

HIGHLAND FALLS-FORT MONTGOMERY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to urge this House to correct a broken impact aid formula that unfairly limits the Federal funding received by local school districts in military communities.

A significant portion of the students I represent in Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District are children of military families living at West Point. Impact Aid funding complications have Highland Falls struggling to preserve its full curriculum for students. The Impact Aid funding shortfall leaves the local community surrounding West Point facing major property tax increases.

This is not the way the Federal Government should be treating the families of Highland Falls and West Point. Impact aid schools need and deserve consistent Federal support. They are not getting that through the current Impact Aid formula.

I urge this House to pass the Impact Aid Update Act, a bill I introduced to correct the outdated cap that is restricting Impact Aid funding to Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District and other Impact Aid schools.

I also call on this House to pass H.R. 390, a bill I am cosponsoring to improve the Impact Aid program. This Congress needs to permanently fix Impact Aid funding formulas so that local school districts like Highland Falls throughout the country have the full resources they need to teach our children.

VICTIM-ACTIVATED LANDMINE ABOLITION ACT

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, yesterday, Congressman PHIL ENGLISH and I introduced H.R. 6178, the Victim-Activated Landmine Abolition Act.

Our Nation is the global leader in funding for landmine clearance, mine risk education, and mine survivors. The U.S. was the first nation to call for a comprehensive ban on antipersonnel landmines in 1994, and we have not exported them since 1992, produced them since 1997, or use them since 1991.

In Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere, victim-activated landmines have killed and maimed U.S. and coalition troops. They indiscriminately threaten lives in more than 80 countries, and they do not distinguish between an enemy combatant and a U.S. soldier, child, farmer, or refugee.

Today, the U.S. has acquired reliable technology that enables all such weapons to be equipped with man-in-the-loop targeting and triggering capabilities.

We no longer need to procure or design landmines that are victim-activated. Let the U.S. set the example for other countries in banning the procurement of victim-activated landmines and weapons. I encourage my colleagues to join me as a cosponsor of H.R. 6178.

BROOKLYN ALLYSON—DAUGHTER OF TEXAS

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I have news, good news. A child is born, a girl.

Brooklyn Allyson Reaves arrived in the summer heat of Austin, Texas, August 18, 2006, at 7 pounds, 13 ounces. Her parents, Kim and Derek Reaves, and her brother, Barrett Houston, are all proud of this new family member.

Brooklyn is in the sunrise of her life. May her days be long, may she see good days of happiness and health, days of doing service for others, days filled with a passion for liberty and righteous justice, days with a love for her heritage and her country, and days with a commitment to her Maker; so that when she reaches the sunset of life, she will have been a good citizen, a good patriot, and a good servant of her Lord.

Every time a child is born, the Almighty is making a bet on the future of humanity. Kids are our greatest of all national resources.

So, Madam Speaker, the angels in heaven may be singing with joy at the arrival of Brooklyn, but they cannot be as happy or as proud as I am, because Brooklyn is my new granddaughter.

And that's just the way it is.

SHOCKED AT HOW AWFUL IRAQ IS

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, the Iraq war has gone from shock and awe to shocked at how awful it is.

On the heels of the public disclosure of the NIE estimates, today's Washington Post reports that the Baghdad Police College was so poorly constructed it might need to be demolished.

Special Inspector for Iraq Reconstruction said, "This is the most essential civil security project in the country. It is a failure. The Baghdad Police Academy is a disaster."

There are foundation problems, tile floors are warped beyond repair, faucets leak, toilet waste flooding all over the second and third floors.

The Parsons Corporation did such a bad job with the \$75 million in U.S. taxpayer money it was awarded to build the new facility, the whole facility may need to be torn down. The Parsons Corporation received a \$1 billion contract.

\$12 billion gone, wasted, unaccounted for in Iraq. But what is \$12.5 billion among friends? That wasted money fol-

lows a long line of other costly mistakes, including this Congress's refusal to hold anybody accountable.

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HUGO CHAVEZ AND THE AMERICAN CONSUMER

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, Hugo Chavez, dictator of Venezuela, gave a speech at the United Nations last week in which he lambasted the United States and denigrated President Bush. Chavez is little more than a comical autocrat on an anti-American public relations tour, but it is interesting that the American public has channeled their wrath into their consumer purchasing, moving to boycott Citgo, the Venezuelan national gas company.

Indeed, on Wednesday, 7-Eleven reacted to growing bad publicity by announcing it would not renew a 20-year contract with Citgo. That is about 2,100 gas stations off the books for Citgo. The rest will be targets of an angry American public's spontaneous boycott of Venezuelan oil.

All of us are working here in Congress to promote America's oil independence. All of us should do what 7-Eleven is doing by boycotting Citgo gas stations.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL AIMS TO BAN INTERNET GAMING

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, Congress is waiting for the Republican leadership to bring the Department of Defense authorization bill to the floor for a vote.

So what's holding it up? Believe it or not, the Republican leadership wants to add a provision to the defense bill.

To help the troops? No.

To add to their salaries? No.

To help us buy equipment for them so they will have state of the art equipment? No.

It's a provision to ban Internet gaming. And if you guessed that, you are absolutely right. A ban on Internet gaming in the defense bill. How ridiculous is that? At a time when we have brave American men and women fighting and dying in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Republican leadership is more worried about Americans playing poker on-line than in protecting our troops in the field.

The Republicans talk about patriotism and supporting our fighting men and women, but when it comes to voting for our Nation's Defense Department, they are more interested in banning Internet gaming than they are in providing what our troops need in the field of battle.

This is a disgrace. Americans should be outraged and we should demand that

we pass this Department of Defense authorization without any other additions that have nothing to do with defending our brave men and women.

#### MATERIAL SUPPORT BILL

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, Saturday's New York Times ran an editorial headlined Punishing Refugees Twice, which describes a very real problem that deserves our attention. The PATRIOT Act and the REAL ID Act are important laws to keep out of the U.S. those who provide aid to terrorists. However, an excessively broad interpretation of the law has tied our hands when it comes to admitting harmless refugees into America. No distinction is made for people who have been coerced under duress to provide material support, including under threat of rape or death or at gunpoint.

In addition, the definitions make no exceptions for people or groups that our government supports or that support our government, such as those resisting ethnic cleansing by the dictatorship in Burma, or anti-Castro groups in Cuba, or the Montagnards.

H.R. 5918 would fix this problem by allowing us greater ability to distinguish between our friends and our enemies. The many terrorism-related bars on entry would all remain in place.

I urge consideration and support of this bill.

#### IRAQ MAKING OVERALL TERRORISM PROBLEM WORSE—TIME FOR NEW DIRECTION

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

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, for 6 months now, President Bush has known that the Iraq war is making our efforts to fight global terrorism more difficult, yet he refuses to change the course. A top secret National Intelligence Estimate concluding that the Iraq war has made the overall terrorism problem worse should have set alarms off in the Bush administration. The document shows that the President's stay-the-course strategy in Iraq is only undermining our prospects for winning the global war against terror.

The Bush administration knew that this was a possibility before it even went into Iraq. Another intelligence estimate that came out in January 2003 stated that the approaching war had the potential to increase support for political Islam worldwide and could increase support for some terrorist objectives. Yet the administration set aside these concerns and chose to attack instead.

Today, our Nation is suffering the consequences. As the intelligence re-

port states, radical Islam has metastasized. It's time for us to stop the growth of Islamic fanaticism by showing the world that we have no plans of occupying Iraq indefinitely.

#### RECAPPING REPUBLICAN SUCCESSES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as this legislative session draws to a close, it is appropriate to look back at House Republican successes and the accomplishments that have been achieved for the American people.

During the past few months, House Republicans have worked tirelessly to strengthen the economy, protect family values, address the energy crisis, secure our borders, and increase national security.

With the tax reconciliation bill, families are keeping \$31 billion of their own money, as clearly promoted by the Lexington County Chronicle. We approved a border security package to secure our borders and restrict the flow of illegal aliens into our country. Just yesterday, we passed the Military Commissions Act providing for the prosecution of suspected terrorists to help us secure victory in the global war on terrorism.

As we leave Washington and prepare to face the voters in November, we will be judged by our merits. I am proud House Republicans have a positive record of achievement on which to stand.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

#### ON THE VIETNAM DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Vietnamese people who continue to work every day for a free and democratic Vietnam.

In April, 118 Vietnamese citizens signed the Manifesto on Democracy and Freedom for Vietnam. Making this public statement put these Vietnamese citizens and their families at great risk. The signers of the manifesto are part of a movement called the 8406 Democracy Movement, which refers to the date on which they signed the manifesto, the 8th of April of 2006.

On June 10, I personally spoke with the leaders of the 8406 Democracy Movement, Father Ly and Do Nam Hai, and it is clear to me from my conversations with them that the government of Vietnam continues to violate religious, property and labor rights as well as the right to a free and independent media. These violations are unacceptable.

I urge President Bush to convey the following message to the government of Vietnam during his travel there in November for the Asia-Pacific Economic Corporation Conference.

The U.S. supports the people of the 8406 Democracy Movement who are working toward a free and democratic Vietnam and strongly objects to any mistreatment of them.

#### THE GENTLEMAN FROM ILLINOIS

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

Mr. PENCE. As this session of Congress draws to a close, so draws to a close, also, the storied career of the Lion of the Right, Henry Hyde of Illinois. As the chairman of several major committees at the center of repeated national controversies, Henry Hyde, as Members on both sides of the aisle know, has been a paragon of dignity and civility and commitment to principle. I would add he has been a lion of the right to life and this Chamber will miss his roar.

I will offer legislation today to name the Rayburn International Relations Committee room after this storied legislator, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

When I think of Henry Hyde's career, I think of Ulysses by Alfred Lord Tennyson who wrote:

"Tho' much is taken, much abides; and tho' we are not now that strength which in old days moved heaven and earth, that which we are, we are; one equal temper of heroic hearts, made weak by time and fate but strong in will to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

Let us honor this rare leader and may God bless the golden years of the gentleman from Illinois.

#### SENIORS ONCE AGAIN VICTIMS OF GOP'S COZY RELATIONSHIP WITH DRUG COMPANIES

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

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, American seniors are facing their first full week of the donut hole. This gap in prescription drug coverage for thousands of seniors is the direct result of the Republicans' dedication to increasing drug company profits.

As a clear giveaway to the big pharmaceutical companies, the Republican prescription drug benefit does not require that the Federal Government use its huge purchasing power to bargain for lower cost drugs. On three occasions since 2003, House Republicans had the opportunity to support Democratic amendments to reduce drug prices through bulk purchasing. Passage of our amendments would have provided Congress with the money to fill the gap in coverage and eliminate the donut hole.