

benefits for their 432,000 retirees. In comparison, non-U.S. auto manufacturers spent roughly just \$23 million for their 1,200 American workers and American retirees.

And one would think that after decades of commitment the Big Three have shown to the American worker that that would earn them the admiration and the sympathy of the Democratic leadership. Unfortunately, that does not seem to be the case. The Democratic leadership that should be holding up the domestic auto industry as models of corporate responsibility are instead trying to ram through increased CAFE standards that will put U.S. auto workers in the unemployment line and likely bankrupt U.S. auto companies.

I urge my colleagues to reject these policies which will help our foreign competitors, and instead stand up for American jobs.

#### IOWA NATIONAL GUARD 1ST BATTALION, 133RD INFANTRY

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

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride to welcome home the Iowa Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry. The Ironman Battalion returns to Iowa today after a 22-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While serving in al-Anbar province, the Ironman Battalion provided transportation security for more than one-third of the fuel used by coalition forces in Iraq.

It is with a heavy heart that I note that the 133rd Infantry lost two soldiers. I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to their families and loved ones.

Now that the 133rd has returned home, we must honor their service by providing for their health care and productive futures. Our commitment to these citizens must extend throughout their lives.

On behalf of the Second District of Iowa, I thank the soldiers of the 133rd Infantry for their service. It is with great pride and gratitude that we welcome them home today.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF SECRETARY NICHOLSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday, Secretary Jim Nicholson resigned from his position at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

As a highly decorated combat veteran, his experience in the Army for over 22 years gave him insight into the needs of veterans. He has implemented many reforms since assuming the lead-

ership of the VA in February 2005. He established electronic medical records for the nearly 8 million people in the VA health care program. This enabled the successful transition of veterans from hospitals damaged by Hurricane Katrina and Rita.

In addition, Mr. Nicholson improved care for veterans with brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder, mandating screening of all returning veterans for signs of PTSD, and adding mental health services at more than 100 medical centers.

Secretary Nicholson also hired suicide prevention counselors at each of the VA's 153 facilities and established a 24-hour national suicide prevention hotline.

I want to thank Secretary Nicholson for his commitment and leadership, and wish him well in his future endeavors. God bless him.

#### JAMES MADISON'S "POLITICAL OBSERVATIONS"

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

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote from James Madison, chief author of the Constitution, from remarks he wrote on April 20, 1795, which sound as though they could have been written today.

"Of all the enemies of true liberty, war is, perhaps, the most to be dreaded because it compromises and develops the germ of every other. War is the parent of armies; from these proceed debts and taxes. And armies and debts and taxes are the known instruments for bringing the many under the domination of the few.

"In war, too, the discretionary power of the executive is extended. Its influence in dealing out offices, honors and emoluments is multiplied; and all the means of seducing the minds are added to those of subduing the force of the people. This same malignant aspect in republicanism may be traced in the inequality of fortunes, and the opportunities of fraud, growing out of a state of war, and in the degeneracy of manner and of morals engendered in both. No nation can preserve its freedom in the midst of continual war. War is, in fact, the true nurse of executive aggrandizement."

#### COMMENDING COLLIN COUNTY SCHOOLS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the prestigious independent school districts in Collin County, Texas, for their sterling reputation and superior education.

Forbes Magazine, long-time experts on all things money, recently ranked

the public schools in Collin County as second in the entire Nation for the best education for your dollar. What a tremendous distinction.

The students' overall average score was 1102 on the college entrance exam, and the schools boast a 92.2 percent graduation rate. This demonstrates that knowledgeable teachers, community pride, parental involvement and top-quality schools are all working together to achieve academic success.

I want to personally commend the cities of Allen, Frisco, McKinney, Plano and Wylie and their independent school districts for this exceptional award and national recognition for what they do best, teaching our kids and making the future of Texas and the United States even brighter.

Congratulations to all concerned.

#### NO PERMANENT MILITARY BASES IN IRAQ

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, our intelligence agencies have confirmed that al Qaeda is stronger in numbers and effectiveness than it has ever been. And that's because 5 years ago, when we had bin Laden cornered and crippled, we outsourced the job of capturing him. And then we diverted our focus and our resources to Iraq, which turned out to be his greatest dream realized because it gave him so many propaganda tools as a rallying cry and a recruiting tool. And that's just what happened.

And now, when President Bush says that he envisions a military presence in Iraq similar to South Korea, well, we've been in South Korea for 50 years, this plays into their propaganda. We need to make clear there will be no permanent military bases in Iraq; that we are not there as occupiers, but rather as liberators.

Let's start getting serious about winning this global war on terrorism. We can start today by passing the resolution declaring that the Congress is unequivocally opposed to permanent military bases in Iraq.

□ 1030

#### SUPPORT FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES

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

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support this morning of the funding levels included in the State and local law enforcement in H.R. 3093. This legislation reverses a dangerous downward trend in the Community Oriented Policing Services program, the COPS program.

Specifically, it increases the COPS budget to \$725 million, which is a \$183