

from the same high school. Judy was a distinguished educator, with degrees from Michigan State University and Western Michigan University. She was a devoted mother of four sons and grandmother of five. Additionally, she is survived by her father, two sisters, and her brother.

Judy had great zest for life. She was a giving and warm person, and she will be truly missed.

#### VOTING RIGHTS ACT

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House is scheduled to vote on H.R. 9, the Voting Rights Reauthorization Act.

In a Nation where children are taught at the earliest age that every citizen has a right to vote, it would be comforting to know that the last vestiges of voter discrimination had been swept away by the Voting Rights Act.

But the facts paint a much different and unsettling picture. Sadly, African Americans and other minorities continue to face calculated and determined efforts to prevent them from exercising their fundamental democratic rights. That is why extension of key expiring provisions of the Voting Rights Act is critical.

Mr. Speaker, the right to vote is a foundation of democracy, and the Voting Rights Act provides the legal basis to protect the rights of all Americans. It is my hope that this body will do the right thing and not allow weakening amendments that would undermine the effectiveness of this historical voter act to be passed.

#### LINE ITEM VETO

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans understand that fiscal restraint is not an option. It is a necessity.

Since 1991, Federal spending on special-interest projects has increased by 900 percent. It is interesting just in the last emergency spending bill we passed out of this Congress, there is \$38 million in oyster research money. Now, I certainly like oysters. I think they are great whether they are raw or steamed or even fried. I am Southern, so fried oysters are great. But I do not think the Federal Government should be spending \$38 million.

That is why I support the Presidential line item veto, and I think it is important that the President have the authority to root out those wasteful spending projects and make sure that pork-barrel spending does not continue to grow.

Mr. Speaker, this initiative will make Congress more accountable and help us eliminate the government glut-

tony that plagues our current budget process.

#### HOUSE GOP PLANS TO DISMANTLE SOCIAL SECURITY AFTER NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

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

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, we have all heard the motto, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." Last year the White House and congressional Republicans failed in their efforts to privatize Social Security. Democrats stood united in defending the program, and the American people saw the privatization effort for what it was, a dismantling of the Social Security safety net that has provided millions of seniors real independence in their retirement years.

The American people were clear with Washington Republicans: Keep your hands off our Social Security. We thought they had gotten the message last year. Now, however, it appears that House Republicans want the privatization back on the table. Earlier this month the man most likely to lead the Republicans' Ways and Means Committee next year says it should be their top priority if they retain control of Congress to privatize Social Security.

Is the Republican majority in this House really that out of touch? The American people have already rejected their risky privatization plan. Instead of dismantling a critical safety net for millions of Americans, House Republicans should join the Democrats in strengthening Social Security for the future. The time has come to protect Social Security.

#### LEGISLATIVE LINE ITEM VETO

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge passage of the Legislative Line Item Veto Act. It provides a budget savings tool that almost every governor in the Nation already possesses. It will enable the President to identify questionable and wasteful earmark projects that have been slipped into spending bills so that Congress can vote separately on their merits.

Surely, Mr. Speaker, at a time of war, historic national debt, and record high tax revenues, it doesn't seem too much to ask that legislators show a little bit more accountability on how the people's money is spent. Just last month the Social Security and Medicare trustees reported that both Social Security and Medicare are going broke sooner than expected, and, thanks to Democrats' stonewalling, \$2 trillion have been added in unfunded obligations.

We must have some fiscal restraint. The line item veto will help pull back

the curtain on the earmarking process, which some have termed the gateway drug to spending addiction. By requiring specific votes, it will make it harder for Congress to spend millions of taxpayer dollars on railroads to nowhere, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and indoor rain forests.

Let us enact the line item veto.

#### CONGRATULATING THE CAROLINA HURRICANES

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues to congratulate the Carolina Hurricanes for winning the most storied trophy in sports, the Stanley Cup. The Hurricanes defeated the Edmonton Oilers in game seven to win the first Stanley Cup and the first professional league sporting title for any North Carolina team. The Hurricanes exemplify what is great about professional sports: teamwork, dedication, and sportsmanship.

In addition to congratulating the players, coaches and the Hurricanes organization, I would also like to congratulate all the team's fans, the Caniacs. When the Hurricanes first arrived in North Carolina in 1997, skeptics across North America really thought that a Southern State could not support a hockey team. Well, we certainly have proven them wrong. The excitement that the team's fans displayed throughout every game of the playoffs shows that folks in basketball country love our hockey team. It may be shocking to our cold weather natives, but North Carolina won the cup. Hockey has long been thought of as a national sport to our neighbors to the North, but now it is the sport of the good old North State.

Congratulations, Canes.

#### IMMIGRATION

(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 effective, fair, and secure immigration reform, not the amnesty plan passed by the Senate this month.

The Senate plan allows millions of illegal immigrants to get a green card and a path to citizenship. Mr. Speaker, let me ask you, what does this say to all the law-abiding people patiently waiting to become American citizens? It says they should have sneaked into our country and ignored our immigration laws like everyone else.

Mr. Speaker, there is a better way to achieve meaningful immigration reform, and I am committed to passing the right kind of bill. We need to secure our borders first; give businesses a fail-safe way to ensure the workers that they hire are legal; and above all,

start enforcing the immigration laws already on the books. Until we can accomplish these goals, any so-called "reform plan" will be little more than a recipe for failure.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all of my colleagues join me in standing firm and saying "no" to the Senate's amnesty plan.

□ 1130

#### CREATING A LIVABLE WAGE FOR EVERYONE WILLING TO WORK

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it amazes me that we are still talking about raising the minimum wage. What we ought to be talking about is the creation of a livable wage for every person who is willing and able to work. Plus we all know that any increase in wages for those at the bottom will be plowed right back into the economy to help make it strong.

Let's do the sensible thing. Let's make livable wages a reality for all working Americans. Let's let people know that after 40 hours of work, they can pay the rent, buy adequate food, have decent shelter and go to the doctor when they are sick. Surely we can afford that much.

#### ENDING TERRORISM ONCE AND FOR ALL

(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, this morning we have heard some sad reports that the bodies of our missing soldiers have been found.

Mr. Speaker, our hearts are with those families and with our entire Fort Campbell family. And to those who have claimed responsibility, whether they are actually responsible or not, and I want to respond to that statement and quote them, the Mudjadeen Shura Council, they are terrorists, Mr. Speaker, and this is their quote: "The strongest army in the world is turned around, ashamed of their failure."

Mr. Speaker, no, we are ashamed of these, and I use the term lightly, these human beings, who believe they have the right to maim and murder innocent people here in America and in the Middle East and do it in the name of religion.

Mr. Speaker, they could not be more wrong about how this country feels. We are proud of our military men and women, I am so proud of those families at Fort Campbell, and we are proud of the dedication to ending decades of terrorism once and for all.

#### BRING BACK PAY-AS-YOU-GO BUDGET RULES

(Mr. MILLER of North Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, when President Bush took office, our Nation had a \$5.6 trillion surplus. President Bush said that the surplus proved taxes were too high and called for cutting taxes on the richest Americans.

Then he said because the economy was doing badly, we had to stimulate the economy by cutting taxes on the richest Americans. The richest Americans, President Bush said, would sleep in and spend the afternoon watching soap operas instead of creating jobs for other Americans, unless they got a generous tax cut.

Now President Bush and Congressional Republicans say that the same tax rates on the richest Americans in effect when we had a surplus would now cause the deficit to worsen.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican fondness for cutting taxes on the richest Americans has nothing to do with job creation or stimulating the economy or reducing the deficit. The tax cuts on the richest Americans has resulted in turning a \$5.6 trillion surplus into a \$4 trillion deficit, pushing interest rates up, stagnating savings rates, and dragging the economy down.

My colleagues, Mr. HENSARLING and Mr. MCHENRY, were correct in their remarks a few minutes ago: this Republican Congress has absolutely no discipline on the spending side. But neither do they have any discipline on the tax side.

Mr. Speaker, pay-as-you-go budget rules worked in the 1990s to control the deficit and kept Congress from working on economic fantasies. It is time to bring those rules back.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations Hurricanes.

#### INCREASE THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the House should be cited for dereliction of duty. Over the years, we have failed to raise the minimum wage. That is why Amanda and her two children can barely survive in Wisconsin, and why this headline says: "States lead the way to raise minimum wage. Inaction in Washington has helped push this bipartisan effort."

Isn't it a shame that the Republican majority in this Congress doesn't get it? Although we have an amendment to raise the minimum wage in our Labor-HHS bill, there is rumor that it will be stricken.

The minimum wage is the lowest in 50 years and hasn't been raised since 1997. At \$5.15 an hour, you can only earn \$10,700 a year, supporting a family of one, two, three, six and seven and others.

This is a crisis. Americans who earn dollars invest back into our economy.

We cannot make ends meet. Seventy-five percent of those who earn this are responsible for at least half of their family's income. If you can't raise your children on a middle-income salary, how can you do it on one-third the amount?

Democrats believe in increasing the minimum wage, and we know that we will see the minimum wage increase. It is time for Republicans to wake up.

#### COMEDY CENTRAL AND THE DAILY SHOW COME TO THE HOUSE FLOOR

(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, "Comedy Central" and "The Daily Show" have come to the floor of the House. The House Republicans have thrown up their hands and said, save us from ourselves. They are going to come out here with the line item veto.

Now, every single item that goes out of this House has been through a committee chaired by a Republican with a Republican majority on that committee. No single item has gotten out of here that they have not had their look at. They want to slip it into the bill and then send it to the President and run down there to the White House and say, Please, Mr. President, save us from ourselves. We can't stop ourselves. We have to keep spending money.

This is the most ridiculous piece of legislation you have come up with in this session. There is no excuse for it whatsoever. If you can't stop yourselves in the committee, and you can't stop yourselves on the floor, why would you have to call the President?

Do you understand the separation of powers? We are the ones who decide how the money gets spent, not the President. It is your responsibility that you have spent away the surplus into the biggest deficit in history. Shame on you.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JAMES CAMERON

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 867) honoring the life and accomplishments of James Cameron, as amended.