

resolution if it did not contain paragraph six. Paragraph six of this resolution is a political attack to embarrass Congressman John Murtha who has called for a strategic redeployment of our troops from Iraq.

The Democratic House leadership offered an identical resolution without paragraph six but the Republican majority party rejected it. While the United States is attempting to establish a democracy in Iraq, but the majority party in the United States House of Representatives uses its power to stifle, embarrass, and silence voices of dissent to the War in Iraq.

The Republicans have no interest in presenting a unified show of support for our troops and in congratulating the Iraqis on their parliamentary elections. The Republicans are more interested in using our troops in Iraq and their families as a political issue than expressing the U.S. House of Representatives' sincere admiration and gratitude.

In closing, I would like to provide my statement on yesterday's parliamentary elections in Iraq:

I applaud the government of Iraq for this milestone election today. The people of Iraq are able to participate in a democracy by electing the leaders who will help shape their young government and institute laws to protect them. This is a giant step toward full accountability.

Election day in Iraq serves as much more than an opportunity to cast a vote to elect leaders; it serves as an opportunity for the people of Iraq to accept responsibility for governing Iraq. This responsibility extends beyond voting. Yesterday's vote marks the time for Iraqis to be accountable for themselves and their developing country.

The hopes and dreams of the Iraqi people will not be realized if the insurgency continues to disrupt Iraq's national unity. The overwhelming majority of the Iraqis are in tacit support of this insurgency as they view our U.S. troops as "occupiers" of their country. Nearly one half of the Iraqi citizens believe it is justifiable to kill U.S. troops. Since May of 2004, when President Bush declared "Mission Accomplished" in Iraq, approximately 2,000 more U.S. troops have died and more than \$150 billion in tax dollars have been spent to counter act this Iraqi insurgency.

I believe that in order for the principles of democracy to take hold in Iraq, the target of the insurgency, our U.S. troops, must be removed.

I believe the President must develop a plan to bring our troops home. I believe America should demand from the Bush Administration an Iraqi Accountability Plan that will set clear and measurable goals to entrust the country of Iraq to her people. The United States has provided the Iraqis with an opportunity for freedom, democracy and self-governance but, only the Iraqi people can set forth these principles in their land. Iraq's parliamentary election, which marks the birth of a promising democracy and the implementation of an Iraqi Accountability Plan, will enable its people to embrace and nurture its own government.

May God bless our troops and this great country.

THE ARMY'S FREEDOM TEAM SALUTE PROGRAM RECOGNIZES THE VALUE OF SERVICE TO NATION

### HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, December 18, 2005*

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, for 230 years, soldier citizens of the United States Army have answered the call to duty as guardians and defenders of America's Freedoms. Millions of these United States Army veterans selflessly served this nation. Their legacy of duty lives and grows ever more glorious in their continuing support of the United States Army mission and their service to country.

The United States Army recognizes and appreciates the sacrifices these courageous men and women have made in answering their nation's call to duty by choosing a life of service and fidelity to the values of their service. The people of the United States of America also recognize that they have incurred a great debt of gratitude to their soldier citizens, and to their spouses and families who support them as they serve us in the defense of freedom. America owes thanks to the employers who support the soldier citizens among their workforce, and to the veterans who stand by those who now wear the uniform.

General Peter J. Schoomaker, the Army's Chief of Staff, has said, "Soldiers and their families demonstrate the value of teamwork at home and in the field, ensuring that our Army is truly an Army of One."

The United States Army has created a program called Freedom Team Salute to recognize the essential contribution of these supportive spouses, families, employers, and veterans. Any soldier may nominate a spouse, family member, or employer for Freedom Team Salute recognition. This recognition includes a special Army lapel pin and decal, and a letter and certificate from the Chief of Staff and the Secretary of the Army. Veterans of Army service may also register for Freedom Team Salute recognition at the program's website: [www.freedomteamsalute.army.mil](http://www.freedomteamsalute.army.mil).

I commend General Schoomaker and Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey for their leadership of our Army and for the Freedom Team Salute program. I ask all Americans to continue their support of our men and women in uniform as they defend freedom, and I commend to them the use of this excellent program as means of expressing their own gratitude.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, December 18, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on December 13th, I was serving on a jury in Colorado and so was not able to be present for several votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 623, H. Res. 487—Supporting the goals and ideals of Korean American Day—"yes." Rollcall No. 624, S. 1047—Presidential \$1 Coin Act of 2005—"yes." Roll-

call No. 625, H.R. 3422—Small Public Housing Authority Act—"yes."

THOMASVILLE TOPS IN SOCCER, TOO

### HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, December 18, 2005*

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, Thomasville High School, located in the Sixth District of North Carolina, is known as a football powerhouse in our state. The Bulldogs have captured two straight high school football championships and six overall. In fact, the school is renowned for its entire athletic program. Last year, the school won three state titles, two for men's and women's basketball and one for the football team. Now it can add another state championship trophy in its overflowing display case—the men's soccer team won the school's first-ever title in that sport. On November 19, 2005, the Bulldogs soccer team defeated Manteo 4-3 in sudden-death overtime at the SAS Soccer complex in Cary, North Carolina.

"It's just an unbelievable feeling," third-year head coach Robert Yates told The Thomasville Times. "Just to make the playoffs, and then to get to the state championship game, and then to win it like that in sudden-death overtime, it's hard to describe." The player who was a team leader all year—Walter Cruz—came through again in the sudden-death overtime period to score the game-winning goal. Cruz, who earned the Most Valuable Player award for the game, told The Thomasville Times, "I can't explain the things that I feel. We made history in Thomasville High School soccer."

Joining Cruz in the history-making march to the title were teammates Rogaciano Augilar, Danny Alvarado, Adam Beasley, Eder Calva, Miguel Chavez, Adrian Hidalgo, Ji Soo Noh, Joel Ramirez, Roman Ramos, Jose Rios, Edberg Rodriguez, Yefrey Salazar, Victor Sanchez, Daniel Sandoval, Eloi Solis, Joel Torres, Zach Upton, Lazaro Vazquez, Marco Villa, and Rich Weaver.

Congratulations to head coach Yates, his assistant coach Martin Stanich and community volunteer George Solis, athletic director Woody Huneycutt, principal Dirk Gurley, the faculty, staff, students, parents, and fans of Thomasville High School on the first-ever soccer championship in school history. Thomasville has proved that in addition to football and basketball, the Bulldogs are tops in soccer, too.

BORDER PROTECTION, ANTITERRORISM, AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CONTROL ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

### HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4437) to amend