

While not in the classroom, World War II vets continued their education through experience: Geography, foreign languages, science, strategic planning, all essential in their battle to succeed.

Many of these brave men and women never had the chance to return to the classroom to complete their diplomas. Ray Alvin Pettis, twin brother of Rex, died on the battlefield in France. Fifty years later, Mr. Pettis and Mr. Pelach are receiving their high school diplomas.

For the third year, Independent School District 192 in Farmington, Minnesota, and the Farmington Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion are honoring these World War II vets in a special graduation ceremony. Mr. James Robert Borman, who passed away just last week, and Mr. Ray Alvin Pettis, will also be honored posthumously for their service in the Air Force and Army, respectively.

It is only proper that we honor these who honor the call to duty, sacrificing important years of their lives for the benefit of all. I am grateful to these men for their valor and sacrifices, and I congratulate ISD 192, the American Legion, and the VFW in Farmington for honoring them with a graduation ceremony and high school diplomas.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURE NEEDS TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, American agriculture needs trade promotion authority. Without granting the President the authority to negotiate preferential trade agreements, this industry is guaranteed to face dark days. Ninety-six percent of agricultural growers' potential market is outside of the United States. It is a business there for taking, but if we do not give our farmers and ranchers the tools they need to compete in the world market, other countries will gladly fill the gap.

Today, of the 133 preferential trade agreements worldwide, the U.S. participates in only two. Compare that to the European Union, who participates in 27. Furthermore, the European Union also outspends us almost four to one on subsidies. Granting Presidential trade authority is our only weapon of combat on the uneven playing field of world agriculture.

We cannot continue to stand idly by while other nations improve trading opportunities for themselves. Our agriculture industry is the most productive in the world. It is an honor and status that should be rewarded, and the best reward we can give our agricultural growers for their efforts, and to keep our country prosperous, is to pass trade promotion authority.

SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S VISION OF A FLEXIBLE, VERSATILE AIRPORT SECURITY SYSTEM

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I am new to this body, having spent all 42 years of my life in the State of Indiana, where common sense and common values are the order of the day. So as I approach the debate over airport security, I find myself a little befuddled, Mr. Speaker.

Other than policy wonks at think tanks around Washington, D.C., I think there are very few people that I serve who care how we make airports safer. They just want us to do it, and they want us to do it now.

For my part, I believe the light we should follow at this point is the experience of nations who have dealt with terrorism in the recent past, and we should follow a President who has earned the right to be followed, and earned our trust.

I support President Bush's vision for a flexible, versatile system for airport security. That is what the Republican bill in the House is all about. It builds on the experience of European countries and even of Israel, who have wrestled with this menace of terrorism for decades.

When it comes to airport security, let us give the President and the people we serve what we know works.

URGING SUPPORT FOR THE AIRLINE SECURITY BILL AND OPPOSITION TO THE DEMOCRAT SUBSTITUTE

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

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House will take up the airline security bill. This is a good bill. It gives the President the flexibility he needs to protect Americans as they fly. I would urge support of this legislation and defeat of the Democrat substitute.

The heart of the Democrat substitute is a mandate to make the security checkers all Federal employees. Europe has gone down that road and has rejected it.

Let me just quote out of the Washington Post what the chairman of the Europe-wide Task Force on Aviation Security had to say regarding contract employees versus government employees:

"It is harder to do quality control on our government people," said Frank Durinckx, director of Belgium's Aviation Inspectorate and chairman of Europe-wide Task Force on Aviation Security. "Government agencies do not like to criticize themselves or one an-

other, and civil servants are hard to get rid of if they are not performing well. If we give the work to a private contractor, we have control over them," Durinckx said. "If we are not pleased with a screener, we can withdraw their license."

Let us support President Bush. Support the House aviation security bill tomorrow and defeat the Democrat substitute.

WE NEED HIGH-QUALITY U.S. CITIZENS AS AIRPORT SCREENERS

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, U.S. citizens should protect U.S. citizens at airports. Over 90 percent of the screeners who let terrorists board at Dulles Airport were not Americans. Some of them were illegal aliens.

The Young-Mica bill requires that all screeners be Americans. The Senate bill has no such requirement. The Young-Mica bill also requires that all screeners be deputized, badged, and uniformed Federal transportation security officers.

Like the successful U.S. Marshals Court Security Officers Program, we will deploy Federal transportation security officers who are well-trained and paid, but with key flexibility. Flexibility. It means that we will not protect nationalized employers who incompetently screen weapons or explosives aboard aircraft, killing more Americans. Flexibility means we can fire screeners who fail to protect us.

We need high quality screeners who will ensure that when we fly, we fly safe.

AIRPORT SECURITY

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to talk a little bit about this airport security issue, because it seems that the Democrat Party, in a split from the presidency and the nonpartisan spirit that we have been having in Washington, is hung up on trying to unionize and create a new Federal bureaucracy in the name of airport security.

There are pros and cons with that. We all know that. There are good employees and bad employees that are with the unions. It is a little more difficult to work with. But the issue is not creating a new government bureaucracy, the issue is protecting my children, my family, my loved ones, and your business associates and loved ones, when they travel.

I believe we need to do what is best for airport security and not what is

best for a particular political party. I support the President's plan. The President's plan calls for strict Federal Government oversight on hiring and background checks, but it does not just stop at the gate; it says who is going to work on the plane. What about the maintenance people who clean the plane? What about the people who have access to the parts of the airplane in the airport itself? It is a much broader approach to airport security.

Mr. Speaker, this debate is about security, not about new government bureaucracies. I support the President's position. I hope that the Democrats will come on board and do so as well.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report accompanying H.R. 2590, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOKSEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2590, TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 2590) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, October 30, 2001, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of October 26, 2001, at page H7337.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK).

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present the Fiscal Year 2002 conference agreement for the Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government. This conference agreement provides \$17.1 billion in funding for programs under the jurisdiction of this subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations.

That represents, Mr. Speaker, an increase of 6 percent above the fiscal

year 2001 enacted levels and 2 percent above the President's request. It is especially important to have this funding in place because of the increased demands of national security and homeland security from the events of September 11.

One of the little known facts about this particular bill is that it supports over 40 percent of all Federal law enforcement through the Customs Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the Secret Service, the Criminal Investigations Division of the Internal Revenue Service, and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

I want to highlight that, Mr. Speaker, because of the current role these agencies are playing in ensuring homeland security, and also because, whether we are at war or peace, it is important to understand the tools that our Nation possesses to defeat our enemies, to ensure an environment that encourages trade and commercial growth, and the normal, everyday activity in conducting the business of America, and to provide for the safety and stability in the daily routines of all Americans.

I am also pleased, Mr. Speaker, that the new Office of Homeland Security, headed by former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge, is within the Executive Office of the President, another portion under the jurisdiction of this subcommittee and its funding.

Historically, law enforcement officials in the U.S. Department of Treasury have fulfilled their role quietly, without fanfare, without drawing the attention of the American people. Yet, the oldest law enforcement agency in the United States Government is the Customs Service of Treasury. It was established in 1789, one of the very first acts enacted by the First Congress of the United States after adoption of the Constitution.

The evolving threats to our country are making special demands upon this, America's first law enforcement agency, the one that defends our borders, as well as the other law enforcement functions that come under the Treasury Department and within this bill.

We need to focus the support and attention of Congress and the Administration and of the American people to determine appropriate, coordinated strategies and provide the funding levels for Treasury law enforcement bureaus to enable them to fully carry out their missions.

Mr. Speaker, the conference agreement before us recognizes that there are additional resources that are going to be necessary because of the September 11 terrorist attacks. This bill begins to address those requirements. We will have within a few day's time a supplemental appropriations that will deal with further law enforcement needs and other Federal law enforcement agencies, as well as other aspects of our military and the national government.

There is within this bill some \$5.7 billion for law enforcement efforts under our jurisdiction. It is an increase of almost 12 percent, \$593 million above the current year. That is even before we factor in the necessary increases that will be part of the upcoming supplemental.

Specifically, in terms of supporting Federal law enforcement, this conference report provides an increase of \$402 million for the Customs Service, of which some \$33 million is devoted to border inspection technology; \$28 million for additional inspectors and agents along the northern border, which has not received the increase in recent years that the southern border has; and \$170 million is added for customs automation modernization, which includes an amount not less than \$300 million, for the automated commercial environment. This system will tie together some 50-odd Federal agencies that have jurisdiction over products that are coming into the United States, part of the cargo which must be inspected by the Customs Service. Because of the manpower shortages, Mr. Speaker, customs is able to inspect only 1 or 2 percent of the entering cargo, a ratio which we intend to increase.

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We also expand the funding for Customs for its efforts to halt trade and goods that are produced by forced child labor; also providing funding for the protection of intellectual property. Some of the smuggling that happens across our borders is not just illegal drugs. It is not just contraband shipments of alcohol or tobacco. It is not only knock-offs of American products which people are trying to pass off cheaply-produced goods overseas that have the appearance but not the quality and certainly not the original manufacture of American goods. We are also protecting intellectual property because smuggling, whether it be DVD software, compact disk recordings, whatever it may be, there is a severe organized criminal assault against the intellectual property that is produced by American artists, scientists, engineers, computer programmers and others, which is part of the great commerce and the great advantage that this Nation enjoys technologically. That intellectual property is protected by Customs just as it protects us from other illicit cargo.

We also have an increase of \$45 million for Secret Service recruitment and retention. These are men and women who protect not only the President but protect our currency against counterfeiting who are in charge of the special security arrangements at the upcoming Winter Olympics to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah. These men and women have been working drastic amounts of overtime, and we want to