

known around here as Go Girl. Go Girl will create a bold new work force to energize young women in math, science, and technology. Go Girl is modeled after the TRIO program which has successfully encouraged 2 million low-income students to attend and graduate from college when their parents never attended college.

Similarly, the lack of female role models hampers female interest in studying science, math, and technology. Girls and their parents first must be able to envision a career in these fields. Then they need practical advice on what to study and how to achieve the necessary academic requirements. Go Girl follows girls from the fourth grade, the grade when girls typically begin to fall behind boys in math and science, and they are followed through high school to encourage these young women to be interested in math, to care about science, to want to learn technology in the early grades. Girls will participate in events and activities that increase their awareness of careers in these fields, and they will meet female role models.

The issue is: Go Girls.

#### DOING THE RIGHT THING FOR THE TAXPAYERS

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

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, in today's papers across the country typically it would be among the leading stories, if not the leading story, was that the Federal Government is now awash in a trillion dollar surplus.

Now I have been here a year and a half, and it is amazing how many projections there are when it comes to the budget surplus. It seems as if every month there is a new projection, and I have a feeling, if we wait long enough, it will be a zillion dollar surplus.

The point is that with the American people and I would hope that Members on either side of the aisle here remember is that those surpluses are the results of the hard work of the American taxpayer, whether it is from where I am from in Staten Island or Brooklyn, anywhere across New York and across this country. It is the folks who get up every morning 5, 6 o'clock, working two, sometimes three jobs, to put food on their table, to send their children to school, to pay the mortgage on their house, and then enough left over to send to Uncle Sam.

And I understand the temptation in Washington for the most part to spend that money, and by the way, when you project a lot, you get to spend a lot. I would hope that we would exercise responsibility, understand that the basis for the surplus is not because in the last several years the Congress, controlled by the Republicans, has spent

so much money, but has taken the responsible approach of not spending all the taxpayer money, and the seeds of this prosperity I would argue were sowed in the eighties, when we cut taxes, when we decided that regulations or too much regulation, only stifled productivity and creativity and inhibited growth, and I think that is what laid the foundation to this surplus.

Now there are those who can argue that, well, we raised taxes, and that is why we have a huge surplus. What I think that does is underestimates the American people. We need to understand that when we lower taxes, when we reduce regulation, when we allow the American taxpayer, the small business owner, employee or the employer, to unleash their spirit to produce and to create and, yes, to give back to their local community; that is the America that we should all be proud of, not when we sit in Washington and say how are we going to divvy up this trillion dollars that the people across this country are working so hard to generate?

We are fortunate enough these days that there is a lot of prosperity around, but the best days lie ahead, and again I can only urge those in Congress and in the White House that it is the taxpayer money that we are the stewards of here, and it is our obligation to do what is responsible, to promote economic growth and to lower taxes when we can, and if we want to keep this economy growing, we use a big chunk of this so-called surplus to cut taxes.

And there is a lot of proposals on the table. The elimination of the marriage penalty tax or the capital gains tax to spur investment, which is a tax on capital. I would like to see a reduction in the personal income tax across the board, so that way any American who pays taxes receives a benefit, or, in short, more of their hard-earned money in their pocket because frankly when we provide the freedom and the liberty and the opportunity to the hard-working American to spend his or her hard-earned money as they see fit on their vacation or their child's education or a second home or whatever they desire, we are doing the right thing for America, the right thing for the taxpayer, and I hope in the days ahead the Congress and the White House recognizes the seeds of that prosperity are not sown here in Washington but across Main Street, across this great country of ours, the United States of America.

#### VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased and proud to join the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. TALENT), the ranking member, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and many other members of the Committee on Small Business who are dedicated to providing critical services to the countless men and women who have fought to preserve and protect our Nation.

As we approach the 4th of July holiday to celebrate this Nation's independence, we recognize our veterans and the tremendous sacrifices and contributions they have made to this country. In their honor we are here today to pass legislation that ensures veterans that once their service is complete they can continue to apply their hard-working ethics, strong leadership skills, and determination to succeed in small businesses.

Currently out of a total business population of 23.2 million people 5.5 million are veterans. In addition, there are 104,000 disabled veterans. It is estimated that veterans constitute almost a quarter of the business population today. However, many veterans face tremendous barriers when trying to create and grow their businesses, particularly when their military service has caused them to leave their businesses.

Specifically, the obstacles facing our veterans can range from a lack of training to difficulty in securing adequate capital to launch their small business. The obstacles are even greater for service disabled veterans who may have additional handicaps that prevent them from securing employment or starting their own business.

Mr. Speaker, the Veterans Entrepreneurial and Small Business Development Act creates a number of new programs designed specifically to help these veterans and service disabled veterans to join the ranks of entrepreneurs. I would like to commend the Small Business Administration for creating the Small Business Administration Veterans Affairs Task Force for entrepreneurship in July 1998. This task force examined SBA programs to determine how SBA might deliver services to America's veterans more effectively. In October of 1998, it made recommendations to SBA, many of which have been included in this bill. The Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act designates a position onto SBA of veterans business development to be the advocate for veterans and to ensure that veterans needs and concerns are represented and being addressed.

In addition to this new position, this bill creates a public private partnership called the National Veterans Business Development Corporation to provide access to technical assistance and an advisory committee on veterans' business affairs to serve as an independent source of advice for Congress

and the President and to increase outreach and outreach to veterans. This bill also directs the SBA administrator to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Service Corps of Retired Executives called SCORE, an organization that provides advice and technical assistance to small businesses free of charge through a nationwide network of volunteers.

Finally, this bill establishes a 5 percent government procurement goal for veteran-owned business and authorizes SBA to make loans to self-employed individuals or owners of small businesses who are called to active duty to assist them with potential losses and disruption caused by their return to active duty.

I encourage all of my colleagues when this bill comes to the floor to come together during this historic time of year and vote for legislation that provides our veterans with the opportunities they need and deserve to succeed. The Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act is a comprehensive approach to ensuring that the backbone of our Nation no longer shuts off but hence forward embraces and reaches out to America's service men and women.

#### CUBAN RAFTERS TREATED WORSE THAN CATTLE BY U.S. COAST GUARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the inscription on the Statue of Liberty refers to this great country of ours as the mother of exiles which requests: Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses of your teeming shore; send these tempest tossed to me.

But, Mr. Speaker, today I find myself asking if the torch of freedom no longer shines for those who risk life and limb in search of liberty in this great country. As the vanguard of democracy, our country, the United States of America, must set the standards to be emulated. Today, however, the actions reportedly taken by the U.S. Coast Guard in south Florida against Cuban rafters could cast a solemn shadow over this country and could stain our proud history as defenders of the oppressed and protectors of human rights worldwide.

According to the video footage obtained by news sources in Miami, six Cuban refugees reached U.S. territorial waters today in the early afternoon and were subsequently approached by U.S. Coast Guard boats. These Coast Guard vessels opened water cannons on the rafters causing some of them to fall overboard. As the rafters started to swim to safety, the smaller Coast Guard vessels pursued them and pushed them against the sand, corralling them

like cattle. Actually in this country we afford animals much better treatment than that.

It is reported that only after Coast Guard officers had completed their attack on these defenseless freedom seekers did they proceed to take them into custody. This is something we expect from oppressive regimes who care little, if anything, for human life, but this is not what we expect from our fine United States Coast Guard. Members of the Coast Guard are valiant men and women who proudly serve their country and who have saved hundreds and indeed thousands of lives off of our south Florida shores. I am sure that they did not welcome this tragic order today. We expect the United States Coast Guard to enforce the laws, but we do not and should not tolerate violations of the basic human rights of those seeking refuge from persecution.

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We expect the United States Coast Guard to protect U.S. territory against all enemies, but we do not and will not tolerate attacks on defenseless victims such as the survivors of Castro's brutal dictatorship. If there is one entity which survivors of Castro's oppression have looked to with respect and admiration, if there was one entity which Cuban refugees trusted and confided in, it is the U.S. Coast Guard.

Has their trust been misplaced? I hope not. It is unconscionable for an entity of the U.S. Government charged with the responsibility of enforcing our laws to violate them and employ excessive force, including the use of water cannons and mace, against those who present no threat to the personal security of our men and women in uniform nor to the security of our great country.

These actions merit an immediate and comprehensive investigation. I have asked the President, the Vice President, the Secretary of State, the Coast Guard Commandant and other senior officials to take action regarding these Coast Guard officers who gave the orders violating the rights of those refugees and that appears to have violated U.S. guidelines on how to deal with such situations.

I ask my colleagues to join me in this request and express their indignation over this display of aggression. This is not what America stands for.

I have sent this letter to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright this afternoon and a similar letter, as I have said, to President Bill Clinton, Vice President AL GORE, Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater and Coast Guard Commandant Admiral James Lloyd.

I say, your personal attention to this matter is greatly appreciated to ensure due diligence in the investigation and resolution of this case. This is a matter of grave concern; and to enlist their co-

operation for an immediate investigation of the events which unfolded off the coast of South Florida today, June 29, between Cuban rafters seeking asylum and U.S. Coast Guard officials, and I would like to place this letter in the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, June 29, 1999.

Hon. MADELEINE ALBRIGHT,  
Secretary, Department of State,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY ALBRIGHT: I am writing on a matter of grave concern and to enlist your cooperation for an immediate investigation of the events which unfolded off the coast of Florida, today, June 29th between Cuban rafters seeking asylum and U.S. Coast Guard officials.

According to the video footage by news sources in Miami, six Cuban refugees reached U.S. territorial waters in the early afternoon and were subsequently approached by U.S. Coast Guard boats which opened water cannons on the rafters, causing some of them to fall overboard. As the rafters started to swim to safety, the smaller Coast Guard vessels pursued them and pushed them against the sand. It is reported that only after the Coast Guard had completed its attack on these defenseless freedom seekers, did they proceed to take them into custody.

These actions merit an immediate and comprehensive investigation. If confirmed, I ask that action be taken regarding these Coast Guard officials who gave the orders which violated the basic human rights of these Cuban refugees and appears to have violated U.S. guidelines on how to deal with such situations.

Your personal attention to this matter is greatly appreciated to ensure due diligence in the investigation and resolution of this case.

Sincerely,

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN,  
Member of Congress.

#### LET US CONTINUE TO BE A NATION THAT BELIEVES IN GOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this time is given to many of us to express our concerns and our views on the day's activities and legislative initiatives or particular issues that impact our district.

I thought I would comment today on the actions of the House that just occurred on H. Con. Res. 94. It was a vigorous debate, and I think in the true spirit of our Founding Fathers we can be very proud of that. Obviously, those who proposed an amendment, a resolution, that would cause or ask the people of this Nation to, under God, to humble and reconcile themselves with God and with one another have a true commitment and passion.

Further, as the resolution goes on, they urge all Americans to unite in seeking the face of God through humble prayer.

I believe in the Old and New Testaments. In fact, a favorite verse of mine