

them, especially on the Democratic side, have focused on extending coverage to the 40m-plus uninsured Americans rather than on cutting costs.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

U.S.-COLOMBIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, after thousands of kidnappings and murders inside Colombia carried out by the terrorist organization known by its initials as FARC, Colombia finally had enough. And when it learned that key heads of the terrorist group that were being given sanctuary inside Ecuador by the government of that country, when Colombia learned that the terrorists were 1,800 meters from Colombia, Colombia decided to strike. It did so from Colombian airspace. And, in fact, the FARC shot at the Colombian Air Force, which permitted the Colombian Air Force to pinpoint the exact spot where the FARC terrorists were, where they had been, and from where they were attacking Colombia.

Colombia struck, and the second-ranking FARC terrorist head, Luis Edgar Devia-Silva, alias Raul Reyes, was killed. Reyes was killed along with approximately 20 other terrorists. Unfortunately, one brave Colombian soldier fighting in defense of freedom, Carlos Hernandez Leon, was also killed during the operation.

It is as tragic as it is condemnable. It is, in fact, criminal for the Governments of Ecuador and Venezuela to provide sanctuary for terrorists who systemically commit murder and kidnappings inside Colombia, and then those terrorists return to Venezuelan and Ecuadorian soil.

President Bush and the United States of America have stood by and are firmly standing by our great democratic ally and friend Colombia and its twice overwhelmingly elected President Alvaro Uribe. Unfortunately, that is not the case with much of the rest of our hemisphere. I commend President Bush for his steadfast support of our great ally President Uribe.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is time for this Congress to act. We need to renew and to increase our security aid to Colombia, which has been known for a decade as Plan Colombia, and the majority leadership of this Congress must immediately schedule a vote on U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement, an agreement that is in the interest both of the American and the Colombian peoples.

The majority leadership of this House must stop preventing a vote on the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement. The position on that critical issue of the majority leadership of this Congress is petty and is ultimately irresponsible. The chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee was quoted recently as saying, referring to trips that Members of Congress have been taking to Colombia to find out for themselves how the Free Trade Agreement would affect our two countries: "It is not the facts on the ground that are important; it is the politics in the air." How sad, Mr. Speaker. How sad.

It is time for this Congress to send a clear sign of support and solidarity to our good friend Colombia. It is time to stop blocking the FTA with Colombia and for the majority leadership of Congress to schedule a vote on the Free Trade Agreement with Colombia now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. YARMUTH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY GOLDEN BULLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize and pay tribute to the Johnson C. Smith University Golden Bulls men's basketball team which won the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association basketball tournament held in my congressional district this past weekend. The Lady Golden Bulls, unfortunately, lost to Shaw University in the women's championship game.

The CIAA basketball tournament is, of course, the premier basketball tournament in the country among Historically Black Colleges and Universities, dating back years before African American athletes were admitted to and allowed to compete in athletics at other universities throughout the United States.

While the tournament highlights the tops in athletic competition and is a source of much needed funding for academic and athletic scholarships, anyone who has ever attended the tournament will know, of course, that it is also an unrivaled social reunion and family event.

The outstanding athletic performances by Johnson C. Smith University's teams this weekend, especially the championship performance by the men's team, was one more tribute to Dr. Dorothy Yancey, who has announced that she will be retiring at the end of this school year after 14 years as president of Johnson C. Smith University.

Dr. Yancey made history when she became the first female president of

Johnson C. Smith University in 1994. Her leadership and hands-on management has led Johnson C. Smith University to many outstanding accomplishments, including two successful accreditation reviews, getting Johnson C. Smith University fully wired, and making it one of the first institutions in the Nation to provide laptop computers to every student; construction, renovation, or restoration of state-of-the-art facilities; and recognition by the U.S. News and World Report magazine as a top tier institution among comprehensive colleges that offer bachelor's degrees for each of the last 6 years.

The recent success of Johnson C. Smith University's basketball teams, especially the CIAA's men's championship, is another tribute to Dr. Yancey's leadership as she prepares to retire from Johnson C. Smith. It couldn't have come at a more fitting time. Dr. Yancey's hard work and leadership will forever remain in the hearts of all Johnson C. Smith Golden Bulls and friends. We wish Dr. Yancey and Johnson C. Smith University continuing success. I am fortunate to be the representative of this fine university in Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUNDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to discuss an issue that is on the horizon that could very well affect the economic freedom of Americans, especially their family's prosperity and happiness. It is an issue that I would also like to thank the chairman of the Financial Services Committee, Representative FRANK, and the ranking member of the subcommittee, Representative KANJORSKI, for bringing forward.

The issue I am talking about is the issue of sovereign wealth funds. Many people will question what is a sovereign wealth fund. The answer is very simple. A sovereign wealth fund is a fund that is controlled by a foreign government that then invests into the private market of the United States.

Many people, especially those within my own party, disturbingly think sovereign wealth funds are a wonderful way to inject capital into the United States. The reality is these are very dangerous instrumentalities of foreign nations and would allow for the potential interference of these foreign nations in our domestic affairs, and not only within our economic sphere.