

passage of the oil pipeline safety bill the other night, not to be seen as an end of our efforts on oil pipeline safety this year but, rather, I believe we should look at it as a very strong statement by this House that there is a bipartisan sentiment for a strong pipeline safety bill.

We have the ability this year, particularly with the extension of time, to pass a strong pipeline safety bill from this Chamber this year. We hope that that bill would have two elements: One, a very strong inspection criteria to assure Americans that the pipelines they live hundreds of feet from in fact will be inspected, and, number two, an assurance that the Office of Pipeline Safety can have supervisory authority over the training plans by operators.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is time for us to reach across the aisle and across the Chambers to fashion a consensus bipartisan bill. I believe that is possible. I am open to do so. I urge my colleagues to join me in pursuit of that strong bill.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE TILLIE FOWLER

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a wonderful friend, Tillie Fowler, who has dedicated a lifetime not only to national public service but to her local community as well.

Before beginning her fulfilling tenure as a Member of Congress, Tillie devoted much of her time to helping those in need. She served as the president of the Junior League of Jacksonville, chaired the Florida Humanities Council, and was active with the American Red Cross, among many other charitable endeavors.

In 1992, Tillie was elected to Congress and immediately began to make her mark as a strong advocate of our national defense. She has worked with great success on behalf of our military personnel around the world. She always sought to ensure that our men and women in uniform were well equipped and prepared when placed in harm's way.

While protecting U.S. national security was her first priority, she also played a vital role in the passage of domestic bills, such as the 6-year Federal transportation bill which will alleviate some of the serious transportation challenges that we in Florida face.

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TILLIE has served her constituents, her State and our country well and with distinction. Her intellect and domain of critical issues, combined with her personal commitment and Southern grace and charm, made her an efficient Member, a leader and a role

model for young women everywhere. TILLIE FOWLER will be sorely missed. I ask my colleagues to join me in this tribute to our retiring Member.

U.S.S. "COLE" RAMMED, AT LEAST FOUR KILLED

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

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, earlier today in the Arabian Peninsula the U.S.S. *Cole* was rammed by a small boat in an apparent suicide terrorist attack. Our prayers go out to the families of the sailors, especially the families of those sailors who were killed, injured, or are missing.

Mr. Speaker, at this time we do not know who was responsible, and it is important that we not jump to conclusions; but when we find out, those responsible will be held accountable.

Finally, we should congratulate our courageous sailors who responded to this tragedy. Because of their expertise, the damage and casualties were kept to a minimum.

Again, Mr. Speaker, our prayers go out to the sailors and the families.

TENNESSEANS THE MOST CHARITABLE IN THE NATION

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the Christian Science Monitor reported a few days ago that Tennesseans had given more charitable contributions on average than citizens from any other State. This report was based on a generosity index published by the Urban Institute in Washington and came from charitable deductions listed on 1998 tax returns.

Tennesseans gave an average of \$4,572. Mississippi gave the most in proportion to income with an average of \$4,070. The top five most generous States, according to the Urban Institute, were Mississippi, Arkansas, South Dakota, Louisiana, and Tennessee. Tennessee gave the most per person at over \$4,500 each. Rhode Island gave the least per person at \$2,059.

The least generous States, according to the Urban Institute, in proportion to income given to charity were Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Minnesota, and Rhode Island. It seems that the highest taxed, most politically liberal States were the least generous in giving to charitable causes, according to this report from the Urban Institute.

I want to commend my fellow Tennesseans for their generosity in giving to charitable organizations.

WE STILL LIVE IN A DANGEROUS WORLD

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

Mr. SISISKY. Mr. Speaker, we have already heard about the tragic accident that happened to the USS *Cole*. I am sorry the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. FOWLER) is leaving, but I would also like to pay tribute to her, and I do it in the vein that both she and I and many members of the Committee on Armed Services spent a good deal of our time trying to tell people what a dangerous world we live in, and sometimes it is pretty hard to explain to them that we still live in a dangerous world.

I was advised early this morning by the Chief of Naval Operations and by the commander in chief of the Atlantic Fleet, both of them, of what happened as well as they know. The ship is just sitting there. They are trying to repair it as best they can. Four lives were lost. There were 12 missing and 36 were already hospitalized. Certainly our prayers, the prayers of the Members of Congress, go out to the families of the deceased and, of course, the injured.

What is more important is that we always remember that these people are serving us and this Nation and we should always pay tribute to them.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD REVEALS LARGE PROFITS

(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, as the appropriation process continues here in Congress, I want to bring attention to Planned Parenthood's 1998/1999 annual report. The report shows the inordinate amount of profits made from their operation. In 13 years, their profits have totaled \$356 million and not once, not once in that time, did they report a loss. In fact, their annual report stated they currently have net assets totaling \$536 million.

This is an increase of \$131 million in just one year. Even dot-com companies would be envious of such profits. These numbers might be wonderful if Planned Parenthood was just a normal business, but the organization claims to be a charity. They are subsidized by the United States Government through grants; and they also want special deals, including reduced rates of advertising in the media.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, that the American public saw Planned Parenthood for what it is, a business intent on making profits at taxpayers' expense.

ATTACK ON THE U.S.S. "COLE"

(Mr. PICKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1