

Country by dramatically increasing the incentives for individuals with advanced degrees to work within and for Indian Country.

I am deeply concerned by the fact that Native Americans continue to rank at the bottom of every indicator of social and economic well-being in America. Unemployment continues to average near 50 percent in Indian Country and hovers well over 90 percent on many Reservations. Indian Country continues to have some of the highest rates of poverty, poorest health, highest mortality rates, and lowest levels of educational achievement in the United States.

A unique legal and political relationship exists between the United States and Indian tribes that is reflected in the Constitution, various treaties, Federal statutes, Supreme Court decisions, and executive agreements. This creates a responsibility for the federal government to facilitate and complement tribal governments' efforts to improve the quality of life for Native Americans and encourage economic development in Indian Country. This bill does just that.

Numerous external efforts at economic development in Indian Country have proven unsuccessful. The most successful efforts have been initiated from within native communities themselves. Economic development efforts that empower native communities and give them the tools to make their own decisions should be encouraged and pursued.

I believe that education and economic development go hand-in-hand in Indian Country. Indeed, higher education is a fundamental form of economic development. Yet, an uneducated workforce continues to be a cyclical obstacle to economic growth in Indian Country.

The cycle is vicious. Businesses are often unwilling to locate into Indian Country because of the lack of an educated workforce and Native American youth see little value in an advanced degree because there are no jobs on the Reservation that would reward one. Those native youth that do obtain a higher education often do not return to their communities because there are no jobs.

Higher education is costly to attain. As college and graduate school costs continue to swell, students are increasingly shouldering high levels of debt to pay for a college education. In fact, thirty-nine percent of student borrowers now graduate with levels of debt that require monthly payments in excess of eight percent of their total monthly incomes.

Loan repayment assistance for higher education graduates choosing to work in Indian Country will help break this cycle of poverty and promote economic development. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING REN DICKSON FOR  
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE  
SCOUT

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ren Dickson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by tak-

ing an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 337, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ren has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Ren has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ren Dickson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRESS SALUTES LANCE  
CORPORAL JASON KEITH BURNETT

### HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2006*

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life and service of Jason Keith Burnett, a lance corporal with the United States Marine Corps—who lost his life in Iraq while conducting combat operations on May 11, 2006 in the Al Anbar Province.

Burnett drowned with three other Marines when their tank plunged off a bridge during a combat patrol. The others killed in the accident were Lance Corporal David J. Grooms Sanchez of Fort Wayne, Indiana, 2nd Lt. Michael L. Licaizi of Garden City, New York and Corporal Steve Vahaviolos of Airmont, New York.

At the time of his death, Lance Corporal Burnett was a member of Company A, 2nd Tank Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

His parents, Ronald and Michele Burnett and his brother, Ryan, a Marine stationed in Hawaii, survive him. Several hundred people attended the funeral at First Baptist Church of Poinciana on May 25, 2006 to honor our fallen hero.

He served his country honorably—with courage, inspiring initiative and distinction.

A devoted Marine and true patriot, it has been said of Lance Corporal Burnett that he knew how to make people laugh and he knew when it was time to be serious—either by helping the poor through his church or playing soccer.

He will be long remembered for his love of outdoors, his successful mission trips with his church and his ultimate sacrifice for his country. We've lost another great American. We will all miss him. Jason Burnett is a true hero. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT,  
2007

SPEECH OF

### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5441) making ap-

propriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise to support passage of this bill.

While I am upset that the Democratic Motion offered by my colleague NITA LOWEY, which would have increased the first responder grants for urban areas by \$750 million, was defeated on a party line basis, she raises important issues that must be addressed.

Where have foreign terrorists struck when they attack our country?

They attack major urban areas, as they look to create spectacular havoc while maximizing the killing of civilians—that is the calling card of Osama bin Laden. Remember him? Sometimes we forget him in the discussion of tax cuts and gay marriage and all the other issues—but he is still out there and still threatening our country, and especially New York and Washington, almost everyday.

Al-Qaeda is not human—but we need to be ready for other attacks. That means proactive preparedness, as well as improving our reactive response as well.

Proactively, we need to better protect our urban areas—the terrorist targeted areas—like New York.

New York was the target in 1993 when terrorists bombed the World Trade Center, and again on September 11, 2001, when they completed the job they started 8 years earlier. New York City is the most targeted city in the country and likely on Earth by terrorists.

This is a reality Congress and the White House need to face. And if we are serious about protecting America—all Americans—regardless of their voting patterns, then we must go about protecting these most targeted and most vulnerable areas.

And I don't just say New York City is targeted to get my hometown more money. We know we are targeted due to information our U.S. intelligence services provide to us.

Being on al-Qaeda's hit list is one of the few distinctions New York City has that I am not proud of, and not happy to talk about.

But we must talk about it—because it is, again, reality.

I salute the Appropriations Committee for working with me and agreeing to the amendment I offered with my colleague from New York, VITO FOSSELLA, to increase the current urban area security initiative by \$20 million—a \$12.7 million increase over last year. But more funding is needed.

But this issue of homeland security and ensuring the resources are there for our first responders—both for proactive and reactive preparedness—is more than an issue of funding in total dollar amounts. It comes down to the flawed funding formulas developed by Congress and the Bush White House to distribute homeland security dollars.

These flawed formulas were crystallized last week when President Bush announced a 40 percent cut in urban security aid to New York City, saying the funds weren't needed for us.

Instead, these urban security dollars went to places like Louisville, Kentucky, while certainly at risk, cannot claim to have the critical infrastructure of New York City under the terrorist microscope.

This is a reality too—a sad and pathetic reality that our homeland security dollars have become the latest pot of federal funding to be

politicized by this White House instead of being used to protect Americans at greatest risk of terror attack.

Other realities:

Our country takes urban security funds created for places like New York and diverts them to Louisiana;

Our Nation provides more homeland security dollars per capita to Wyoming than to New York;

And sadly, protecting our homeland security is more about politics than security.

We haven't caught Osama bin Laden, the Taliban is returning to Afghanistan, and Congress is not providing the funds to our first responders to protect our targeted cities—our Nation's homeland security is a sad reflection of our great country.

RECOGNIZING ANTHONY WARREN  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Anthony Warren, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 337, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Anthony has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Anthony has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Anthony Warren for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMED FORCES  
AND INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

**HON. THELMA D. DRAKE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2006*

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, this morning we woke up to the news that Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the vicious terrorist who has beheaded innocent civilians and murdered women and children in furtherance of his perverted view of peaceful religion, was killed by a U.S. precision guided air-strike.

I would like to take this moment to thank the men and women of our Armed Forces and the intelligence community for their tireless efforts in striking the sword of justice deep into the heart of the terrorist threat. I want them to know that their work has saved the lives of Americans and Iraqis.

While there is the possibility that someone will attempt to rise and take Zarqawi's place, I am hopeful that confusion and fear will now reign supreme amongst the terrorists and that Iraq's newly formed government can use this to their advantage and continue moving Iraq forward. There is still work to do, and we must

remain vigilant. The global war on terror is not about an individual, but about combating a perverted ideology that hates freedom, democracy, justice and equal rights for all.

Again, I congratulate our military and the Iraqi people for this success and hope that Zarqawi's death will lead to peace and stability in Iraq.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF SAM  
PIERSON

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2006*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and accomplishments of Sam Pierson, who passed away on the 25th of January. Sam was an admired and cherished member of the Lewisville, AR, community, and I would like to take a few moments to recognize his achievements.

Mr. Pierson was born on February 10, 1931, in Bebee, OK. As a dedicated law enforcement officer, Sam served as the Lewisville city marshal in 1968 and the Lafayette County deputy in 1980. Sam then served as the Lewisville chief of police from 1985 to 1998 and most recently as the Lafayette County sheriff from 2001 to 2002. He was extremely respected among his colleagues, and was a member of the Arkansas Sheriff's Association and the National Association of Chiefs of Police.

In addition to his remarkable achievements in public service, Sam Pierson also served his country. He was a veteran of the Korean war, where he was wounded and received a Purple Heart. He was also a member of the Oklahoma National Guard 45th Division and a member of the American Legion.

I am deeply saddened by the death of Sam Pierson. His passing will leave a void in Lafayette County, the city of Lewisville, and in the lives of his family and many friends. While Mr. Pierson may no longer be with us, his spirit and legacy will live on forever in the lives he touched.

My most heartfelt condolences go out to his wife, Maebell Pierson; their 3 sons, George and wife Mary Ann Pierson, John and wife Billie Joe Pierson, and Joe and wife Sheila Pierson; their 3 daughters, Kay and husband Hoppy Higgins, Linda and husband Wayne Etue, and Samantha and husband Michael Henry; his 3 brothers, Jimmy Milligan, Doug Milligan, and Charles Milligan; his 4 sisters, Daisy Neff, Georgia Cox, Vadia Ross, and Barbara Muntz; his 15 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, and a host of other relatives and friends.

OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE ANGSTURA  
IRRIGATION PROJECT REHABILITATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

**HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2006*

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Oglala Sioux Tribe Angostura Irrigation Project Rehabilitation and

Development Act. This legislation authorizes much-needed efficiency improvements to the irrigation facilities at the Angostura Unit, a Federal Bureau of Reclamation dam on the Cheyenne River in South Dakota. These improvements will restore critical water resources and promote economic development on the nearby Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

This bill provides important resources to the citizens of South Dakota and the Lakota people of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. It authorizes funds to carry out the Bureau of Reclamation's recommended improvements to the irrigation facilities at the Angostura dam. The dam provides substantial economic benefits to many South Dakotans. It provides irrigation to 12,218 acres of land which benefits ranchers and agricultural producers in the area, and it supports an important recreational boating and fishing industry which is enjoyed by many of our citizens.

Until now, however, the Angostura dam has failed to provide any of these economic benefits to the members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe who live just 20 miles downstream of the dam on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The Oglala Sioux Tribe has long relied on the resources provided by the Cheyenne River, which forms part of the northern boundary of its reservation. Long before the dam was constructed as part of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin Project, the tribe relied on the river as an important economic resource. Since it was completed, however, the dam has taken an enormous toll on the tribe. The dam curbed the Cheyenne River's natural flow, reducing water quality on the reservation, diminishing natural riparian habitats, adversely impacting fish and wildlife and forcing important tribal agricultural enterprises to shut their doors.

The bill implements the Bureau of Reclamation's preferred alternative in its revised water management plan for the Angostura Unit, which calls for improved efficiencies in irrigation operations that will free up additional water resources for both existing water users and the tribe. In addition, the legislation would authorize the creation of a trust fund to compensate the tribe for the devastating economic impacts and loss of natural resources caused by the operation of the dam. The fund will be used to promote economic and infrastructure development on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and enhance the education, health and general welfare of the Oglala Lakota people.

I hope that my distinguished colleagues will take up and pass this legislation quickly. It will allow all of us in South Dakota to better use our natural resources, while keeping our solemn commitment to deal fairly and honorably with the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Lakota people of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. I ask for your help and support in moving it forward.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH OLVERA  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph Olvera, a very special