

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3822, the legislation just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 36

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove Congressman KEVIN BRADY's name from my bill, H.R. 36. His name was inadvertently added to the list of cosponsors, and I ask that his name now be removed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

COMBINED ANNUAL REPORTS OF
THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
FOR FISCAL YEARS 1996-
1997 AND 1998

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Science:

To Congress of the United States:

As required by the provisions of section 3(f) of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1862(f)), I transmit herewith the combined annual reports of the National Science Foundation for fiscal years 1996-1997, and the annual report for fiscal year 1998.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 22, 2000.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES—MESSAGE FROM THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit the 1998 annual report of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Federal agency charged with advancing knowledge and public education in the hu-

manities. Throughout 1998, the agency provided crucial support to hundreds of research and educational projects throughout the United States and its territories. The Endowment also provided grants to innovative educational projects employing the latest computer technologies, as well as to efforts to preserve library and archival resources and make such resources available to schools, scholars, and citizens.

In 1998, the NEH continued to exercise leadership in applying technology to the humanities. The Endowment launched Schools for a New Millennium, a program that provides funding to schools to further humanities education through the creative use of new technologies. In Lawrence, Kansas, one Schools for a New Millennium project is digitizing photographs and historical documents for use in junior high classrooms. The Endowment also extended its Internet strategy by expanding its EDSITEment project in partnership with the Council of Great City Schools and MCI WorldCom, more than doubling the number of high quality humanities sites available to students and teachers.

I am especially pleased by another of the agency's partnerships employing both the Internet and traditional broadcasting. The Endowment is partnering with the White House Millennium Council on the presentation of "Millennium Evenings at the White House," a series of showcase events that explore the ideas and creativity of the American people on the eve of a new millennium. These programs feature prominent scholars and creative thinkers and are accessible to the public by satellite and cable broadcasts, and many States humanities councils are coordinating local downlink sites. With support from SUN Microsystems, these lectures and discussions are cybercast live from the East Room in the White House. Viewers can submit questions via the Internet to the guest speaker or to the First Lady and me.

The NEH is well-known for its support of documentary films based on a collaboration between filmmakers and humanities scholars. In 1998, the Endowment maintained this tradition of excellence with its support of Eleanor Roosevelt, which drew upon outstanding new historical scholarship, archival films, photographs, and firsthand testimonies to paint a vivid portrait of one of America's most outstanding women.

The Endowment's grants also addressed the long-term needs of the Nation's cultural and academic institutions. In 1998, the NEH created a special program designed to aid the Nation's public libraries in serving the public with humanities programming. Among the institutions aided in 1998 by Challenge Grants was the African American Research Library and Cultural Center, a new facility created by

the Broward County Public Library to serve Broward County's growing and diverse population.

Through its Preservation Programs, the NEH is preserving the content of hundreds of thousands of brittle books, periodicals, and American newspapers—priceless sources for present and future historians and scholars. The Endowment's initiative to save such materials is now entering its tenth year, and will preserve nearly a million books and periodicals by the time it is completed. The U.S. Newspaper Project, an equally important effort to microfilm historic newspapers, is creating a comprehensive national database for scholars, students, and citizens who wish to research their community's history.

In November 1998, the First Lady and I joined the Endowment in honoring at the White House nine distinguished Americans with the National Medal of the Humanities. Through these awards and its grants programs, the National Endowment for the Humanities recognizes and promotes outstanding efforts to deepen public awareness and understanding of the humanities.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 22, 2000.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

IMPORTANCE OF FILLING OUT
CENSUS FORMS PROPERLY

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with an important message about the census to members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

While the census will not account for how many people are in the gay and lesbian community, the 2000 Census will count same-sex couples who live together. The census counts unmarried partners, regardless of gender, as well as their children.

Mr. Speaker, the census is the most important source of information about who we are, where we live, what we earn, how we vary by race and ethnicity, and how many children we have. The census numbers matter. They lead to changes in laws and policies that affect all of our lives.

I believe everyone in this Chamber is in agreement that it is important for every American to fill out their census forms and be counted. I do not believe I would be going out on a limb to say we all want people to fill out the forms openly and honestly. So if anyone out

there is living with someone else as a couple, you should check "unmarried partner" to describe your relationship.

The category "unmarried partner" appeared for the first time on census forms 10 years ago in 1990. That year, 150,000 households were counted as consisting of same-sex unmarried partners, clearly a severe undercount. Since then, we have seen an unparalleled increase in visibility for members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community, including those in unmarried partnerships. Yet, they are not accounted for.

I applaud the efforts of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute and the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies. These advocacy organizations are conducting an important national campaign known as "Make Your Family Count," which urges same-sex couples to check the "unmarried partner" box on the census form when describing the relationship of two people from the same sex that are living together.

The campaign is supported by other advocacy groups such as Human Rights Campaign and is receiving a good deal of attention in lesbian and gay news outlets throughout the country. They have also launched a Web site, <http://www.wecount.org>, with information about the census and guidance to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender couples on answering the census forms.

Correcting this lack of accounting is an important step so that we can get an accurate picture of the American population and the current American family. The information is vital to determining congressional representation and funding for various community-oriented programs as well.

I encourage everyone to accurately report to the Census Bureau critical demographic information that can lead to changes in Federal law and policy. Federal law guarantees that your answers will be kept confidential and the Census Bureau has a great record for preserving privacy, so there is no excuse for not being truthful in your response.

You should make your family, you should make your relationships count. You should fill out your census forms. And if you are living with someone to whom you are not married, you should check the box for "unmarried partners." Fill it out today. You will not be sorry.

SETTING PRIORITIES FOR FIGHTING THE WAR ON DRUGS

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

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, in today's St. Paul Pioneer Press this headline caught my attention this morning. It reads, "Drug-Related Deaths Set Record."

The story goes on to say that "drug-related deaths in the United States have reached a record level, while illegal drug users can buy cocaine and heroin at some of the lowest prices in two decades, according to a White House report." It further states that "some 15,973 people in this country died from drug-induced causes in 1997, an increase of 1,130 people over the previous year."

The story further states that "only four of every 10 addicts in the United States who needed treatment received it," according to the report. Then it concludes by stating that "the figures surely are distressing news for the Clinton Administration, which is spending record amounts of money to fight the war on drugs."

Mr. Speaker, why do we have a record number of deaths from illegal drugs? Because we are spending the money in the wrong places.

Now the administration is calling for the expenditure of another \$1.7 billion for drug eradication and interdiction in Colombia. We have already spent \$600 million fighting the drug war in Colombia. What has been the result? The production of cocaine and heroine has skyrocketed. In fact, 80 percent of the cocaine and 75 percent of the heroin today in the United States comes from Colombia.

Mr. Speaker, our priorities are all out of line in the war against drugs. For the \$400 million proposed to build new helicopters for Colombia, we could treat 200,000 addicts in the United States. When President Nixon in 1971 declared war on drugs, he directed 60 percent of the funding to treatment, and do you know what it is today, Mr. Speaker? Eighteen percent, 18 percent of the funding.

Overall, since the war on drugs started, we have spent \$150 billion on crop eradication and drug interdiction. What has been the result? We have 26 million addicts and alcoholics in the United States today. Most are unable to get into treatment. Ten million have no insurance and therefore cannot get treatment through Medicaid. Sixteen million have insurance, but the insurance companies are blocking the access of all but 2 percent of these to treatment.

In the last 10 years, Mr. Speaker, we have seen 50 percent of the treatment centers close in America. Even more alarming, 60 percent of the adolescent treatment centers in this country are gone.

We need to wake up. The Congress needs to wake up. The President needs to wake up. We have a national epidemic of addiction on our hands, and we are about to spend good money after bad, another \$1.7 billion for the Colombia boondoggle.

We need to listen to former Lieutenant Commander Sylvester Salcedo, who for 3 years worked on this effort with our intelligence forces and our mili-

tary in Colombia. This is the way Lieutenant Commander Salcedo put it: "This is a misdirection of our priorities. This money should be going to treating addicts in the United States, rather than trying to eradicate crops in Colombia."

Mr. Speaker, I hope that wisdom and good judgment prevail in this body when this vote comes up, because this is truly a defining moment in our effort to curb illegal drug use in the United States. Are we going to continue wasting money on these eradication and interdiction efforts that do not work? All the studies show that treatment is 23 times more effective, more cost effective, than eradication. All the studies show that treatment is 11 times more cost effective than interdiction efforts.

When are we going to learn? When are we going to learn? Let us remember when this war on drugs was first declared by President Nixon, he said we should spend 60 percent of the money on treatment. Today it is down to 18 percent. We need to reverse those priorities. We need to emphasize treatment, provide access to the 26 million Americans already addicted to drugs and alcohol. Until we do something about the demand side, the disease of addiction that causes people to crave and demand drugs, we are never going to put a dent in this problem, which everyone in this body says is the number one public health and public safety problem.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to defeat the almost-\$2 billion for more wasteful efforts in Colombia and redirect those priorities to drug treatment here at home.

DIGITAL DIVIDE ELIMINATION ACT OF 2000

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

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that today my colleagues and I introduced the Digital Divide Elimination Act of 2000, legislation designed to extend technology access to every home in America. I urge every Member's support of this vital piece of legislation.

More and more, America is transforming into a technologically driven nation, with every institution being impacted by the Internet and e-mail. In this new tech-driven economy, computers are becoming the crucial link to education, to information, to technological skills, to job sources, and to commerce.

For all Americans, personal and economic success will depend on having the ability to understand and use these powerful information tools. However, according to the Commerce Department's report defining the digital divide, a large segment of the population