

from Indiana up there in the Committee on Armed Services, I see a soldier who has a great integrity and devotion to his country and to his people that he serves with and to the people that are still serving. The gentleman has done a wonderful job.

What I think is a great tragedy is that I do not think we are fulfilling our obligation. I do not think we as a body are fulfilling it. And if we get to a point where we have our Marines and soldiers or sailors or airmen coming up short of ammunition, short of spare parts and more of them die on the battlefield because of that, then we will have failed them.

So I hope that every Member votes for this supplemental appropriation tomorrow and I hope they vote for the amendments. And it is going to be in two days. I hope they vote for the amendments that increase the ammunition supply. Even if we vote for those, we are still going to be about \$12 billion short of basic ammunition. So we are not taking care of the problem, but we are taking care of part of the problem.

I really thank the gentleman for his hard work. And maybe the gentleman could share with us his ideas too about how we are going to finally close this pay gap over the next several months and years.

Mr. BUYER. Well, I will close this tonight and reclaim my time that on May 13 we will mark up the Subcommittee on Military Personnel's Chairman's mark and we are going to address the increase in military pay. We are going to change the pay tables to increase retention. We are concerned about the retention not only at the mid-level officer and NCO, but also the retention of general officer strength. They are leaving for other jobs and that is not healthy.

We are going to reform the retirement system. We are looking at creating a Thrift Savings Plan for the military. Part of this emergency supplemental, about \$1.8 billion, is for the funding of the pay package, subject to the authorization that we come up with. So we are going to address the pay differential and we are going to take a very serious look at a lot of other things.

I did not totally concur with the Senate's package, S. 4. It became a huge Christmas tree and everybody wanted to throw their arms around the soldier. But the problems are much greater. It is the quality of life issues. It is the housing issues. It is the readiness. It is the lack of spare parts. It is a large issue. So we are going to make sure that we try to address it by the breadth and we are going to be smart about our business.

Let me close with this one story that has always moved me, and I think it will go to the heart of the spirit of why the gentleman from California and oth-

ers work so very, very hard on these issues. I think of the World War II veteran. It is the World War II veteran I believe is a generation that changed the world and left freedom in their footsteps.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude by saying that they understand the total sacrifice and they have taught a generation what freedom means. The gentleman's example on Korea here tells us let us do not relive history. Let us accept the responsibility. This is not an emergency supplemental for Kosovo; this is funding our national military strategy and it must be done.

NATIONAL TEACHERS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure on behalf of my colleagues today to recognize National Teachers Day and National Teacher Appreciation Week. We know the old bumper sticker that reads, "If you can read this, thank a teacher." Well, tonight I would like to thank teachers.

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) organized this special order, but was unable to be here tonight because he had to attend a funeral. But on his behalf and my colleagues', I would like to talk a bit about teachers.

According to the National PTA, the origins of National Teachers Day are somewhat unclear but it is known that Arkansas teacher, Mrs. Mattie White Woodridge began corresponding with political and educational leaders around 1944 about the need for a national day honoring teachers.

One of the people Mrs. Woodridge wrote to was Eleanor Roosevelt who persuaded the 81st Congress to proclaim a National Teacher Day in 1953.

In the late 1970s, the National Education Association as well as many of its local affiliates persuaded Congress to create a national day celebrating the contributions of teachers and such a day was established in 1980. In 1985, the NEA and the National PTA established a full week of May as National Teacher Appreciation Week, and to make the Tuesday of that week National Teacher Appreciation Day.

It is only right that we take a moment to honor the dedication, hard work, and importance of teachers in our society. As a teacher myself, I know that teaching is a hard and sometimes unrecognized job. But of all the important jobs in our society, nothing makes more of an impact on our children than a well-trained, caring and dedicated teacher. No job ultimately is more important to our society.

Each of us has had teachers who have made marks on our lives who have

pushed us to achieve more and challenged us to excel. While these teachers may not command the celebrity of a sports star, they continue to work every day often under difficult circumstances to guide our children to a better future.

We here in Congress, on both sides of the aisle, continue to debate ways to improve our public schools and to boost the educational achievement of our young people. Experts have suggested all kinds of ways to strengthen our education system. But as we talk about these programs and policies, we may forget that one of the best ways to improve our education system is to show respect and support for our teachers.

Teachers across our Nation are doing an outstanding job. As I have traveled around my central New Jersey district, I have met hundreds of teachers who are working hard every day to prepare students to succeed in this economy and it is not often easy.

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Compared with many professionals, teachers are underpaid and overworked. The Education Testing Service pointed out in a recent report that despite the importance of the work they do, teachers still earn less in median weekly wages than doctors, lawyers, accountants, public relations professionals and even many service workers.

Studies consistently show that teachers earn less than other professionals with similar educational requirements, and that is just not right. As long as this country continues to pay teachers less than it pays others, we will not get all we need. In the next decade we Americans must hire two million new teachers to fill vacancies and to keep up with student school growth, and we need the best people.

Teachers often perform miracles in the classrooms, which too many of us take for granted. We forget many times teachers are called on to undertake other tasks in addition to teaching. Teachers today often have to enforce discipline and guide troubled children to the help they need. Our Nation can improve its education system by showing respect for teachers and by letting them know how much we value their work. All of us should take time to thank our teachers.

Later this week, when I return home to New Jersey, I will visit a teacher at West Windsor Plainsboro School on Friday morning, the first morning I am back, and I will teach a class in physics. But we need to do more than simply reflect on teachers' contributions and drop in occasionally. We need to undertake policies that will make their jobs easier. We need to work together to find ways to support teachers, to help them continue to grow professionally, to help our school districts hire more qualified teachers, to help

our school districts modernize and update their classrooms with technology. That is how we thank our teachers. That is how we show respect for our teachers. That is how we show respect for our children.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. CARSON (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of personal business.

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of inspecting tornado damage in Oklahoma.

Mr. TIAHRT (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of inspecting tornado damage in Kansas.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and May 5 on account of inspecting tornado damage in Oklahoma.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. LIPINSKI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BAIRD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SMITH of Washington, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ALLEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KUCINICH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SANDERS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. THUNE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes each day, today and on May 5th.

Mr. DEMINT, for 5 minutes, on May 5th.

Mr. HILL of Montana, for 5 minutes, on May 5th.

Mr. SCHAFFER, for 5 minutes, on May 5th.

Mr. BATEMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, on May 11th.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, on May 5th.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BRADY of Texas, for 5 minutes, on May 5th.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHERWOOD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GIBBONS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SAXTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. THUNE, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 5, 1999, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1822. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Dimethomorph; Extension of Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300842; FRL-6075-2] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received April 9, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1823. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Oxyfluorfen; Extension of Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300834; FRL-6073-4] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received April 9, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1824. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-7268] received April 6, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

1825. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Final Flood Elevation Determinations—received April 6, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

1826. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Final Flood Elevation Determinations—received April 6, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

1827. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-7277] received April 6, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

1828. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule—Gaining Early Awareness

and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (RIN: 1840-AC59) received April 23, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

1829. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Authorization to Implement Section 111 and 112 Standards; State of Connecticut [A-1-FRL-6325-3] received April 12, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

1830. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Approval of VOC RACT Determinations for Individual Sources [PA129-4083a; FRL-6323-6] received April 12, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

1831. A letter from the General Counsel, Information Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Exchange Visitor Program—received April 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

1832. A letter from the General Counsel, Information Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Exchange Visitor Program—received April 7, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

1833. A letter from the Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting notification that funding under title V of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, will exceed \$5 million for the response to the emergency declared on January 15, 1999, as a result of the record/near record snow which severely impacted the State of Indiana from January 1, 1999, through and including January 15, 1999, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5193; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1834. A letter from the Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting notification that funding under title V of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, will exceed \$5 million for the response to the emergency declared on January 8, 1999, as a result of the record/near record snow which severely impacted the State of Illinois from January 1, 1999, through and including January 15, 1999, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5193; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1835. A letter from the Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting notification that funding under title V of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, will exceed \$5 million for the response to the emergency declared on January 27, 1999, as a result of the record/near record snow which severely impacted the State of Michigan from January 2, 1999, through and including January 15, 1999, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5193; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1836. A letter from the Program Support Specialist, Aircraft Certification Service, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Model 407 Helicopters [Docket No. 99-SW-16-AD; Amendment 39-11111; AD 99-06-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 9, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1837. A letter from the Program Support Specialist, Aircraft Certification Service,