

Representative Joseph M. Lyons, and countless other members of the Jefferson Park neighborhood.

Mr. Speaker, the City of Chicago and the 5th District of Illinois are truly honored to welcome the new Thomas Jefferson statue to Jefferson Park, and I thank all of those responsible for making this possible.

TRIBUTE TO HARRIET HENDERSON

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to commend one of my constituents, Harriet Henderson, on her outstanding service as the Director of Public Libraries in Montgomery County, Maryland.

As Director for the past eight years, Ms. Henderson has helped make the Montgomery County library system the envy of library systems throughout the country. The Montgomery County library system consistently ranks among the nation's top ten, often noted as "one of the best . . . in the country." Working to increase library hours and expand the materials collection, Henderson has demonstrated a profound commitment to improving the quality and accessibility of our region's public libraries.

The impact of Ms. Henderson's work is not limited to her role in Montgomery County. A former president of the Public Library Association and the Virginia Library Association, Ms. Henderson has made contributions on a national scale. She has also served in leadership positions with the Urban Libraries Council as well as other organizations.

Ms. Henderson will soon assume a new position as Director of the Richmond Public Libraries. I am confident that she will excel in all of her future endeavors and that the Richmond libraries will benefit greatly from her wisdom and experience.

I applaud Harriet Henderson and wish her continued success in the years ahead.

REGARDING THE RETIREMENT OF HENRY JAMES "JIM" SCHWEITER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, change is a constant here in the House, and I suppose that's a good thing. It keeps fresh ideas and energy coming in. But sometimes it sure is hard to say farewell to trusted friends.

As you know, I never miss an opportunity to quote my fellow Missourian Harry Truman. In this case, the occasion is bittersweet.

Harry Truman minted one of the axioms of Washington. "It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."

To many in Washington, Mr. Speaker, that phrase may sound quaint. After all, so much of service in Congress is about credit. We issue press releases every day to make sure the folks back home know we're working for them. Much of what we are able to do is tied to the credit we get for our achievements.

Let me tell you about someone for whom that's not true.

Jim Schweiter has lived Harry Truman's words, not only during his service here but throughout his career. Jim is retiring from the Armed Services Committee staff at the end of next month. Thanks to our bipartisan structure, he has the official title of counsel. But for the last five and a half years, he has been, in effect, the minority staff director. And he has been my close and trusted friend.

Jim came to the Armed Services Committee from the Air Force in 1988. He brought with him a law degree and experience as a trial lawyer and judge advocate. But he also brought some things you can't learn.

Jim brought sound and mature judgment, informed by the kind of strong moral compass that informs both what should be done and how it should be done. When confronted with a difficult policy question, Jim frequently asks "What is in the best interest for the Republic?" I believe the Republic is the better for many of the policy issues on which Jim has had a hand. Jim has been involved in many aspects of the committee's work, serving with the Personnel and Investigations subcommittees, and later as General Counsel and ultimately as Minority Staff Director. In these roles, Jim has never done just what was required of him. He has always sought creative and sound legislative solutions when he saw a way of improving a situation. Though the Reserve Office Personnel Management Act in which he played a key role and the future management and professional development of Judge Advocates are just two examples of the legislation he has helped enact, Jim has frequently been directly involved in improving the lives of our military men and women.

The Armed Services Committee is near unique in the House for its integrated staff and the degree of its bipartisanship. In this, Jim could stand as the exemplar. He served as General Counsel to both Chairman Ron Delums and Chairman Floyd Spence and provided exceptional advice to both. He embodies what we mean by professional bipartisan staff.

He also exemplifies a spirit of service to this House and to the Nation. When I asked him to return to the Committee after his distinguished service in the Department of Defense as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Jim did not hesitate. In the time since he has returned, he has not only provided wise counsel at every turn, he has demonstrated strong leadership to the rest of our staff. They are a true team because of that leadership.

Beyond all his other attributes, Jim brought an unwavering patriotism to his position. That might have something to do with Jim's late father, Major General Leo Schweiter, who jumped into Normandy on D-Day and continued distinguished service through Korea and Vietnam. It might have had something to do with growing up in the shadow of the Army War College. But mostly, I think it's just Jim.

While Jim is retiring, there is no doubt that he will continue to have an active career. To the Armed Services Committee, Jim has brought a fierce intellect, an encyclopedic knowledge of House procedure, and an outstanding rapport with both members and staff. Jim's skills could easily carry him through many more careers—as a parliamentarian, a law professor, or a professional hunter—to name just a few. I hope he gets a chance to try them all.

I suspect Jim's heart may be most in the last of these pursuits. Like so many who grow up in central Pennsylvania, Jim is a dedicated outdoorsman. He hunts with his close friends and he has hunted with members of Congress, including our current Chairman DUNCAN HUNTER. He is no more at home than walking the woods. While Jim's new home of Minneapolis won't give him much opportunity to watch his beloved Baltimore Orioles play at home, it will continue to give him many chances to be where he wants to be during hunting season.

Mr. Speaker, as this good servant of the people moves on, and as this invaluable friend gets a little farther away, it is a time of sadness for me. But it is also a challenge to the House. I hope that we can remain the kind of House that continues to inspire and attract people the caliber of Jim Schweiter, people who know that the good of the nation and the merit of ideas come before all else. He is an example for us of what the House should be—and what America deserves.

I know I speak for everyone on the Armed Services Committee in thanking Jim for his years of service and extending my best wishes to Jim and his wife Donna on the next phase of their lives together.

VETERANS BUDGET SHORTFALL

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment on the inadequate Supplemental request that President Bush has sent to the Congress for its approval.

The President has sent up a new supplemental request, this time for Fiscal Year 2006. While the amount of \$1.977 billion sounds like a lot, the devil is in the details.

Of this amount, \$300 million is the additional money for Fiscal Year 2005 that the original supplemental did not include.

Also, the President continues to insist that veterans have not done enough to protect the freedom of this country. He is continuing to insist that a \$250 user fee and an increase in the prescription co-pay be included in the budget.

This House of Representatives, in fact this Congress, has spoken many times against these provisions. They do not want to pass these costs onto the backs of veterans.

Yet again and again, President Bush ignores the wishes of the public and this Congress by submitting a supplemental that includes these legislative policies of his.

I am trying to understand this series of events.

The House passed \$27.8 billion for FY05. The request for the VA in FY06 was the same \$27.8 billion. There was no accounting for inflation, the rapid increase of health care costs in general or the fact that a war was ongoing. Soldiers were to return from Iraq and Afghanistan and would need to be integrated into the system.

George Bush underestimated the problem to the detriment of veterans health.

A first year accounting student could understand that adding more people and services

into an already overwhelmed system would cost more.

Except in the George Bush land of make-believe.

Then Bush comes to us with a “make-believe” \$975 million supplemental to cover the shortfall. However, that turns out not to be enough and that you actually need \$300 million more.

As I said earlier, the Fiscal Year 2006 supplemental of \$1.977 does not include funding for the “legislative policies” of George Bush by charging veterans for their service to this country.

This supplemental request is short by another \$1.2 billion.

In reality, this request of \$1.977 should read at least \$2.977 if you use George Bush’s esti-

mate of what these “legislative policies” will cost. Most likely it will cost much more.

Support the higher amounts advocated by the Senate: \$1.5 billion in emergency supplemental funding for FY05 and \$3.2 billion in emergency supplemental funding for FY06.

I am not looking forward to whatever budget fiction George Bush is planning to lay on the veterans for Fiscal Year 2007.