poor health and early deaths of uninsured adults. Should things continue to worsen, we will all be forced to bare the financial burden of the uninsured.

But this problem extends beyond the dollars and cents. As citizens, we have a moral responsibility to our communities, and we cannot stand by in good conscience as millions are denied access to basic health care.

So, as we take this time to recognize ''Cover the Uninsured Week,'' I hope that my colleagues will join me in raising awareness about the reality facing the millions of uninsured. We must not allow this issue to remain on the back burner of the national political debate. Health care is a right, not a privilege, and all of us must work to extend that right to every single American.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. R.B. ''DICKIE'' WILLIAMS, III

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, recently south Alabama lost one of its most colorful personalities, and I lost a dear friend, R.B. ''Dickie'' Williams, III, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

A native of Mobile, Alabama, ''Dickie'' was raised on the Williams Plantation in Finchburg, Alabama. After graduating from Monroeville High School and attending Auburn University, he graduated in 1958 with a B.S. degree in pharmacy from Howard College (since renamed Samford University). In 1961, ''Dickie'' moved to Selma, Alabama, and worked for three years on the staff of Swift Drug Company. In 1964, he moved one last time to Monroeville, where he opened Williams Drug Store.

For nearly 40 years, Williams Drug Store was one of the foundations of the businesses found on Monroeville's town square and provided—in addition to one of the best and most efficient pharmacies anywhere in the area—a gathering place for members of the community who would come together for fresh coffee and good conversation. In addition, the store became an unofficial repository of decades of Monroe County history, and during the latter part of his life ''Dickie'' was known as Monroe County's ''unofficial historian.'' During his life, he shared his vast knowledge of county history and personal recollections of life in Monroe County in a column for the town's newspaper, the Monroe Journal, and in a series of four books.

Perhaps most importantly, however, ''Dickie'' was deeply concerned for the personal well-being of his fellow Monroe Countians and for the preservation of his county's and his State's natural and historic sites. During the course of his life, he established the Monroe County Conservation Club and was instrumental in the creation of the Monroe County State Fishing Lake. Additionally, he was a past president of the Alabama Wildlife Federation and for 21 years was an elected Alabama delegate to the National Wildlife Federation. ''Dickie'' was also instrumental in helping to save the Old Monroe County Courthouse from demolition and was one of the founders of the Monroe County Heritage Museum.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a devoted citizen and longtime advocate for Monroe County, Alabama. ''Dickie'' will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Nancy Beeland Williams, his brothers, Charles Robbins Williams and John Bonner Williams, his daughter, Elizabeth Williams Olsey, his son, Richard Russell Williams, his stepsons, Dr. David Stallworth and Jeff Stallworth, his stepdaughter, Nancy Stallworth Weiss, and his 9 grandchildren—as well as the many friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

FAIR TAXES, FAIR BENEFITS, FAIR SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE WOMEN OF OUR NATION!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support for three bills that I have introduced to provide financial relief to women in our Nation. Both men and women will receive assistance from this legislation, but because women are often with less financial resources, they will particularly benefit.

My first bill, H.R. 2127, the ''Fair Taxes for Seniors Act'', will provide a one-time increase in the capital gains tax exemption on the sale of a home for citizens who are 50 years of age or older. Passing this bill will give many seniors the additional money they need for nursing home care, medical costs, and other retirement expenses.

The current capital gains tax exemption works well for younger people who often move from job to job, selling their homes. The current exemption works well for people who live in areas where housing prices are below average. But it is not working for individuals who have lived in one home for 20 to 50 years and have a capital gain that is much larger than the present exemption. In other words, it is not working for seniors who live in areas with higher housing prices, such as San Diego, California in my Congressional District.

My bill doubles the current exemption by providing a one-time increase to $500,000 for a single person and $1 million for a couple that can be excluded from the sale of a principal residence for taxpayers who have reached the age of 50. Because they will be able to keep more, an added benefit is that family members and perhaps the government will be relieved of the burden of caring for these individuals as they grow older.

My second bill is H.R. 2126, the ''Social Security Survivors Fairness Act'', legislation to provide Social Security widows' and widowers' benefits to people under the age of 60. Many of these survivors are women, women who have spent their life working in the home, raising their children, and supporting their husbands. They currently are allowed to receive Social Security widows' benefits, but to qualify they must be 60 years old.

It is very difficult for many to find a job at their age if they have never worked outside their homes. Women in their late 50s who are dependent on their husbands' Social Security are left with no means of support if their spouses die.

My bill would amend the Social Security Act to reduce from 60 to 55 the age at which an individual who is otherwise eligible may be paid widows' or widowers' insurance benefits.

Finally, I have introduced H.R. 2125, the ''Continued Benefits for Injured Military Spouses Act''. Under current law, enacted in 1982, former spouses of military members or retirees are eligible for military medical benefits and exchange and commissary privileges if the military member had performed at least 20 years of military service, had been married for at least 20 years to one spouse, and 20 years of marriage and service were overlapping. This is known as the 20/20/20 restriction. Further legislation was enacted 2 years later to include additional former spouses under a 20/20/15 restriction.

While this law recognizes the contribution and sacrifice of many military spouses who later divorced, there is a group who are completely left out through no fault of their own. Spouses who must leave a marriage through divorce due to documented abuse are often left with none of these benefits. Domestic violence and physical or sexual endangerment to the spouse or the children, proven by medical or counseling records, should be taken into account. Divorced because of this situation, the injured spouse should continue to receive benefits.

H.R. 2125 will change the law to 20/20/10 only for these special circumstances, meaning that the military member would have been married for at least 20 years to one spouse, would have performed at least 20 years of military service, with 10 years of service and marriage overlapping. This change would allow an abused spouse to escape from a potentially dangerous marriage and still keep benefits.

Most of our military members are honorable and good people. But, in the few cases where spousal or child abuse is involved, we must protect the families. I invite my colleagues to join me in support of military spouses who have found themselves in dangerous marriages, in support of fairer taxes for senior citizens, and in support of widows' benefits for surviving spouses who are 55 and older.

HONORING SAM RAMPELLO

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Sam Rampello, a tireless advocate for Hillsborough County, Florida's public schools. Sam's passing this weekend silences a passionate voice for our young people.

A Tampa native and graduate of Jesuit High School and the University of Tampa, Sam spent his career working to improve our local schools. He started by teaching history at Plant High School, and then went on to serve as a history professor at the University of Tampa. But it wasn't long before he came back to the public school system, working as dean of boys at Leto High School, then as assistant principal at Jefferson High School.

In 1972, Sam worked as director of Hillsborough Community College's temporary airport campus and a year later joined the Hillsborough County planning commission. In 1976, Gov. Reubin Askew appointed Sam to the Hillsborough County School board, where he served for nearly 18 years.

Humble by nature, Sam's focus was always on the best interests of his students and his persistent goal was to help make our schools the best they can be. His steadfast faith allowed Sam to see the potential in everyone—particularly our students and those who help them succeed.

Last year, in honor of all his work, a school was named in Sam's honor. When the Sam Rampello Downtown Partnership School open's next year, it will serve as a living testament to Sam's dedication to Hillsborough County Schools.

On behalf of the entire Tampa Bay community, I would like to thank Sam for all of his good deeds and extend my deepest sympathies to his family.

IN HONOR OF CURTIS HIGH SCHOOL UPON ITS RECEIPT OF THE COLLEGE BOARD'S 2005 INSPIRATION AWARD

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to recognize today the great achievements of a high school in my hometown of Staten Island: Curtis High School (CHS). This important educational institution has just been given a $25,000 check from the College Board to accompany the school's receipt of the 2005 Inspiration Award. The Board levies this honor annually on only 3 schools that help students achieve equitable access to higher education despite social, economic, and cultural challenges. A focus on attendance led to CHS' receipt of the award this year. The school's pioneering programs have led to 90 percent attendance rate and an 88 percent rate of graduation. Such a feat is truly amazing considering the schools circumstances.

CHS is a 100-year-old Gothic-style building, embellished with gargoyles and ornate stone archways. The school has an active alumni association, and many of its teachers are graduates, but CHS has changed dramatically since the days when it served a small, homogeneous middle-class community.

Today, Curtis High School functions at 160 percent of capacity. Forty-six percent of its students are documented at or below the federal poverty level, and more than half of its students receive free or reduced-price lunches. Among its racially diverse population of more than 2,600 students, 40 percent are white, 33 percent are black, and 20 percent are Hispanic. The school also serves children who are recent immigrants from Latin America, West Africa, Eastern Europe, and Asia.

Curtis High School credits its success to 10 small learning communities called ''houses.'' Every freshman who enters CHS chooses among the themed tracks, which include such varied subjects as the performing arts, Junior ROTC, business and computer science, nursing, and journalism. Each house has unique electives that develop the student's particular talents and interests—be it dance, computer graphic design, or law—while maintaining a college-preparatory curriculum for all students.

The school also offers afternoon and weekend tutoring programs, active college counseling, and a mentoring program that targets recent immigrants and students with little parental guidance. The Career Connections program, a partnership among CHS, local businesses, and other community-based organizations, helps students to upgrade their résumés by finding paid internships and part-time employment opportunities. Principal Curtis has also introduced programs for parents, such as ''Parents As Art Partners,'' which offers a free photography class, to create more parent involvement at the school.

These innovative initiatives and the school's commitment to its 3 foundations of success, ''Attendance, Attitude and Achievement,'' have allowed literally thousands of children to gain a high school diploma in the face of tremendous odds. In doing so, such efforts have put these children on the path to a better life, free from the shackles of poverty. I am honored to recognize this fine institution and hope its efforts serve as a model for schools throughout the country. The CHS example shows there is no limit to human ingenuity and that through creativity, commitment and perseverance, we can provide a better life for generations to come.

THE ACT TO PROVIDE MEMORIAL MARKERS FOR THOSE WHO DIED WHILE SERVING OVERSEAS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a bill that will help families memorialize those who died in service to our country and are buried in cemeteries overseas. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, those servicemembers whose remains are classified as ''unavailable for burial'' are eligible for government-provided memorial markers or headstones. While this classification includes those whose remains have not been recovered or who were buried at sea, there is one glaring exception to this definition—those who died fighting for freedom abroad and were laid to rest there.

The United States currently has 24 permanent overseas burial grounds that are the final resting place for nearly 125,000 of our bravest men and women who died serving our country. These sites are the responsibility of the American Battle Monuments Commission and are a wonderful tribute to those buried there. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs maintains that because these graves can be visited, there is no need to provide families at home with a memorial marker for their deceased loved ones.

We should not deny these families the ability to obtain memorial markers when we already do it for so many others. To correct this, my legislation will add overseas burials to the VA's ''unavailable for burial'' classification and finally let these men and women be memorialized by their families here at home.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CLINICAL RESEARCH ACT OF 2005

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to join with my colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. DOYLE to introduce the ''Clinical Research Act of 2005.'' This bill will address many of the problems confronting our Academic Health Centers as they attempt to leverage the enormous biomedical research gains made in the past century, and in the past several years in particular as the budget for the National Institutes of Health has doubled.

Breakthroughs in basic biomedical sciences over the past 5 decades, including human genomics, biomedical engineering, molecular biology, and immunology, have provided an unprecedented supply of information for improving human health. As a member of the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee I am proud to say that the remarkable strides that have been made in basic science would not have occurred without the support of Congress and the general public. While we realize that research may not produce results overnight, we, as stewards of the taxpayers' dollar have every right to expect that the fruits of that research will result in better treatments for patients. This requires a federal commitment to clinical research, including a commitment to ensuring that the infrastructure is capable of translating, in a systemic and rational way, the fruits of basic research into improved patient care.

I, along with many of my colleagues in the Congress and the public in general, have become increasingly concerned that we have been too slow in getting improved patient therapies and interventions from the enormous investment we have made in basic research. The Congress and both the Clinton and Bush Administrations made significant commitments to doubling the NIH budget. Significant strides and advancements have been made in basic research. Unfortunately, I hear on an ongoing basis from patient advocacy groups concerned that this significant taxpayer investment has not had much direct benefit to those suffering from disease. In addition to hearing from patient advocacy groups, I hear from my colleagues about the apparent disconnect between the promise of basic science and the delivery of better health care for the citizens of this country. I believe that we can and should do a better job of moving the bench research to the bedside. That is what this bill is aimed at doing.

Without strong Academic Health Centers capable of conducting clinical research, the promise of improving the health of the American people will continue to elude us.

Unfortunately, the clinical research environment in the Academic Health Centers is encumbered by rising costs, inadequate funding, mounting regulatory burdens, fragmented infrastructure, incompatible databases, and a shortage of both qualified investigators and willing study participants. Without changes to help Academic Health Centers meet these challenges, these breakthroughs in basic science will remain in the laboratories. Rat after rat will continue to be cured, but due to the burdensome costs and the lack of clinical researchers cures for humans will not materialize. Let's face it, bench research is less burdensome and less costly than applying clinical therapies to human beings suffering various diseases. Furthermore, because of the rising cost of healthcare delivery and the fiscal pressures weighing on academic health centers, many of these physician researchers face institutional pressures to spend more and more of their time seeing billable patients rather than conducting innovative clinical research. The clinical researcher is a diminishing breed, yet they play a vital role in bringing cures out of the laboratory to the suffering patient.

It is also important to recognize that many of the potential cures for patients utilize therapies and interventions for which there is not a patentable product. In other words, there is no profit motive for large corporate backer to invest resources in developing these therapies. Without federal support for this clinical research, most of these trials and likely cures will remain out of the reach of patients.

The bill that Representative DOYLE and I are introducing today, through its clinical research support grants, infrastructure grants, and ''partnerships in clinical research'' grants, will provide our Nation's Academic Health Centers with the crucial resources they need and the opportunity to meet the public's expectations. This bill is specifically aimed at improving the translation of this new medical science knowledge to directly benefit those suffering from a wide array of diseases that impact all too many lives.

If we are going to reap the benefit of the enormous investment of taxpayer dollars in biomedical research it is important that we move this legislation forward.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE MARINE CORPS TRIKE PROGRAM OF CITRUS COUNTY

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, since 1997, the Marine Corps League has presented trikes to handicapped children in Citrus County, FL.

Local Detachment #819 was involved with the Marine Corps League Auxiliary in conjunction with the Toys for Tots Program in starting and implementing the current trike program.

This past weekend I joined the Marine Corps League to help present modified tricycles to some of the handicapped children in Citrus County.

Each tricycle is modified to accommodate the individual handicap of the child.

I can tell you from firsthand experience that the Marines are doing an amazing service to these young children, and should be commended for their service and dedication to the community.

I would hope that other Members would identify Marine Corps Leagues back home in their districts, and help participate in this worthy program.

HONORING EAST BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO COMPETED IN THE 2005 NATIONAL SCIENCE BOWL

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor five outstanding individuals, Eric Chang, Harrison Hsu, Aditya Panda, Zhengyang Zhang, and Alex Zozula who competed in the 2005 National Science Bowl representing East Brunswick High School. These five students exemplify the true academic spirit and scientific drive that our country needs as we enter the 21st century.

Since 1991, the National Science Bowl, through the sponsorship of the United States Department of Energy, has brought together more than 100,000 high school students to promote serious study of all fields of science, from biology to physics, from botany to astronomy. These students have prepared throughout the year for the regional elimination tournaments, where only the best-prepared and most scientifically-minded teams move on to the National Science Bowl.

The team of five, under the guidance of coach and teacher Paul Kimmel won their regional elimination tournament held at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory.

As a scientist, I cannot stress enough the importance of science and math education. Science provides a bridge that connects all aspects of our lives. These disciplines form the basic building blocks that make up our knowledge of the world around us. Science and math education is the key to guiding future generations in their understanding of an ever changing world. Through programs such as the National Science Bowl, America's youth is exposed to this vital branch of learning in a way that sparks their interest and promotes serious study in these fields.

Part of this year's Science Bowl featured a Model Fuel Cell Car Race, where teams were able to build a model car powered by hydrogen to compete in a speed race or a king-of-the-hill climb. The participating students also had the opportunity to attend presentations by well known scientists that covered important scientific issues of today. The five exceptional students from East Brunswick team gained valuable knowledge from their participation in this year's Science Bowl that they will surely share with their fellow peers.

It is also important to acknowledge the parents, mentors, friends, and family who have helped these students succeed in their academic efforts. I applaud the Science Department at East Brunswick High School for preparing these exemplary students.

I congratulate the members of the East Brunswick High School science team for their successes and wish them the best of luck in their future scientific endeavors.

CINCO DE MAYO HOLIDAY

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today, Mexican-Americans across

the country celebrate Cinco de Mayo—a day that commemorates the past and relishes the present by embracing American culture. So many Mexican-Americans have made positive contributions to our Nation.

One area in particular where Mexican-Americans have made great strides is in the Armed Forces. There are many Mexican-Americans proudly serving and giving back to their country right now. I want to share the story of Daniel from South Gate.

He is the son of Mexican immigrants, who came to this country to make a better life for his family. Growing up, Daniel said he always felt patriotic. When I asked him what he thought patriotism was, he replied, ''I think it's working for freedom. I have always felt that I needed to earn my rights and that I had to contribute, even for the right to vote.''

He went on to say that serving in the military was his civic duty. So as soon as he was able, Daniel enlisted in the Marines and graduated boot camp at 17. Daniel was one of the first Mexican-Americans that many Iraqis had ever seen. I can think of no better ambassador for our country. While he was shot at, he returned to southern California unharmed.

As you can see by this story, Mexican-Americans share the same goals as other Americans of freedom, opportunity, and a chance to build a better life. On this day, let us salute Daniel, and all other Mexican-American soldiers and veterans for their great service to this great Nation.

RECOGNIZING ''COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK'' May 1–8, 2005

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, as our Nation recognizes ''Cover the Uninsured Week'', I rise today to bring attention to the plight of the 45 million Americans who lack health insurance and access to healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, we are facing a health insurance and healthcare crisis in our country. While our Nation spends more per capita than any other country on healthcare, our delivery systems are disjointed and ineffective.

There was a time when it was assumed that having a job meant having health insurance. This is no longer the case. More than 80 percent of uninsured Americans are workers, most with full time jobs. Within my own state of Maryland, 90 percent of the 750,000 citizens lacking health insurance are employed.

Increasingly, more Americans lose health coverage every year, and those who have coverage pay more for it. Healthcare and drug costs are rising, as are premiums. As a result, many small businesses struggling to stay competitive in today's economy cannot afford to offer their employees insurance coverage. As a result, workers with access to employer-based group insurance plans often cannot afford the costs they must bear for insurance premiums.

The inability to obtain medical insurance unduly affects minorities. A staggering 1 in 3 of Hispanics are uninsured, compared to 1 in 10 of the Nation's white population.

Whereas, the African American community is disproportionately affected by diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and other health problems that require regular access to healthcare, 1 in 5 African Americans unfortunately are also uninsured.

The consequences are severe. Citizens without health insurance are less likely to seek preventative care or help with minor medical problems, leading to major, more costly medical problems. Without insurance, a person's health is compromised, and their lifespan is shortened. In fact, there are 18,000 deaths each year in this country caused by a lack of health insurance—these deaths are preventable.

The increase in the uninsured population affects not only the health of our citizens, but the health of our economy as well. In fact, nearly half of all bankruptcy filings result from medical expenses. Having just one uninsured family member suffer from just one major medical problem or hospital stay can devastate the financial and emotional resources of an entire family.

To stop the drain on our healthcare infrastructure, our society, and our economy, we must provide insurance coverage to all Americans. We must find a way to lower healthcare and drug costs. We must find a way to make premiums more affordable for employees and employers.

Our small businesses should not have to choose between economic success and meeting their employees' healthcare needs. Workers should not have to refuse insurance for themselves and their children because premiums are too high.

Please join me in supporting the goals of Cover the Uninsured Week. Join me and those stalwarts like Congressmen JOHN CONYERS, PETE STARK, CHARLIE RANGEL and FRANK PALLONE, and Congresswomen TAMMY BALDWIN, BARBARA LEE and DONNA CHRISTENSEN—as we continue our commitment to solving our health insurance crisis and to making sure that all Americans have access to healthcare.

Congress must urgently examine ways to transform our healthcare system so that it is comprehensive, universal, and sustainable. I look forward to taking part in that discussion.

GADSDEN HIGH SCHOOL, RECIPIENT OF THE COLLEGE BOARD 2005 INSPIRATION AWARD

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of an extraordinary New Mexico school. Gadsden High School in Anthony, New Mexico is the recipient of the College Board 2005 Inspiration Award. In its tireless pursuit of student success, Gadsden High School has seen a remarkable increase in Advanced Placement course enrollment and those taking the SAT, and record numbers of students are enrolling in and attending college.

Gadsden High School has helped students achieve equitable access to higher education despite social, economic and cultural challenges. It has made significant strides in exposing its students to higher education options and opportunities. One example of the school's ingenuity in this endeavor is a pre-college program called MESA that focuses on math, engineering and science. Students who achieve core requirements may earn up to $1,000 in college tuition, which some admitting colleges and universities elect to match.

In addition to the progress Gadsden High School has made in helping its seniors search and apply for scholarship opportunities, the school supports a summer camp for grades 9–12 to address college questions and planning. The staff also plans to develop an Applying to College Handbook to promote greater parental involvement. These efforts have resulted in an exceptional 57 percent matriculation rate, 98 percent of whom are first-generation college attendees.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Gadsden High School on this well-earned distinction and express my gratitude for the leadership and innovation they have demonstrated. I commend Gadsden High School for the hard work they continue to perform, and I am proud to recognize Gadsden High School—a true model of commitment to higher education—today before my colleagues.

Gadsden High School's motto puts it best by saying ''Believe, hope and look for miracles.'' With an unwavering will to overcome adversity and find creative solutions, Gadsden High School is working to create its own ''miracles.''

INTRODUCTION OF THE GREAT LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION PROGRAMS REAUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce comprehensive legislation to protect and restore the Great Lakes. I am pleased to be joined by Rep. MARK KIRK and 17 bipartisan original cosponsors.

The Great Lakes are a national treasure, providing drinking water to millions of people and supporting billions of dollars in trade, fishing, and recreation. While we have taken steps to improve environmental conditions in the basin, the Great Lakes still suffer from pollution from contaminated sediments, storm water and agricultural runoff, and wetlands and coastal habitat loss.

As its name indicates, the Great Lakes Environmental Protection and Restoration Programs Reauthorization Act reauthorizes several federal Great Lakes environmental programs in one comprehensive package. The bill also provides a mechanism for coordinating activities among the various federal agencies that carry out these programs, along with a process for coordination and future planning among federal, state and local program managers and the private sector. Finally, the bill reauthorizes the State Revolving Loan Fund under the Clean Water Act, in order to address wastewater infrastructure needs.

The bill provides about $4 billion over 6 years by increasing the authorization levels for current major environmental programs operating in the Great Lakes Basin. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the most effective way to undertake a major restoration initiative is to do so

within the context of current programs, through higher funding and improved coordination among federal, state, and local agencies and cooperation with interested stakeholders. The bill includes federal programs at the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Agriculture, the Fish & Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The bill is specifically targeted to address the costly big-ticket items that will have a dramatic impact on improving the health of the Lakes. This includes $1.65 billion for cleaning up Areas of Concern, a total that is consistent with recent low-end estimates from site experts on AOC sediment remediation needs. It also provides $640 million for fisheries, wildlife, ecosystem and habitat restoration programs.

The bill provides about $900 million for research and monitoring programs at the EPA, the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL) within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Great Lakes Science Center (GLSC) within the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The bill also authorizes extramural grants to public universities and private institutions to conduct this important work. These activities are critical to the successful planning, implementation and oversight of restoration efforts.

The bill also reauthorizes the national State Revolving Loan Fund and provides $20 billion over 5 years to assist communities with the critical task of upgrading and improving their wastewater infrastructure. This piece is taken from H.R. 1560, passed by the Water Resources Subcommittee in the 108th Congress. Sewer system needs are a critical component of keeping the Great Lakes and their tributaries clean, and the State Revolving Loan Fund has been a successful program for helping cities and towns undertake these very expensive upgrades.

Finally, the bill codifies Executive Order #13340, signed by the President in May 2004, and codifies the regional collaboration process outlined in conjunction with the E.O. on December 3, 2004, by the Administrator of the EPA, the Great Lakes governors, tribal leaders, several Members of Congress, and others. This will continue to improve collaboration among the many projects and programs operating in the Basin and ensure long-term stability to the preparation and oversight of the comprehensive restoration action plan currently under development.

Mr. Speaker, we have a responsibility to clean up and to protect this precious resource. My bill provides the funding and the coordination necessary to implement the programs we have in place and to accomplish the shared goals of the region. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA: PROMOTING STABILITY, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, as chairman of the Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operation subcommittee, I convened a hearing on the precarious situation involving Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Seven years ago this month, the East African nations of Eritrea and Ethiopia began a devastating two-year conflict that cost the lives of as many as 100,000 soldiers and civilians. The war, which largely took place on Eritrean territory, displaced a third of that country's population and caused massive destruction. The deprivation in both countries continues long after the war ended, and the suffering goes on.

Eritrea's economy has been battered by four years of drought, which has further diminished this country's ability to feed its people. The U.S. Department of State estimates that large budget deficits have been caused by continued high defense spending. If not for remittances from Eritreans living abroad, the country's economy would be hard-pressed to sustain itself. In Ethiopia, the United Nations Children's Fund has identified 25 hot spots around the country where people are facing serious risk of malnutrition. This current crisis, according to UNICEF, is at least partly caused by delays in the start of the government's safety net program, and continued military spending will only further exacerbate the problems with an economy now surviving due to foreign assistance.

Human rights and democracy also are diminished by the concentration of both governments on resolving the border issue.

In the current U.S. Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, Eritrea was cited for its poor human rights record:

''Citizens did not have the ability to change their government. Security forces were responsible for unlawful killings; however, there were no new reports of disappearances. There were numerous reports that security forces resorted to torture and physical beatings of prisoners, particularly during interrogations, and security forces severely mistreated army deserters and draft evaders. The Government generally did not permit prison visits by local or international groups, except the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Arbitrary arrests and detentions continued to be problems; an unknown number of persons were detained without charge because of political opinion.''

Congress has been particularly interested in the case of Aster Yohannes, an Eritrean national who has been held incommunicado without due process since trying to visit her husband in jail in December 2003. A number of my colleagues and I sent a letter to Eritrean President Isaias (EE-SIGH-US) Afwerki (AF-WORK-EE) on January 6, 2004, concerning this matter:

''We respectfully urge you to release Aster Yohannes immediately and allow her to return to her family,'' the letter stated. ''Web will regard this as a first step toward restoring human rights in Eritrea. We look forward to resolving this and other important issues in the very near future.''

I personally have met with Eritrean officials at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva and here in the United States specifically on this issue last year and only a few weeks ago. Yet, more than a year later, Mrs. Yohannes is still imprisoned with no trial in sight, as are two U.S. Embassy personnel held without trial since 2001.

Eritrea's half Christian-half Muslim population has coexisted peacefully, but there are tensions that could lead to serious problems. There have been incidents of violence involving Muslim extremists and even violent incidents involving Coptics and other Christian groups. Government concern over the rapidly growing Pentecostal group has led to mistreatment of believers. On the whole, security issues seem to have put religious freedom aside in the priorities of the Eritrean government. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom was unable to be with us today, but they have submitted for the record a statement and report that details troubling limitations on religious freedom in Eritrea.

For the first time last year, the Secretary of State designated Eritrea as a ''Country of Particular Concern'' under the International Religious Freedom Act for particularly severe violation of religious freedom.

Finally, after a promising start to its democracy at independence, Eritrea cracked down on the political opposition in September 2001 and continues to seriously limit the ability of citizens to express themselves through the vote.

The State Department human rights report noted improvements in Ethiopia's human rights record, but it continues to note serious remaining problems:

''Security forces committed a number of unlawful killings, including alleged political killings, and beat, tortured, and mistreated detainees. Prison conditions remained poor. The Government continued to arrest and detain persons arbitrarily, particularly those suspected of sympathizing with or being members of the OLF. Thousands of suspects remained in detention without charge, and lengthy pretrial detention continued to be a problem. The Government infringed on citizens' privacy rights, and the law regarding search warrants was often ignored. The Government restricted freedom of the press; however, compared with previous years, there were fewer reports that journalists were arrested, detained or punished for writing articles critical of the Government. Journalists continued to practice self censorship. The Government at times restricted freedom of assembly, particularly for members of opposition political parties; security forces at times used excessive force to disperse demonstrations.''

In Ethiopia, Human Rights Watch has documented incidents of murder, rape and torture committed by the Ethiopian military against the Anuak (ANN-YOU-AK) people in the southwestern region of Gambella. As our witness will detail in his testimony, hundreds of Anuak villagers have been killed in a series of attacks by soldiers and civilian mobs since December 2003. Beatings and torture of Anuaks have become all too commonplace in Ethiopia under a government whose attention is not focused on such egregious human rights violations.

Concerns over a repeat of the irregularities surrounding Ethiopia's 2000 and 2001 elections prompted some of my colleagues to introduce H.R. 935 to urge the Government of Ethiopia to ensure free and fair elections on May 15th. I commend the sponsors of this legislation and support the call for orderly, peaceful, free and fair elections in Ethiopia.

The short time remaining may limit the impact of this important piece of legislation, which is aimed specifically at the upcoming

elections. Therefore, I would like to work with the cosponsors of this bill on legislation soon after the elections in Ethiopia that would allow us to be more comprehensive and develop a legislative response that is consistent with the importance of this country in America's overall Africa policy.

Today, a number of colleagues joined me in sending a letter to Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, urging him to rescind the expulsion of three American NGOs helping to build democracy—the International Republican Institute, the National Democratic Institute and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems. For the sake of continuing democratic progress in Ethiopia, we hope the Prime Minister will respond positively to our request.

Again, Eritrea and Ethiopia are concentrating on building their military forces, and they are neglecting the very pressing needs of their people. Now their mutual militaries seem poised to renew open warfare due to unresolved issues involving their common border.

Both nations have increased their deployment of troops on the security zone border. Ethiopia recently added 30,000 troops for an estimated total of 90,000 armed men, most said to be within 40 kilometers of the frontier. While it is unclear exactly how many troops the Eritreans have deployed, they feel empowered to threaten military action if the current stalemate concerning the international border commission's ruling is not accepted fully by the Ethiopian government.

As recently as Tuesday of this week, Eritrean President Isaias announced at his ruling party conference that war with Ethiopia is imminent. President Isaias said his upcoming budget would be planned with war in mind. Presumably that budget will include funding for the arms the Eritreans agreed last month to buy from Russia.

If the war resumes, Ethiopia's Tekeze dam and Eritrea's port of Assab will be prime targets, which will only make worse an already precarious state of development in both nations.

It is difficult to understand why these formerly friendly nations would risk further devastation for territory not particularly blessed with natural resources. However, one must keep in mind that this border dispute actually dates back to the somewhat vague borders drawn by Italy, the former colonial power. So long as Eritrea and Ethiopia were united under colonial or dictatorial rule, the border issues were not pressing.

The peace process that eventually ended the war was predicated on an international commission impartially ruling on the demarcation of the 1000 kilometer border between the two countries. However, the decision of the commission has only been accepted "in principle" by the Ethiopians, who stand to lose their access to the Red Sea. The Ethiopian government is publicly complaining about loss of the town of Badme, hardly a strategic center. Meanwhile, the Eritreans refuse to even discuss the matter further.

U.S. policy should be clear on the Eritrea-Ethiopia dispute, but it appears to have depended on the old paradigm. We are supportive of both Eritrea and Ethiopia; however, issues such as the fight against global terrorism and the effort to contain Sudan's hostile government have caused American policy to tread lightly on development, democracy and human rights issues in those countries. We should not have to choose between security and democracy and human rights. It is not an "either-or" situation but "both-and." We must find a new framework for U.S. policy in the Horn of Africa, and we called this hearing partly to see how the Administration is addressing the full range of our concerns in this region.

Both Eritrea and Ethiopia make themselves more vulnerable to internal turmoil by their inability to address the many other vital issues they face even if there is a stalemate in the border dispute. This is neither in the short term interest of these two nations nor in the long term strategic interest of the United States. Identifying a more effective policy toward resolving the Eritrea-Ethiopia dispute was the focus of today's hearing.

IN HONOR OF MR. GEORGE COUCH

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend George Couch for his tremendous commitment to education in general, and to the Latino youth of my district in particular. This coming Saturday, May 7, 2005, the San Benito County Mexican-American Committee on Education (MACE) will recognize George for his tremendous help in making educational opportunities available to young people in San Benito County.

George graduated from Stanford University and followed that up with an MBA from Harvard. He has used this education and his business smarts to build several successful companies in the Monterey Bay Area. These include Triad Broadcasting Company in Monterey which operates 49 broadcast radio properties nationwide, and Couch Distributing Company in Watsonville which has retail beverage customers throughout the region.

George is a lion of a man who cares deeply about righting wrongs. He does not seek out the limelight, but rather looks for quiet ways to make a big impact. That theme of making an impact and getting results underpins all of his community and philanthropic work. George serves as a Trustee of the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula Foundation; trustee of the Leon and Sylvia Panetta Institute for Public Policy; member of the Board of Directors of the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County; member of the Governing Board of Cabrillo College in Aptos; member of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California; and member of the Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz county Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

George Couch's work with MACE certainly follows this pattern of service. As an organization, MACE offers scholarships to Latino youth in San Benito County to further their education beyond high school. Over the years MACE has helped dozens of San Benito County students achieve their goals. The financial and moral support offered by MACE has been instrumental in their success. This achievement is in no small part due to the efforts of George Couch whose steadfast support and guidance of MACE over the last 19 years has played a central role.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for the whole House when I congratulate Mr. Couch on this well deserved recognition. His service stands as a beacon to others. I am pleased to have this opportunity to honor Mr. Couch and express the gratitude of MACE and the broader community for the results that flow from his selfless leadership.

TRIBUTE TO MARLA RUZICKA

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding young woman, Marla Ruzicka, who was tragically killed in Iraq on Saturday, April 16, 2005, when a suicide bomber attacked a convoy of U.S. security contractors passing her vehicle on the road to Baghdad airport. Marla was traveling on the road to visit an Iraqi child injured by a bomb, part of her daily work with the humanitarian organization she founded—The Campaign for Innocent Victims of Conflict (CIVIC). Marla, who was only 28 years old, worked tirelessly and fearlessly on behalf of civilian victims of war in some of the most dangerous parts of the world, accomplishing more in the area of human rights during her short life than most people do in a lifetime.

It is Marla Ruzicka's affiliation with Southampton College, an institution which I served as Provost for many years, that has made her tragic death very personal to me. Marla earned her undergraduate degree through Southampton College's Friends World Program, an academic program that stresses the careful consideration of world problems, and encourages a life of committed action in the world community. Many of my colleagues on the faculty and staff can recall Marla's passionate commitment to making a difference in the world, and were moved by her enthusiasm for helping those in need. To those of us who knew of Marla, it was no surprise that she gave up her life to serve the needs of others.

Marla's concern for the victims of world injustice began early in life. A Northern California native, Marla began her work as a human rights activist for the San Francisco office of Global Exchange at the young age of 15. It was at this time that Marla first demonstrated her desire to educate others about global injustice by organizing discussions for her high school classmates about such issues as the U.S. trade embargo on Cuba. During her undergraduate education, Marla traveled to the Middle East, Cuba, Zimbabwe, and Nicaragua where she witnessed firsthand the suffering of those who lived there. After earning her degree, she continued her work with Global Exchange and traveled to Afghanistan after Operation Enduring Freedom, where she recorded the military campaign's effects on Afghan civilians and used the information to garner assistance for the families harmed by the conflict.

In 2003, Marla organized her efforts in assisting the victims of war by founding an organization she named CIVIC—The Campaign for Innocent Victims of Conflict. Marla's assigned mission for CIVIC was both to achieve an accurate accounting of civilian casualties caused by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to secure assistance for their families. In pursuing this mission, she spent weeks at a time

traveling the dangerous roads of Afghanistan and Iraq to personally interview the injured and their families, document their experiences, and work with U.S. military officials to earn them compensation. In organizing a group of 150 Iraqi volunteers who went to hospitals and into towns, Marla helped produce the first comprehensive list of people killed or injured in Iraq by U.S. weapons.

Marla also achieved a great deal of success in recruiting the efforts of military personnel, humanitarian organizations, and the U.S. Congress for her cause. Through her boundless energy and determination, she lobbied the Senate and helped win the insertion of language in an appropriations bill that provided $2.5 million to help victims in Afghanistan; this money has now grown to $7.5 million. She also succeeded in securing a $10 million appropriation for Iraqi victims, which is used to rebuild homes and schools, provide medical assistance, and make loans. While in the Middle East, Marla networked with military commanders, realizing they often had the freedom and resources to assist victims quickly.

In her interactions with Congress, the U.S. military, and others in positions of authority, Marla persuasively argued that achieving an accurate accounting for the loss of life in Iraq and Afghanistan would not only make the recompense of wartime civilian casualties easier, but would also assist U.S. led reconstruction efforts. Through it all, Marla's sunny disposition and ability to make friends easily proved invaluable in recruiting the assistance of journalists, U.N. officials, non-governmental organization staff, and the U.S. military in documenting the plight of civilians and providing relief to war-torn families.

Marla's contributions to the most vulnerable of citizens did not come without making a great deal of personal sacrifice, however. CIVIC operated on a shoe-string budget of about $100,000 a year, which often left Marla depending on friends and family to secure enough money for airline tickets and living expenses. When returning to the U.S. from overseas, Marla would often stay with friends, sleeping on their sofas, to continue her work when returning to the United States. Her ability to succeed in the most difficult of circumstances is a testament to her natural ability and drive, and serves as an inspiration to many.

Mr. Speaker, few people possess the undying commitment to selflessly and courageously pursue justice on behalf of the less fortunate as did Marla Ruzicka. During her lifetime, Marla viewed it as her personal obligation to fight for the less fortunate in this world and, under the most difficult of circumstances, demanded and achieved justice for so many victims of war and conflict. Her relentless dedication and optimism won over the hearts of the most influential people, making it possible to relieve the suffering of those most in need. Her actions were nothing short of heroic, and should serve as an inspiration to us all. I ask those in this distinguished body to join me in offering my condolences to Marla's parents, Clifford and Nancy Ruzicka. They should be commended on their daughter's extraordinary commitment to improving the world one life at a time.

RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY: THE ROLES OF FDA AND PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES IN ENSURING THE SAFETY OF APPROVED DRUGS LIKE VIOXX

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak about this critical public health issue that has affected the entire U.S. The Vioxx case presents us with a valuable opportunity to examine an industry in order to help it improve. The problem is not only that the FDA does not have sufficient regulatory authority to protect the public, though that is certainly true. The problem actually lies with the way pharmaceuticals are priced. I'll explain.

In the Vioxx case, Merck displayed a litany of predatory behavior. Vioxx research teams were stacked with people who had financial associations with Merck. Merck manipulated research protocols. They delayed publication of negative findings about Vioxx. They succeeded in getting people to take Vioxx that did not have a medical need by spending $161 million for direct-to-consumer advertising alone. And direct lobbying to doctors is a well-known practice that has the same result. Lastly, 10 members of a 32-member FDA advisory board in charge of determining whether Vioxx should continue to be allowed on the market, had ties to industry. Had those advisers abstained, the committee would have voted that Vioxx should not return to the market. And these are only the things we know about. More concerns are likely to be uncovered as we dig deeper.

Would Merck be doing all this if Merck was the only maker of Vioxx? Absolutely not. When there is competition in manufacturing, just like there is in most other sectors, the capability to squeeze so much profit from a single drug is gone. But under a monopoly, which is what Merck has with its patented Vioxx, the sky is the limit on profits. Only the patent holder or licensee can sell it, so they control the market. And when a company controls the market, they have considerable leeway to corrupt the process in ways similar to what we have seen with Merck.

The usual justification for patent monopolies is that patents are yielding innovation, which is critical for new pharmaceuticals. But we are not getting that innovation. The number of New Molecular Entities approved by the FDA has been in decline several years running. Copycats or me-too's constitute roughly 70 percent of new FDA approved drugs. In other words, the pipeline is drying up.

If we want to avoid another Vioxx down the road, we need to get to the root of the problem. We need to bring innovation back up, control perverse incentives, and drive drug prices back down to a similar level as other developed nations. We do that by changing the financing of pharmaceuticals.

Put simply, the NIH, which is currently responsible for much of the innovation in pharmaceutical research, should drastically increase its already successful pharmaceutical research program. The innovations that result should be available for any qualified entity to manufacture, which would introduce competition into the market. It would boost innovation, competition would drive down prices as it does in the generics market, and the incentive to engage in Merck-like behavior would be drastically reduced.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANTHONY BENEDETTI

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to honor a man who has spent 37 years of his life representing the interests of working men and women in Central New Jersey.

Anthony Benedetti, on June 1, 2005, retires as Financial Secretary and Treasurer of the Sheetmetal Workers International Association Local 27.

For the last several decades, Anthony Benedetti has unselfishly represented the Sheetmetal Workers International Association. His outstanding work and leadership have served as a guide to other employees throughout the years. It is doubtful that the Sheetmetal Workers International Association would have functioned the same way without his tireless efforts.

I want to offer Mr. Benedetti my congratulations and thanks for his outstanding career of service. It is with men like Anthony Benedetti that our nation's labor movement is such a huge success. He will be deeply missed.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring and recognizing Anthony Benedetti as a determined and exceptional worker who affected the lives of many people.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE ASSERTED BY REPRESENTATIVE NADLER, H. REP. 109–51, CONCERNING H.R. 748, THE CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION NOTIFICATION ACT OF 2005

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the point raised by the gentleman from New York regarding the malreporting of the Republican Leadership of the Committee on the Judiciary with respect to H.R. 748, the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act of 2005.

Under Rule IX, paragraph (1) of the House Rules, Mr. NADLER justifiably asserts his point because not only his but my "rights and reputation" have been offended by the conduct of the Chairman in publishing House Report 109–51. To reiterate, the language used in pages 45–49 patently malreport and malign the authors of amendments to H.R. 748, the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act of 2005.

Two days ago, on May 3, 2005, the Ranking Member of the Committee on the Judiciary led debate on his resolution of privilege, H. Res. 253 that concerned the ways in which the act

of the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee negatively affected the ''rights of the House collectively, its safety, dignity, and the integrity of its proceedings.''

So too, was this resolution properly and justifiably introduced because, in that case, the privileges of ''dignity'' and ''the integrity of [the House's] proceedings'' have been patently violated. To purposefully misreport the good-faith amendments that have been offered by Members of this venerable House debases the nature and trustworthiness of the House Report.

After this debacle, Members will have to scan committee reports with a fine-toothed comb—not for substantive value, but for accuracy and veracity of their reporting value! This is the diminution of the dignity of the process. This is the diminution of the integrity of the House.

The American people must be made aware that we, the authors of the amendments on pages 45–49 of House Report 109–51 do not associate ourselves with the misreported portions thereof.

House Report 109–51 not only improperly made negative inferences as to the import and intent of my amendments, but it combined two distinct and separately-offered amendments into one.

In terms of the personal privileges violated by the report, the misreporting—and the malreporting of the amendments offered by my colleagues Mr. SCOTT, Mr. NADLER, and me affected our rights, reputation, and conduct. As founder and Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, a report that cites an amendment offered by me that would exempt sexual predators from liability is at the very least offensive.

My constituents and the constituents of my colleagues do read House Reports, and the nefarious language that the Chairman avers as representative of his true intentions should be highlighted as contrary to the ideals on which this House, this government, and this nation were established.

TRIBUTE TO KATHRYN LEHMAN

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished service of an employee of this House. To do so, I'm reminded of an old phrase that doesn't fit anymore in today's society. It goes: behind every good man is a good woman. The saying may be outdated, but the point it tries to make still rings true: nobody gets very far without a lot of support.

Nowhere is that more accurate than in the world of politics and public service. I'd like to think that the modern corollary up here on the Hill might sound something like: behind every good politician is their staff. And, Kathryn Lehman has helped make many a good politician.

Kathryn may not have been in the headlines, she may not have been lauded with award after award and plaque after plaque, but she has done much to make our Republican caucus a success.

In her many roles, Kathryn has always been a go-to person. Working the halls of Congress with an in-depth knowledge of policy, an ability to handle even the toughest personalities and a dedication to public service that is second to none, Kathryn has remained a constant force in moving our agenda forward.

Kathryn is leaving us to take that next step in her already distinguished career. While I know that Kathryn's talents will be missed, I wish her the very best in her new endeavor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I voted ''Yes'' on H.R. 366, the Vocational and Technical Education for the Future Act. My ''Yes'' vote was entirely the result of an error on my part. For the record, I intended to cast a ''No'' vote against H.R. 366. I do not believe that vocational and technical educational grants falls within the proper scope of the federal government.

Unfortunately, I did not realize that I had voted incorrectly until after the vote was concluded.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF MOORE'S LAW

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Moore's Law, a prediction by Intel co-founder Gordon Moore about integrated circuits that has driven the pace of innovation, helped make America the world's technological leader, as well as helping to launch what is now the Silicon Valley.

In April of 1965, Gordon Moore, then an engineer with Fairchild Semiconductor, predicted that computer chips would double in power approximately every 18 months while staying at the same cost. Forty years later, Moore's Law has maintained its pace. Today we enjoy technological innovation that even the most enterprising minds could not have imagined four decades ago: Computers once the size of a refrigerator now fit on our laps or in the palm of our hands, and a talking doll enjoyed by kids around the world packs four times as much processing power as an Apollo moon lander.

Along with these extraordinary advances in processing power, the technological innovation driven by Moore's Law has led to advances in virtually every industry and almost every aspect of our lives. Doctors can access the Internet in the examining room or diagnose a patient remotely, while having access to the latest updates on chemical reactions, alternatives, and availability of prescriptions. On-the-go parents can carry games and other digital entertainment for their young children on the road while simultaneously checking in on their teenagers whereabouts and well-being.

Most importantly, the drive toward maintaining Moore's law has kept the U.S. technology industry at the forefront of innovation, growing quality, high-paying jobs and contributing to our Nation's economic stability. The premise of Moore's Law dictates that computing power improves essentially for free, bringing increases in productivity unprecedented since the Industrial Revolution and acting as a powerful deflationary force in the world's macroeconomy. As a result, consumers get more for less. Businesses can continually improve their operations, service and productivity at a cost advantage.

In Silicon Valley, which I'm proud to represent, we're proud to be a major driver in the technology industry to keep pace with Moore's Law. The small and large businesses which are part of our local technology industry have led to economic growth and development. Intel Corporation, leading the charge, has become a major local contributor to our economy and is an example of the impact that U.S. technological leadership has at a regional, national, and international level.

On April 19, 1965, the day which Gordon Moore's article first appeared, he certainly could not have predicted the powerful and dramatic influence his postulation would have on our world.

Beyond sharing a wonderful prediction, Gordon Moore has distinguished himself as a major philanthropist, donating $7 billion to various environmental, scientific and San Francisco Bay Area causes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Gordon Moore for his vision in establishing Moore's Law, for his unique leadership, his integrity, and his incomparable contributions to make our nation great. How proud I am to be Gordon Moore's Representative in Congress. He has our collective gratitude for his contributions to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING VERN BROOKS, PRESIDENT OF TECHNICAL DIRECTORS, INC., ON BEING NAMED 2005 REGIONAL SUBCONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vern Brooks, President of Technical Directors, Inc., (TDI) on being named 2005 Regional Subcontractor of the Year. Mr. Brooks' small business, Technical Directions Inc., manufactures proprietary jet engine technology. These engines have proven superior for use in small unmanned aircraft and powered weapons systems, including several Lockheed Martin mini-cruise missiles.

Mr. Brooks was recognized by the Small Business Administration for his entrepreneurial spirit at the 2005 U.S. Small Business Administration's National Small Business Week in Washington, D.C., an event that showcased Small Business Persons of the Year winners from each state. National Small Business Week honors some of the Nation's estimated 25 million small business owners that form the foundation of our Nation's economy.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses are the life blood of the American economy. They employ more than half the country's private work force, create three of every four new jobs and generate a majority of American innovations.' The entrepreneurs that found these businesses must be recognized for their contribution to economy. I ask my colleagues to join

me in honoring Mr. Brooks for his recognition as 2005 Regional Subcontractor of the Year and in recognizing the contribution of small business owners to the growth of our economy.

HONORING HENRY FORD HEALTH SYSTEM ON WINNING THE 2004 FOSTER G. McGAW PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Henry Ford Health System in Detroit for winning the 2004 Foster G. McGaw Prize for Excellence in Community Service—one of the health care field's most prestigious awards. Henry Ford was awarded this award May 2, 2005 at the American Hospital Association's Annual conference.

The Foster G. McGaw prize recognizes health care organizations that demonstrate commitment to community service through a variety of programs. These programs must exhibit a continuous dedication to making communities healthier. Each year, the $100,000 award is given to an organization committed to providing its community with innovative programs and services that promote the health and well being of the community. The American Hospital Association, the Baxter International Foundation and the Cardinal Health Foundation sponsored the award.

Henry Ford Health System's outstanding community programs are improving the health and quality of life of the people they serve, primarily Southeast Michigan's minority and disadvantaged residents.

Henry Ford Health System was recognized for its involvement in: The School-Based Health Initiative, which takes primary and preventive care to Detroit classrooms where it may be the only health care a child receives. The Henry Ford sites handle nearly 20,000 student visits each year.

AIM–HI—African American Initiative for Male Health Improvement, a program within the Institute on Multicultural Health at Henry Ford, that provides mobile health screenings and onsite health education for diabetes, hypertension, and strokes. SandCastles, a division of the Hospices of Henry Ford Health System, which offers grief support for children and families who have lost a loved one. In 2004, this program served 378 children and 274 adults from 228 families. City Year Detroit, a program that is supported financially and housed by Henry Ford Health System. In this program, outstanding young adults make a 10-month, full-time volunteer service commitment to help youth in Detroit's lowest-income neighborhoods.

Automobile pioneer Henry Ford founded the hospital in 1915 to improve the health of metro Detroit residents. Since that time, the health system has been devoted to patient safety, clinical excellence and superior service. The health system partners with dozens of local agencies and organizations to serve more than one million residents in southeast Michigan.

Again, Mr. Speaker I want to commend the Henry Ford Health System and its President and Chief Executive Officer, Nancy Schlichting for a job well done. What an honor for the Henry Ford Health System and the city of Detroit. Their commitment to quality health care and the community is to be applauded.

CONGRATULATING S. MARTIN TAYLOR ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, Mr. DINGELL and I rise today as the Senior Members of the Michigan Delegation to congratulate and pay tribute to S. Martin Taylor on the occasion of his retirement after 16 years of service as Executive Vice President of DTE Energy in Detroit, Michigan. We have both known this special man through not only his sixteen years at DTE Energy, but also throughout the many years he spent in public service working across and from both sides of the aisle to improve the lives of Michigan's citizens.

Mr. Taylor has shown an exceptional commitment to the people of the state of Michigan. After graduating from Western Michigan University in 1964, he went on to receive his Juris Doctor from the Detroit College of Law in 1967. A lifelong student of both academics and personal interaction, Mr. Taylor received an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree in 2002, from Marygrove College in Detroit, Michigan.

After two years of service in Chicago, Illinois as an attorney at the Container Corporation of America, Mr. Taylor was appointed by then-Governor of Michigan William G. Milliken, a Republican, to serve as the Deputy Director of the Michigan Department of Commerce. Two years later in 1971, Mr. Taylor was appointed by a bipartisan commission representing both labor and management, to serve as the Director of the Michigan Employment Security Commission (MESC), the State's third largest agency. His 13 years of remarkable service at that position led to his appointment by Democratic Governor James Blanchard as Director of the Michigan Department of Labor in 1983. In a remarkable feat of commitment, Mr. Taylor served concurrently as both the Director of the MESC and Michigan's Labor Department for nearly two years.

In 1984, after 15 years of service to the state of Michigan, Martin left his position as Director of Labor in order to serve the people of Detroit as the President of New Detroit Inc., the Nation's first urban coalition developed in response to the civil unrest of 1967. As President, Mr. Taylor acted to facilitate an active and productive dialogue between all social, religious and economic organizations in the Metropolitan Detroit area. Mr. Taylor served with distinction for 5 years at that position.

Finally in 1989, Mr. Taylor was asked to serve as an Executive Vice President of DTE Energy. At this post, Martin was responsible for developing and implementing the company's strategies for human resources, corporate communications, and corporate and government affairs. He worked to enhance the public reputation of DTE Energy and to ensure that its workforce was fully capable of meeting the changing demands and challenges of the energy industry. As a member of the executive committee, Mr. Taylor worked with other senior officers to handle all corporate-wide responsibilities.

Aside from his remarkable service throughout his career, Mr. Taylor also serves on nearly twenty business, civic and community affiliations and boards, and in the past, Martin has been part of over thirty such organizations. In 1996, he was elected to the University of Michigan Board of Regents, where he continues to serve with distinction. He is also the recipient of two commendations of public service by the Michigan Legislature. His civic service provides a great testament to the spirit of commitment and community Mr. Taylor possesses. Martin is truly a model member of the Michigan community and an example for us all.

In addition to his great success in both public and private service, Martin is also fortunate enough to share his life with his wife Ann Diggs Taylor, U.S. District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. Mr. Taylor also has two step-children, his son, Douglass, and daughter, Carla.

As Martin begins what is surely a deserved retirement, we offer him the best of luck on this long and well-earned journey. Mr. Speaker, we hope you will join with us and our colleagues in the Michigan Delegation to wish Mr. Taylor many years filled with family, friends, and good health and thank him for what he has done for our state.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE PARISH

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 75th Anniversary of St. Bellarmine Parish in Jefferson Park, Illinois. I am proud of the continuous support and inspiration this parish has provided to the people of Jefferson Park for the past 75 years, and I would like to thank the parishioners of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish for their dedicated service.

St. Robert Bellarmine has served as an essential part of the surrounding community since 1930, when a group of dedicated parishioners joined with Father Gillespie to celebrate the parish's first Mass in the auditorium of Prussing Public School.

Church and school buildings were constructed in 1931 to house the parish, and the church became an anchor for the community and a beacon of hope for its parishioners.

Today, St. Robert Bellarmine continues to inspire the Jefferson Park community under the exceptional leadership of Father Michael Goergen. This parish provides a prime example of what can be accomplished when we work together for the common good.

The 1,700 families that make up the parish create a welcoming and service-oriented community. Church activities such as the Stretch Program help needy members of the parish, adding to St. Robert Bellarmine's impressive history of donating time, talent, and resources to the community.

The 390 students at St. Robert Bellarmine school receive an excellent and well rounded

education, with the active participation of the Parents Association in extracurricular programs.

Now as St. Robert Bellarmine Parish celebrates its 75th anniversary, I ask my colleagues to take a moment and recognize the importance of places like St. Robert Bellarmine in communities all across America.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the parishioners of St. Robert Bellarmine on the first 75 years of their parish, and I wish them continued success and inspiration in serving their community in the coming years.

TRIBUTE TO EILEEN HARRINGTON AND THE DO NOT CALL REGISTRY TEAM

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, this week is Public Service Recognition Week, a week when we salute government employees at the federal, state, county and local levels. As a member of the Congressional Public Service Caucus, I would like to honor one of my constituents who is a model public servant.

Eileen Harrington, of Kensington, Maryland, is the Associate Director for Marketing Practices at the Federal Trade Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection. In this position, Ms. Harrington led the team that developed the heralded Do Not Call Registry. Ms. Harrington and her team won a 2004 Service to America Medal from the Partnership for Public Service and Atlantic Media Company for this great accomplishment and they continue to receive accolades for their groundbreaking work.

Opened on June 27, 2003, the FTC's Do Not Call Registry enables consumers to block phone calls from telemarketers. All consumers have to do is sign up online or through a toll-free number, and registration is free. By any measure, the success of this program has been phenomenal.

The registry quickly became the most searched-for site on the Internet, and more than 10 million people were registered in the first four days. According to a January 2004 Harris Poll, 91 percent of adults have heard of the registry, and 57 percent have actually registered—bringing the number of enrollees to almost 60 million. Ninety-two percent of enrollees report receiving fewer calls, and 78 percent say that they get ''far fewer calls'' or none at all.

Mr. Speaker, Eileen Harrington and the Do Not Call Registry Team demonstrates the government's ability to deliver practical solutions that are positively improving the everyday lives of millions of Americans. I commend Ms. Harrington and the Do Not Call Registry Team for their service to our great nation.

A TRIBUTE TO JUDGE ANDREW L. JEFFERSON, JR

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 6, 2005, my alma mater, Thurgood Marshall School of Law located in the great city of Houston, will designate the Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr. Endowed Chair in Trial Advocacy in honor of my great friend and mentor, Judge Andrew L. Jefferson, Jr.

Born in Dallas, Texas in 1934, Judge Jefferson has lived in Houston since the ripe old age of 2. A graduate of Jack Yates High School, Texas Southern University and the University of Texas School of Law, Judge Jefferson has, over the years, distinguished himself not only as an accomplished legal scholar, but also as a dedicated community leader.

A humble man, Andrew Jefferson has had an exemplary career that began in the early sixties when he was a partner in the law firm of Washington and Jefferson. Because Judge Jefferson displayed, at an early age, a remarkable command of the law, he was recruited to serve as the Assistant District Attorney for Bexar County, a position he held until he was appointed Chief Assistant United States Attorney and subsequently Chief of the Criminal Section for the Western District of Texas, a job he held until Humble Oil and Refining Company beckoned him to join their ranks as Trial and Labor Relations Counsel. During the early seventies, he assumed the role of Judge in the Court of Domestic Relations #2 for Harris County, and in 1973 was elected to a full four-year term. At the end of his tenure in the Domestic Court, Judge Jefferson was appointed and then elected to the 208th District Court. In 1975, believing that he could inspire young people to enter the legal profession, the distinguished barrister left the bench and reentered private practice.

In addition to being honorably discharged as a Captain in the United States Army Reserve-Judge Advocate General's Corps, the distinguished gentleman from Texas is a member of the State Bar of Texas, Houston Bar Association, the Houston Trial Lawyers Association, the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity, a Life Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., former Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Houston Branch of the National Urban League, and a Life Member of the NAACP.

Among his many awards and accomplishments, Judge Jefferson has received the Anti-Defamation League National Torch of Liberty Award, the Forward Times Newspaper Community Service Award, the Charles A. George Community Service Award and the League of United Latin American Citizens National Community Service Award from LaRaza.

Mr. Speaker, I am blessed to have the opportunity to pay tribute to a great American hero. For those of us who know the Honorable Andrew L. Jefferson, we are always in awe of his ability as a coalition builder to bridge the gap between young and old and those of different cultural backgrounds. I believe that when history records the legacy of Andrew L. Jefferson, it will honor his role as a warrior who never forgot where he came from and always worked tirelessly on behalf of the least, the last and the lost.

TRIBUTE TO THE TEPEYAC ASSOCIATION

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Tepeyac Association. This outstanding organization has served the Latino American community in New York for the past 8 years. Their unyielding dedication to the building of a strong Mexican-American and Latino community in New York is commendable.

In the South Bronx, Mexican immigrants have played an important role in helping to reenergize various neighborhoods. The vibrant Mexican-American community brings added diversity and flavor to an area already rich with Puerto Ricans, Dominicans and African Americans. The result is a wonderful confluence of cultures that help to bring the Bronx to life. I am happy to welcome this new group of immigrants to our community. They, like the groups that have come before them have helped to make life in the Bronx as vibrant and diverse as it is today.

The tremendous strides that this community has made not only in my district but throughout New York, is in large part due to the great work of the Tepeyac Association Tepeyac is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 network of 40 community based organizations, whose mission is to promote the social welfare and human rights of Latino immigrants in New York City with a focus on those who are undocumented. Founded in September, 1997 by Mexican community leaders, the Association is the only public resource dedicated to organizing Mexican immigrants in the 5 boroughs. Tepeyac is also dedicated to informing and educating Mexican immigrants and their families about their rights and available resources. Through its grassroots structure and leadership the Association serves over 10,000 members.

Mr. Speaker, as we continue to debate legislation in the 109th Congress that will affect the lives of immigrants, it is important that we remember that we are a nation of immigrants. All of our families came to the U.S. in search of a better life, and the American Dream. To be anti-immigrant is to forget our history, and to reject the very values that make our country so great. I will continue to fight against policies that are hateful and unwelcoming to those who comes to this country seeking a better life. It is my hope that organizations such as Tepeyac will continue to make the transition into American life easier for the Mexican-American community.

On this day, Cinco de Mayo, 2005, I salute the many contributions that Tepeyac has made to the South Bronx. I thank the Mexican-American community for its continuing contribution to American life and culture and for playing such an important role in revitalizing our inner cities. I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Tepeyac.

HEALTH INSURANCE CRISIS

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Cover the Uninsured Week, May 1–8, 2005.

As we come together for this year's Cover the Uninsured Week, we will continue to let the leaders of this country know it is time that we make health coverage for all Americans our top priority. Today, 45 million Americans have no health insurance, including more than 8 million children. Eight out of 10 uninsured Americans either work or are in working families.

Being uninsured means going without needed care. It means minor illnesses become major ones because care is delayed. Tragically, it also means that one significant medical expense can wipe out a family's life savings. There are millions of working, uninsured Americans who go to bed every night worrying what will happen to them and their families if a major illness or injury strikes.

In my home state of Ohio there are currently 1,362,000 uninsured, an increase of 18,000 people since 2003. We have also seen the strain on many of the local hospitals in my district when people are forced to use emergency rooms as their source of primary care.

The problem is getting worse. As the price of health care continues to rise, fewer individuals and families can afford to pay for coverage. Fewer small businesses are able to provide coverage for their employees, and those that do are struggling to hold on to the coverage they offer. It is a problem that affects all of us and we cannot sit idly by while the people of this country continue to go without health insurance.

We must begin to move forward in a bipartisan manner to expand access to affordable, quality and reliable health coverage for America's families.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate May 2005 as National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

I am proud to represent the 29th District of California, home to one of the largest Asian American and Pacific Islander populations in Southern California; almost one-fourth of my constituents are of Asian Pacific heritage. Earlier this year I had the honor of naming Temple City, City Councilmember Judy S. Wong and Alice Lan-Hua Hwang 29th Congressional District Women of the Year for 2005 in recognition of their contributions to our community.

Countless lives in Southern California benefit from the leadership provided by these women and other prominent Asian Pacific Americans such as Board of Equalization Member John Chiang, Assembly Members Judy Chu and Carol Liu, Alhambra City Council Member Gary Yamauchi, Alhambra School Board Members Robert Gin and Chester Chau, Altadena Town Council Member Lucille Hino, Glendale Community College Trustee Victor King, Monterey Park Mayor Mike Eng, Monterey Park City Council Members Betty Tom Chu and David Lau and Monterey Park City Treasurer Mitchell Ing, Garvey School Board Members Henry Lo and John Yuen, Temple City School Board Member Edward Chen, South Pasadena Council Member Mike Ten, South Pasadena School Board Member Joseph Loo, San Gabriel City Council Member Chi Mui and San Gabriel School Board Member Ken Tcheng.

This week the House considered a resolution honoring the contributions of Vietnamese Americans to American society over the past thirty years. The consideration of this bill is timely as this year marks the 30th anniversary of the fall of South Vietnan to Communist rule. Over the course of three decades, through perseverance and hard work, the 1.5 million Vietnamese who resettled in the United States have been able to build new lives and form a vibrant community which has strengthened our nation immeasurably. Yet this community has not forgotten its heritage and has worked tirelessly to promote democracy and freedom in Vietnam; to extend the same rights they enjoy to the people of the land they were forced to leave.

From every tragedy springs a new hope. The fall of Saigon resulted in a world refugee crisis of historic proportions, creating over three million refugees. But were it not for this event, America would not be the same. As with millions of other Asian and Pacific Islanders, Vietnamese Americans have enriched our society and woven their own traditions into the beautiful tapestry that is America. I would like to thank the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders for their contribution to our district and society, our community would be incomplete without them.

RECOGNIZING MARY NELL GODBEY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, the wonderful state of West Virginia has known many great Americans. My neighbors in southern West Virginia each have their own interesting story, they are all a pleasure for me to represent. Today, I am here to recognize Mary Nell Godbey who passed away at the end of April.

Mary Nell Godbey was an outstanding member of her community. As a WVU Extension Agent in Raleigh County, she helped southern West Virginians on a daily basis.

My thoughts and prayers are with her family during this difficult time. She touched so many people's lives throughout her many years and will surely be missed.

I also ask that the following article from the Register-Herald in Beckley be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD after these remarks. Bev Davis, a friend and former co-worker of Mary Nell Godbey, wrote this column which shows how well loved Ms. Godbey was in southern West Virginia.

BELOVED WVU EXTENSION AGENT LEAVES GREAT LEGACY BEHIND

(By Bev Davis)

''Call Mary Nell.'' Those were words I heard repeatedly when I worked at the West Virginia University Area Extension Office in Beckley. Area division leader Oscar Hutchison was my boss, overseeing the nine-county WVU Extension offices.

Mary Nell Godbey was a WVU extension agent for Raleigh County, and everything that had to do with homemaking, food preparation, food preservation and hand crafts fell under the umbrella of her expertise.

She taught workshops on everything from decoupage, macramé and quilting to canning foods and how to get mold off your carpet.

When I saw her obituary in our newspaper this week, it really hurt to accept the fact she's gone. I remember her as such a lady—always impeccably dressed and a woman who always conducted herself with such dignity.

At the same time, she was warm, friendly and willing to help.

Mary Nell was a virtual encyclopedia of knowledge for all of us and for hundreds of callers. I lost count of the times I told someone, ''Call Mary Nell Godbey. If anyone knows the answer to your question, she will.''

A gentle woman with a great sense of humor, Mary Nell made friends easily. She made me laugh often, and I probably use something I learned from her almost every day of my life.

She was a lady with a quiet spiritual faith, and I know her long absence because of illness has left some big shoes to fill at First Baptist Church in Beckley, where she was a member for many years.

I'm sure I speak for a huge community of people when I extend my deepest condolences to Mary Nell's family. Her influence had a wide impact, and her passing leaves a vacant spot in our hearts.

In passing on her legacy, Mary Nell would want me to sound a trumpet for the organization to which she dedicated so much of her life.

As we have moved away from a more agrarian lifestyle, the function and scope of the WVU Extension has changed a great deal over the years.

It is, nevertheless, still a vital resource for our communities.

The county offices provide a wealth of information on homemaking, gardening, help for working women, parenting—just about any topic that enhances daily living.

I know Mary Nell would want me to remind people to think of a WVU Extension office first when a question comes to mind. She has passed the torch to a new generation of agents who are eager to make a difference in their community.

During the years I've worked at the newspaper, it's been rewarding to refer callers to this agency for help. Because of all the dedicated extension agents still around, it's a pleasure to say to someone on the phone, ''Call the WVU Extension office. If anyone can answer that question, they can.''

The next time I say that, however, it will become a tribute to Mary Nell.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

The House agreed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 1268, Emergency Supplemental Wartime Appropriations Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session today. It will next meet on Monday, May 9, 2005, at 2 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 93 public bills, H.R. 2113–2205; and; 9 resolutions, H.J. Res. 48; H. Con. Res. 145–147, and H. Res. 263–267 were introduced. **Pages H3052–55**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3055–57**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

Supplemental report on H.R. 748, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent the transportation of minors in circumvention of certain laws relating to abortion (H. Rept. 109–51, Pt. 2); and

H.R. 1279, to amend title 18, United States Code, to reduce violent gang crime and protect law-abiding citizens and communities from violent criminals, amended (H. Rept. 109–74). **Pages H3051–52**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered today by Rev. James Brinkerhoff, Campus Minister, Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama. **Page H2981**

Emergency Supplemental Wartime Appropriations Act: The House agreed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 1268, making Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, by a yea-and-nay vote of 368 yeas to 58 nays and one voting ''present'', Roll No. 161. **Pages H2985–H3027**

Rejected the Obey motion to recommit the conference report to the committee of conference with instructions to the managers on the part of the House, by a yea-and-nay vote of 201 yeas to 225 nays, Roll No. 160. **Pages H3026–27**

H. Res. 258, the rule providing for consideration of the conference report, was agreed to by voice vote, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 224 yeas to 196 nays, Roll No. 159. **Page H2995**

Point of Personal Privilege: Representative Nadler rose to a point of personal privilege and was recognized. **Pages H2995–97**

Late Report: Agreed that the Committee on the Judiciary have until midnight tonight to file a report on H.R. 1279. **Page H3028**

National Hepatitis B Awareness Week: The House agreed to H. Res. 250, supporting the goals and ideals of National Hepatitis B Awareness Week. **Pages H3028–29**

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12 noon on Monday, May 9, and further, that when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10 for Morning Hour debate. **Page H3029**

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, May 11. **Page H3029**

Recognizing the life of Jimmy Winkfield and the contributions of other African American jockeys: The House agreed to H. Res. 231, recognizing and celebrating the life and accomplishments of the great African American jockey Jimmy "Wink" Winkfield and the significant contributions and excellence of other African American jockeys and trainers in the sport of horse racing and the history of the Kentucky Derby. **Pages H3029–30**

Committee Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 264, electing Representative Nunes to the Committee on Ways & Means. **Page H3043**

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Nunes wherein he resigned from the Committees on Agriculture, Resources, and Veterans Affairs. **Pages H3042–43**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings today and appear on pages H2995, H3026–27 and H3027. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Committee Meetings

IRAQI/VEHICLE ARMORING

Committee on Armed Services: Held a hearing on the status of Tactical Wheeled Vehicle Armoring Initiatives and Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Jammer Initiatives in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: BG Joseph L. Votel, USA, Director, Joint IED Defeat Task Force, Office of the Secretary; BG Jeffrey A. Sorenson, USA, Deputy for Acquisition and Systems Management, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology); BG William D. Catto, USMC, Commanding General, Marine Corps Systems Command; LTG James N. Mattis, USMC, former Commander, First Marine Division, Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, U.S. Marine Corps; and LTC Paul J. Kennedy, USMC, former battalion commander, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, First Marine Division, Headquarters Battalion, First Marine Division; and Steven J. DeTeresa, Engineer, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

COLLEGE CREDIT MOBILITY

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness held a hearing entitled "College Credit Mobility: Can Transfer Credit Policies be Improved?" Testimony was heard from Theresa Klebacha, Director, Strategic Initiatives, Department of Education, State of Florida; and public witnesses.

LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing to Review Ongoing Management Concerns at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Energy: Gregory Friedman, Inspector General; Michael Kilpatrick, Director of Independent Oversight, Office of Security and Safety Performance Assurance; and Jerry Paul, Principal Deputy Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration; and A. J. Eggenberger, Acting Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology held a hearing entitled "Social Security Reform: Successes and Lessons Learned." Testimony was heard from Gary Amelio, Executive Director, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board; Patrick Purcell, Specialist in Social Legislation, CRS, Library of Congress; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES; DRUG SAFETY

Committee on Government Reform: Ordered reported the following measrues: H.R. 627, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Putnam Avenue in Hamden, Connecticut, as the "Linda White-Epps Post Office;" H.R. 1760, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 215 Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard in Madison, Wisconsin, as the "Robert M. La Follete, Sr., Post Office Building;" and H. Res. 231, Recognizing and celebrating the life and accomplishments of the great African American jockey Jimmy "Wink" Winkfield and the significant contributions and excellence of other African American jockeys and trainers in the sport of horse racing and the history of the Kentucky Derby; H. Res. 185, Honoring Johnnie Cochran, Jr., for his service to the Nation, and expressing condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, and admirers on his death; and H.R. 2066, amended, General Services Administration Modernization Act.

The Committee also held a hearing entitled "Risk and Responsibility: The Roles of FDA and Pharmaceutical Companies in Ensuring the Safety of Approved Drugs, Like Vioxx." Testimony was heard from Steven Galson, M.D., Director, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

DEMOCRACY THROUGH DIPLOMACY

Committee on International Relations: Held a hearing on Promoting Democracy through Diplomacy. Testimony was heard from Representative Wolf; Paula Dobriansky, Under Secretary, Global Affairs, Department of State; and public witnesses.

ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations held a hearing on Ethiopia and Eritrea: Promoting Stability, Democracy and Human Rights. Testimony was heard from Don Yamamoto, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs, Department of State; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—USA PATRIOT ACT IMPLEMENTATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and the Committee on Homeland Security held an oversight hearing on the Implementation of the USA PATRIOT Act: Section 212–Emergency Disclosure of Electronic Communications to Life and Limb. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Justice: William Moschella, Assistant Attorney General; and Willie T. Hulon, Assistant Director, Counterterrorism Division, FBI; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Claims held an oversight hearing entitled ''New 'Dual Missions' of the Immigration Enforcement Agencies.'' Testimony was heard from Richard Stana, Director, Homeland Security and Justice Issues, GAO; Janice Kephart, former September 11 Commission Staff Counsel; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—VETERANS' APPEALS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held an oversight hearing to review the operations of the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) and the Appeals Management Center (AMC). Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs: Ron Garvin, Acting Chairman, Board of Veterans' Appeals; and Michael Walcoff, Associate Deputy Under Secretary, Field Operations, Veterans Benefits Administration; Cynthia Bascetta, Director, Education, Workforce and Income Security, GAO; and representatives of veterans organizations.

SERVICEMEMBERS' HEALTH INSURANCE PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

Committee on Veterans's Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity approved for full Committee action H.R. 2046, Servicemembers' Health Insurance Protection Act of 2005.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: to hold hearings to examine the employment-unemployment situation for April 2005, 9:30 a.m., 1334 LHOB.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2005

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No committee meetings are scheduled.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of May 9 through May 14, 2005

Senate Chamber

On *Monday,* at 2 p.m., Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3, Transportation Equity Act.

During the balance of the week, Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 3 (listed above), and the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 1268, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005, and consider any other cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Armed Services: May 10, Subcommittee on SeaPower, closed business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

May 10, Subcommittee on Airland, closed business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, 3:30 p.m., SR–232A.

May 10, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, closed business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, 5 p.m., SR–222.

May 11, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, closed business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall

under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, 9 a.m., SR–222.

May 11, Subcommittee on Personnel, closed business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, 10 a.m., SR–232A.

May 11, Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, closed business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, 11:30 a.m., SR–222.

May 11, Full Committee, closed business meeting to mark up the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

May 12, Full Committee, closed business meeting to continue markup of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, 9:30 a.m., SR–222.

May 13, Full Committee, closed business meeting to continue markup of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, 9:30 a.m., SR–222.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: May 10, to hold hearings to examine data broker services,and the treatment of such services under existing State and Federal privacy laws, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

May 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine issues relating to spyware, 10 a.m., SR–253.

May 12, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine S. 967, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure that prepackaged news stories contain announcements that inform viewers that the information within was provided by the United States Government, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: May 10, Subcommittee on National Parks, to hold hearings to examine the National Park Service's funding needs for administration and management of the national park system, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

May 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine S. 895, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a rural water supply program in the Reclamation States to provide a clean, safe affordable, and reliable water supply to rural residents, 10 a.m., SD–366.

May 11, Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests, to hold hearings to examine S. 100, to authorize the exchange of certain land in the State of Colorado, S. 235 and H.R. 816, bills to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to sell certain parcels of Federal land in Carson City and Douglas County, Nevada, S. 404, to make a technical correction relating to the land conveyance authorized by Public Law 108–67, S. 741, to provide for the disposal of certain Forest Service administrative sites in the State of Oregon, S. 761, to rename the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in the State of Idaho as the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in honor of the late Morley Nelson, an international authority on birds of prey, who was instrumental in the establishment of this National Conservation Area, and H.R. 486, to provide for a land exchange involving private land and Bureau of Land Management land in the vicinity of Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, for the purpose of removing private land from the required safety zone surrounding munitions storage bunkers at Holloman Air Force Base, 2 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Foreign Relations: May 11, Subcommittee on European Affairs, to hold hearings to examine the United States-European Union regulatory cooperation on emerging technologies, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

May 12, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of John Robert Bolton, of Maryland, to be the U.S. Representative to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and the U.S. Representative in the Security Council of the United Nations, and to be U.S. Representative to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the United Nations, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: May 10, Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, to hold hearings to examine OSHA and small business, focusing on improving the relationship for workers, 2 p.m., SD–430.

May 11, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the proposed Workforce Investment Act Amendments of 2005, and pending nominations, 10 a.m., SD–430.

May 11, Subcommittee on Bioterrorism and Public Health Preparedness, to hold hearings to examine 21st century biological threats, 2 p.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: May 10, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to resume hearings to examine the United Nations' Oil-for-Food Program, 9:30 a.m., SD–562.

Committee on Indian Affairs: May 11, to hold an oversight hearing to examine Federal recognition of Indian tribes, 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on the Judiciary: May 10, to resume oversight hearings to examine the implementation of the USA PATRIOT Act, 9:30 a.m., SD–226.

May 11, Full Committee, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation's translation program, 9:30 a.m., SD–226.

May 12, Full Committee, business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 9:30 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: May 12, to hold hearings to examine issues relating to the planning, providing, and paying for veterans' long-term care, 10 a.m., SR–418.

Special Committee on Aging: May 12, to hold hearings to examine the threat of HIV affecting people over fifty, 2:30 p.m., SH–216.

House Committees

Committee on Appropriations, May 10, Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies, on the Federal Highway Administration, 10 a.m., and on the FAA, 2 p.m., 2358 Rayburn.

May 11, Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs, on the Treasury Department, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

May 11, Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies, on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 10 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

May 12, Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies, on the Saint Lawrence Seaway, 10 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, May 11, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, to mark up H.R. 1815, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, 1 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

May 11, Subcommittee on Projection Forces, to mark up H.R 1815, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, 11:30 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

May 11, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, to mark up H.R. 1815, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, 10 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

May 12, Subcommittee on Readiness, to mark up H.R. 1815, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

May 12, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to mark up H.R. 1815, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, 11 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

May 12, Subcommittee on Tactical and Land Forces, to mark up H. R. 1815, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, 1 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, May 12, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled ''Examining Voluntary Compliance Programs that Improve Occupational Safety and Health, 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, May 10, Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and Government Sponsored Enterprises, hearing entitled ''Mutual Funds: A Review of the Regulatory Landscape,'' 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

May 11, full Committee, hearing on H.R. 1999, State and Local Housing Flexibility Act of 2005, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

May 11, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit and the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology, joint hearing entitled ''Basel II: Capital Changes in the U.S. Banking System and the Results of the Impact Study,'' 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

May 12, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing entitled ''Helping Consumers Obtain the Credit They Deserve,'' 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, May 10, Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, hearing entitled ''2006 DoD Counternarcotics Budget: Does it Deliver the Necessary Support?'' 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

May 10, Subcommittee on Federalism and the Census, hearing entitled ''Life in the Big City: What is Census Data Telling Us About Urban America and are Policymakers Listening?'' 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

May 10, Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations, hearing entitled ''Overseas Security: Hardening Soft Targets,'' 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

May 11, Subcommittee on Government Management, Finance, and Accountability, hearing entitled ''Information Policy in the 21st Century—A Review of the Freedom of Information Act, 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

May 12, full Committee, to consider pending business; 10 a.m., and to hold a hearing entitled ''Security Our Borders: What Have We Learned From Government Initiatives and Citizen Patrols?'' 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

May 13, hearing entitled ''Domestic Source Restrictions Threaten Free Trade: What is the Federal Government Doing to Ensure a Level Playing Field in the Global Economy?'' 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on International Relations, May 11, hearing on Plan Colombia: Major Successes and New Challenges, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

May 11, Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats, hearing on the State of U.S.-Turkish Relations, 10 a.m., 2200 Rayburn.

May 12, Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Nonproliferation, hearing to Review the State Department's Annual Report on Terrorism, 10:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, May 10, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, oversight hearing on the Implementation of the USA PATRIOT Act: Prohibition of Material Support under Sections 805 of the USA PATRIOT Act and 6603 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Resources, May 11, Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 38, Upper White Salmon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; H.R. 517, Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2005; H.R. 539, Caribbean National Forest Act of 2005; and H.R. 1905, To amend the Small Tracts Act to facilitate the exchange of small tracts of land, 3:30 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

April 12, Subcommittee on National Parks, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 323, To redesignate the Ellis Island Library on the third floor of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, located on Ellis Island in New York Harbor, as the ''Bob Hope Memorial Library;'' H.R. 774, Rocky Mountain National Park Boundary Adjustment Act of 2005; and H.R. 1084, To authorize the establishment at Antietam National Battlefield of a memorial to the officers and enlisted men of the Fifth, Sixth, and Ninth New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry Regiments and the First New Hampshire Light Artillery Battery who fought in the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Science, May 11, Subcommittee on Environment, Technology, and Standards, hearing on Europe,

China and the Use of Technical Standards as Trade Barriers: How should the U.S. Respond? 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

May 12, full Committee, hearing on the Future of Computer Science Research in the U.S., 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, May 11, Subcommittee on Highways, Transit, and Pipelines, oversight hearing on Hazardous Materials Endorsement Background Checks, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

May 11, Subcommittee on Railroads, oversight hearing on Getting Acela Back on Track, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

May 12, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing on the Coast Guard Amendments of 2005, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, May 12, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, oversight hearing on the U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS), 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, May 12, hearing on alternatives to strengthen Social Security, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2 p.m., Monday, May 9

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3, Transportation Equity Act.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 noon, Monday, May 9

House Chamber

Program for Monday: The House will meet at 12 noon in pro forma session.

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