

monthly paychecks are stagnant, forcing most families to stretch paychecks just to make ends meet.

This is not how our country is supposed to work. Unfortunately, Washington Republicans continue to ignore the needs of the middle class. Democrats have a proud history of fighting for working families and will take our country in a new direction, one where their needs are addressed, not ignored.

HONORING VIVIAN MOEGLEIN

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincerest appreciation and thanks to Vivian Moeglein whose tenure as my legislative director comes to an end this Friday. Vivian will be leaving my office at the end of this week after serving the Third District of Arkansas for 10 years.

Her passion for the legislative process, devotion to the people of Arkansas, and her cheerful personality have made her a pleasure to work with, and I am fortunate to have had her on my staff.

Vivian began her service here on Capitol Hill as an intern for Congressman Asa Hutchinson while completing her undergraduate degree at the University of Maryland. Since that time, she has worked her way through the ranks as a staff assistant, office manager, legislative correspondent, legislative assistant, and finally as legislative director.

I was fortunate enough to keep her on the staff when I entered Congress in 2001 in a special election when she carefully steered me through the learning process each new Member of Congress must master.

Mr. Speaker, my staff and I will miss Vivian greatly, as will the Third Congressional District of Arkansas. We are extremely grateful for her tireless efforts on behalf of Arkansas and wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors.

WE NEED TO CHANGE COURSE IN IRAQ

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

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, a famous law of nature says that when you have dug yourself into a deep hole, the first thing to do is stop digging. That hole is Iraq. According to our own intelligence agents, the war in Iraq is actually fueling more terror worldwide, undermining the global war on terror. And yet this administration refuses to stop digging.

Conditions for our own troops are getting worse and worse. They are merely serving as referees in a civil war between Sunnis and Shias in which over 100 Iraqis die every day.

And our Army Chief of Staff, who I refer to as the Carl Sagan of the budg-

et, says we need billions and billions and billion of more dollars if we are going to keep the Army going in Iraq and elsewhere.

Last week, General Abizaid was asked if we were winning the war in Iraq; he said we would be if we had unlimited time and unlimited resources.

Yet in the face of all of this mismanagement, all of the death and destruction, our President has the nerve to say when history looks at Iraq, it will see a mere comma. A mere comma. What about the deaths of 2,700 of our bravest men and women, Mr. President? How about the injuries of 20,000 of our finest troops? It is time to stop digging and bring the troops home.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to the President.

NO CONGRESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS YEAR

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, at the end of this week the Republican leadership is sending us home. They are going to spend the next 4 weeks trying to convince the American people that we have actually accomplished something this year. It is going to be a tough sell.

This is the most do-nothing Congress in American history. Back in 1948, President Harry Truman dubbed the Congress of that year the "do-nothing Congress" after it met for only 101 days. At the end of this week, this Congress will have only met for a total of 79 days. That is 22 days less than the do-nothing Congress of 1948. This is the do-less-than-nothing Congress.

And over those 79 days, House Republicans have not passed one piece of meaningful legislation into law. They have been putting on a lot of shows over the last few weeks trying to convince the American people they are actually accomplishing something. Don't believe them.

Here is the record. We are days away from a new fiscal year, Congress has not yet passed a budget. Republicans have been saying all year that immigration and border security are their top priority, but we leave this week without a law on either issue. It is no wonder the American people are fed up with Congress. It is time for a change.

IRAQ WAR CREATING MORE TERRORISTS, NOT LESS

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, for 5 weeks President Bush has been telling the American people that they are safer now than they were before 9/11 even though all 16 of his intelligence agencies were telling him that simply was not the case.

The Bush administration's own spy agencies say we are less safe today, and they put the blame on the President's decision to invade Iraq.

If President Bush and Republicans here in Congress are serious on winning the global war on terror, they would not ignore this classified report and would finally join us in coming up with a new strategy for Iraq.

It is clear that staying the course is simply not working. We have lost nearly 2,700 troops and spent upwards of \$320 billion. And yet there are still no positive developments on the ground. In fact, things seem to be getting worse as more than 100 Iraqis are now being killed every day.

Mr. Speaker, the war in Iraq and the occupation is making our Nation less safe. It is time that we redeploy our troops out of Iraq so we can finally achieve some form of national security. I mean real national security and real peace.

FAMILIES FACE RISING COSTS WITH FALLING WAGES

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, at the end of last week Forbes Magazine released their annual list of the 400 richest Americans. For the first time ever, this list was comprised entirely of billionaires. Not one millionaire made the list. 400 billionaires.

These are the types of people who benefited from the massive tax cuts pushed by President Bush and his Republican rubber-stamp allies here in this Congress.

The giveaway to the wealthiest Americans stands in stark contrast to the plight of millions of working people in my home State of New Jersey and throughout the Nation who have actually seen their wages fall by over \$3,000 over the past 6 years if you take inflation into account.

How are working Americans supposed to realize the American Dream when their wages remain stagnant, when all of their monthly bills are steadily rising? Over the past 6 years, the cost of health care has risen by 71 percent and the tuition of public colleges has gone up 57 percent. We must stop this. Let's stop benefiting the billionaires.

REMEMBERING LEO DIEHL

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, there is a cliché of the unsung

hero. Cliches can be tiresome, but generally they have to be true to become a cliché. One such unsung hero in the history of this House recently died. His name was Leo Diehl.

Tip O'Neill was a great Speaker, and we have seen before and since that it is not as easy to be a successful Speaker as it may look. One reason Tip was so good at his job was the friendship and partnership he had with Leo Diehl.

Leo Diehl was a man of integrity, vision and intelligence. He had lost the use of much of his body, but his brain worked, and his eyes and ears and mouth. Because of the great friendship with Leo Diehl, because he could so clearly rely on a man of such strength of character and wisdom, that was one of the reasons that Tip O'Neill's speakership, as he was free to acknowledge, was so successful.

Leo Diehl recently died at the age of 92. He was a great figure in the history of this House, and I think it is appropriate that those of us particularly who served under Tip O'Neill's speakership with Leo Diehl mourn him today.

REMEMBERING LEO DIEHL

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I want to join with my colleague from Massachusetts, Congressman BARNEY FRANK, in paying tribute to a great man, Leo Diehl, who recently died.

He served as Tip O'Neill's right-hand man and was a great counselor not only to Tip, but to so many people who served in this Congress during those years. Those of us who were members of congressional staff remember him with great fondness and great respect.

The great people who serve in this institution are not just the people who get elected, but often those who serve those who are elected. Leo Diehl was a wonderful man. The world has lost a great person.

□ 1030

PRESIDENT BUSH MISREPRESENTS IRAQ'S IMPACT ON THE OVERALL GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, it is nice to see that we really and finally are hearing the truth from the Bush administration about the Iraq war and its impact on the overall global war on terror. The problem is we didn't hear it from the President himself. No. It comes from a top secret intelligence document that I am sure the President hoped never saw the light of day.

For the better part of a month now, President Bush has been trying to persuade the American people that we are

safer today than we were before 9/11. This national intelligence report contradicts the President's statements and says that the war in Iraq has actually made our fight against terrorism even more difficult.

So the question is, why would the President go out and say we are safer if his intelligence agencies refute these claims? Either President Bush has not personally read the top secret report or he is not leveling with the American people about the real worldwide threat we continue to face and how Iraq has made those threats even worse.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2679, VETERANS' MEMORIALS, BOY SCOUTS, PUBLIC SEALS, AND OTHER PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF RELIGION PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1038 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1038

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2679) to amend the Revised Statutes of the United States to eliminate the chilling effect on the constitutionally protected expression of religion by State and local officials that results from the threat that potential litigants may seek damages and attorney's fees. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 1038 is a closed rule. It allows 1 hour of debate in the House equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. It waives all points of order against consideration of the bill, and it provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute as reported by the Committee on the Judiciary shall be considered as adopted. H. Res. 1038 also provides for one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, as you and many others may have noticed, if you look up from the front podium, in the center of the

molding above the gallery is a sculpture of Moses, the man who freed the slaves in Egypt and introduced God's law to man. Moses is at the forefront of all of the great legal scholars depicted in this Chamber because of his responsibilities as both a religious leader and the custodian of God's law.

The Ten Commandments are the foundation of common law and the "rights endowed by our Creator." However, in recent decades, the Ten Commandments, religious symbols, and religious liberties in general have been under attack. More specifically, they have been under attack by the same interests that claim to represent civil liberties and free speech.

On July 19, 2005, a month after the Supreme Court ruled on the two Kentucky Ten Commandments cases, United States District Court Judge William O'Kelley ruled in my home State of Georgia that the courthouse in Barrow County, my daughter-in-law's home, had to remove a framed poster of the Ten Commandments and awarded the American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU, \$150,000.

Mr. Speaker, small counties like Barrow cannot afford these costly lawsuits; and my daughter-in-law's parents, Emory and Pat House of Winder, Georgia, experienced an increase in their taxes to help pay for these court costs and the legal fees.

This past July, we had a debate over legislation to preserve the Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial in San Diego, California, from having to remove a cross. Mr. Speaker, one can only wonder how those Korean War veterans, many of whom gave their lives for this country, might have felt had that cross been removed from their memorial cemetery. Thankfully, Mr. HUNTER's legislation passed and was signed into law, but I am stunned at how far our society has fallen when people are compelled to sue a major city to have a cross removed from, of all places, a memorial cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot continue to allow frivolous and, frankly, unwarranted lawsuits to stifle the beliefs and self-determination of our great communities. This is a textbook example of an issue that needs to be addressed by this Congress.

I have always believed that one man's rights end where another man's rights begin, and we need to draw the line to clarify our first amendment and ensure impartiality for legal challenges.

The rule we are debating today would allow for the consideration of H.R. 2679, the Veterans' Memorials, Boy Scouts, Public Seals, and Other Public Expressions of Religion Act of 2006. I want to thank Mr. HOSTETTLER for sponsoring this legislation and Chairman SENSENBRENNER for the opportunity to discourage frivolous obstruction to our constitutional rights of religious expression.

The Public Expression of Religion Act would prevent Federal courts from