

We are introducing this legislation at a critical time for our military. The war in Iraq has put a tremendous strain on our Army, the Reserves and on National Guard units that were never intended for such long deployments, and ought to be used more effectively for homeland security.

There is deepening concern that our current force requirements cannot be sustained in Iraq and Afghanistan without depleting our reserves and diminishing our capacity to meet other global threats.

I am one who believes we have more work to do to thoroughly understand these other global threats and the strategies and tactics necessary to prepare for the kind of conflict we are facing in Iraq. The upcoming Pentagon defense review needs to look at increased troops levels in the context of our long-term security needs as well as the immediate challenges.

But in the meantime, the Bush Administration's lack of foresight in Iraq has left us with an immediate problem that cannot be ignored. Our troops are overstretched—not just in Iraq and Afghanistan but in 117 other countries around the world. Last year, nine of the Army's ten divisions were deployed to, preparing to deploy to, or returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. And we continue to rely too heavily on our Guard and Reserve.

Without this bill, we risk asking too much of our men and women in uniform who have performed so courageously and sacrificed so much in their service to this country. They, future recruits, and the country all need to know that we are committed to providing the resources necessary to keep our Army strong.

Let me emphasize that this is not about increasing troops so that President Bush can plan for more Iraqs; this is about rebuilding the strength of the incredible institution that is the U.S. Army.

Leadership begins with recognizing reality. Although we may wish we had a different starting place, this is the place that we find ourselves after much miscalculation and wishful-thinking by the Bush Administration.

So we ask the Administration today to heed our call and to heed the call of so many in the military community who understand the importance of increasing the Army's end strength. The defense of the United States is and must continue to be the first priority of our government.

IN HONOR OF PETTY OFFICER 2ND
CLASS JAMES SUH

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Petty Officer 2nd Class James Suh, a South Florida resident who served in the Navy for 5 years and was killed in the line of duty on June 28th, 2005, in Afghanistan. During his years at Deerfield Beach High School and the University of Florida, James excelled both athletically and academically finding himself with a rare opportunity to become a Navy Seal shortly after graduation from college.

James was loved by an entire community. His family and friends say he was a young man of exceptional character, intelligence and

athleticism with a wry smile and unflinching dry sense of humor. Those who knew him saw his immense pride in two things: his close knit family and his job as a U.S. Navy Seal.

Roughly two weeks ago James was one of 16 soldiers whose helicopter was hit by an insurgent's rocket-propelled grenade. He was part of an elite American military team that was on a mission to clear anti-governmental forces from Kumar Province in Eastern Afghanistan. Sadly, our country lost 16 heroes that day.

Mr. Speaker, the family and friends of Petty Officer 2nd Class James Suh can be proud of his valiant service and selfless sacrifice in the name of freedom. He will always have the thanks of a grateful Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 358, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO WALTER JOHNSON
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise to congratulate a high school in my District, Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda, Maryland, for winning the 2005 Washington Area "It's Academic" television quiz show Superbowl.

Walter Johnson High School is being recognized for its win in the Superbowl match, which featured regional champions Robert E. Lee High School from Central Virginia and Centennial High School from Baltimore.

The school's victory in the "It's Academic" program, which is an extracurricular activity at 81 schools across the region, demonstrates the benefits of academic competition in our schools. The hard work and commitment to academic excellence demonstrated by the students is commendable. In the midst of frequent critiques of our national education system, successes like this one highlight the great achievements of talented, intelligent young people in our schools.

As recognition for this accomplishment, the school's "It's Academic" team received a trophy, which will be displayed for the next year, and academic scholarship money for the school. The Superbowl match featured strong performances by seniors Zach Hommer and James Coan and juniors Alex Price and Adam Newman.

I commend Walter Johnson High School for its championship win and wish the "It's Academic" team continued success in future years.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF J.J. "JAKE"
PICKLE

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to one of the giants of this institution and the State of Texas, a man who recently passed away, former Congressman J.J. "Jake" Pickle. Cancer finally beat him on June 18, 2005 and anyone who knew Congressman Pickle knew he did not quit on anything and fought until the end. His relentless approach to politics and life earned him the respect and admiration of the 10th Congressional District he served so well and his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. First elected in a special election in 1963, Congressman Pickle served 16 terms until stepping down in 1995. During his service in Washington, he chaired the House Subcommittee on Social Security and was instrumental in implementing improvements that ensured the trust fund's long term solvency for decades to come.

Too often, the term public servant is casually used for any person who worked in the public sector, but Congressman Pickle personified every facet of the phrase. Congressman Pickle distinguished himself in a variety of service positions, beginning as the University of Texas student body president, as a member of the National Youth Administration, and as organizational secretary for the State Democratic Executive Committee. After being elected to Congress, he relished returning to his district whenever possible and upon boarding the plane would walk up and down the aisles as if he were working a campaign rally and shake everyone's hand and talk to them. Learned at the knee of President Lyndon Baines Johnson, Congressman Pickle's politics hailed from an era still shaped by the Great Depression and small-town America, a time in which connecting with constituents was a must.

Campaigning was a full contact sport in the best sense of the phrase, and every 2 years, he would outwork much younger campaign aides and sought to meet every voter in his district. For Congressman Pickle, politics was a person-to-person enterprise, and he would talk to his constituents and find out their cares and concerns. Full of stories and a smile for everyone, he would engage every person in his path no matter if he happened upon them in the halls of the Capitol or in the streets of Austin.

Of course, his influence here in Washington greatly benefited Austin and Central Texas as he was crucial in ensuring funding for the University of Texas, his alma mater, and helped it become the world class facility it is today. Congressman Pickle fought to make sure his district and his state received their fair share. The university benefited in the millions of dollars he steered into its research, technological, and educational programs, and this was pivotal in making Austin one of our Nation's centers for high-tech enterprises such as Dell computers.

However, the vote Congressman Pickle was proudest of was the one he cast in favor of the 1964 Civil Rights Bill, which he thought would end his career. As one of six southern

Representatives who voted for that landmark piece of legislation, he thought voting his conscience and his principles would make him a one term Congressman. Thankfully that was not the case as he was given the opportunity to work tirelessly and use his unique set of skills in service of his district and Nation. We have truly lost a great American, and we are the poorer for it. Tonight, my prayers and thoughts are with the thousands of lives he touched and his family.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF
2005

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 that recently passed the House by a vote of 249–183 included a narrowly drafted provision giving manufacturers and distributors of MTBE limited liability protections for claims based upon a defective product. I voted in favor of this legislation knowing that in conference with the Senate, MTBE compromise language would be negotiated with members from affected states that would be based on a concept of shared responsibility focused on cleanup.

MTBE has reduced smog from cars and trucks and improved air quality. But when MTBE gets in water, it smells and tastes bad and is hard to clean up, raising questions about whether we should continue to use it to produce cleaner burning gasoline.

For the last couple of weeks, I have contributed to the discussions on an MTBE compromise to recommend to the Energy conferees. I do not believe that the views of states impacted by MTBE contamination have been adequately taken into account to this point. We are no closer today to an acceptable compromise than we were 2 weeks ago. Additionally, I am greatly concerned by a draft EPA internal risk study that suggests that in high concentration, MTBE is a likely human carcinogen. This is the first indication we have had of a public health impact of MTBE.

I continue to believe that a lawsuit based system is the wrong way to address this problem. We should spend money on getting the spills cleaned up quickly rather than having a lawsuit based system where people fight in court for years and the lawyers get a big cut of the pie before any cleanup is done.

I voted in favor of the Democrat motion to instruct conferees because, at this point, I think we should move toward the Senate language and focus on solving the problem, not litigating it.

I would be willing to support an MTBE provision that would create a joint industry/government financed MTBE remediation trust fund that would cover state and local government remediation costs. But industry's contribution must be mandatory and the government's contribution must be guaranteed and not subject to appropriations.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS AT
DENTON MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Denton Municipal Electric as it celebrates 100 years in the 26th District of Texas. Denton Municipal Electric has been serving the Denton community since 1905 when the city purchased the utility from Denton Water, Light and Power Company.

Since its start, Denton Municipal Electric has grown from serving fewer than 100 residents of downtown Denton to presently providing full electrical service to more than 37,000 customers over 300 miles of overhead power lines, 130 miles of underground cables and over 6,000 transformers. They provide various consumer-friendly programs including allowing customers to pledge money to their monthly bills to assist other customers with short-term financial problems, and incentive programs that credit customers' accounts for installing high-efficiency air conditioners or heat pumps.

Denton Municipal Electric, along with providing safe, reliable and cost-effective electricity to its citizens, participates in numerous programs and activities in the Denton Community, including Hope for Kids, School-to-Careers, Communities in Schools, the Juneteenth Celebrations, Senior Citizen Safety Workshops, Electrical Demonstrations, Keep Denton Beautiful and Christmas decorating around the historic downtown square.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to honor Denton Municipal Electric for its commitment to playing an active role in the development, improvement and success of the Denton community.

HONORING THE W.K. KELLOGG
FOUNDATION ON THEIR 75TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. JOHN J.H. "JOE" SCHWARZ

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an organization in my district that is known world-wide for its tireless dedication to altruism, education, and the betterment of society as a whole. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation was established by breakfast cereal pioneer W.K. Kellogg in 1930, to "help people help themselves." During his life, Mr. Kellogg left most of his fortune—\$66 million in Kellogg Company stock and other investments—as an endowment for the foundation. These assets have since grown to nearly \$7 billion. Since 1930, the foundation has awarded more than \$4 billion in grants—including \$1.6 billion to the people of Michigan.

Since the 1930s, the Kellogg Foundation has grown from programs that served south-central Michigan into an international organization that awards grants in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and southern Africa. Yet whether in Battle Creek or Botswana, the Kellogg Foundation's emphasis remains just as it was in Mr. Kellogg's day: they

exist to help people reach their full potential, and to build strong families and communities.

Though they have expanded internationally, the Kellogg Foundation remains committed to Mr. Kellogg's and my hometown of Battle Creek, Michigan. Last year alone, they awarded \$9.4 million to local causes and programs. They are also a major local employer, and their employees generously volunteer their time and resources within the community.

In its 75 years of existence, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation has built a legacy of philanthropy and selflessness. The work that they fund has improved the lives of millions. I am deeply honored to have this institution in my district, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating its 75th anniversary.

THE WAGES OF FAILURE ON WALL
STREET

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the gravest weaknesses in our financial system is the growing pattern of grossly excessive compensation which the leaders of some major firms are paying themselves, with the acquiescence of passive boards of directors. The issues raised by the extraordinarily large pay packages some top executives are granting themselves go beyond simply the inappropriateness of people enriching themselves at the expense of their stockholders and their employees. Increasing inequality in income distribution in this country has broader policy implications, and there is also the growing problem of perverse incentives that result from executives receiving grossly disproportionate compensation based on decisions they themselves take. That is, it is clear that some of the accounting abuses we have seen, and some decisions to sell large companies to others are being influenced not by the basic economics of these situations, but by the extent to which top decision-makers personally profit from these decisions.

One of the most egregious recent examples is the \$32 million payment made to the co-president of Morgan Stanley, Stephen Crawford, for work of only a few months as part of the upheaval that led to the ouster of Philip Purcell. In the New York Times on Wednesday, July 13, there is an excellent editorial on this subject, which notes that "stockholders and employees are properly seething at the deal cut for Mr. Crawford . . . by a board that was oblivious to protecting the bank's reputation as it over-rewarded his fealty to Philip Purcell . . ."

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is a subject which Congress must address. In particular, we must act to find ways to press boards of directors to do more to safeguard stockholders and employees from excessive compensation abuse, and we should in particular be looking at ways to curb the extent to which these sorts of compensation schemes based on various contingencies give perverse incentives to decision-makers. I and others on the Financial Services Committee will be offering some legislative proposals in this regard, and I offer the New York Times editorial here for Members' edification as an example of why some action is necessary in this regard.