

unnneeded regulations were stifling growth and shortchanging job creation and now, despite the blow from September 11, our American economy is the healthiest, most vibrant and most productive in the world.

He knew that if Republicans clearly explained our goals as the majority party, we would earn broad support from the American people, and the Contract With America helped build the first Republican majority in four decades.

He arrives and departs Washington as fundamentally the same man that stood next to me to take his oath of office in 1985, but the Washington he will leave behind in 2003 is a very, very different place. He is just an ordinary man with extraordinary ideas that helped change America.

Since Republicans earned our House majority, the Federal Government has grown leaner, more efficient and more responsive to individual citizens. These changes happened because people like DICK ARMEY knew we could expect more from our government and they insisted that we do better. Our Republican majority has accomplished great things together, and our Nation is stronger, freer, and enjoys the highest living standards in the world.

Several broad principles guided our efforts: We believed that freedom is not free. We worked to ensure that our Armed Forces and the agencies protecting America had all the tools necessary to defend our country. We believed that government answers to the people. We worked to make the Federal Government more responsive, more efficient and more effective in performing its work. We believed that families are entitled to keep more of what they earn. We worked to be careful stewards of their tax dollars and insisted that every dollar was spent as wisely and effectively as it could be.

So, Mr. Speaker, let me say to DICK ARMEY, thank you, DICK, very much, for everything you have done to keep America strong and free. You can be truly proud of what the House has achieved under your leadership. There is no doubt that we will continue improving our Nation over the course of your final year. We must treasure and build upon our gift from previous generations. They left us a great country with a big heart, broad shoulders and the courage to chase hundreds of millions of dreams.

Today, the beacon of freedom is burning brightly. We need to stoke the flame, lift the lantern higher and lead freedom-loving people onward to a better and more fulfilling life.

I want to extend DICK ARMEY my deep thanks for everything he has done to make that happen. Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me offer a special thank you to Susan Armeay for allowing America to borrow her husband all these years. Our country is a better

place because of the sacrifices she and her family have made.

#### INTERNATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WAR ON TERRORISM

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

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, in the aftermath of the devastating attacks on New York and Washington on September 11, the United States has taken a range of swift and decisive actions to bring the terrorists responsible to justice and to ensure that sponsors of terrorism are uprooted. Our military has helped drive the Taliban from power in most of Afghanistan and has tightened the noose on Osama bin Laden and his compatriots. We have seized terrorist assets around the world, putting those who would help terrorists on notice that we will dry up those sources of support.

In our military, diplomatic and financial efforts, the United States has received unprecedented support from the international community. Many countries around the world have converted their sympathy into real acts of solidarity. Our battle against terrorism is a global fight. Success requires sustaining a broad coalition of diplomatic and military partners over the long term.

Recently, the State and Defense Departments provided me with a list of 29 countries plus the European Union who have contributed to our current counterterrorist efforts. While each country is helping in specific ways, they all are making a difference in our ability to thwart the global threat posed by terrorist groups like al Qaeda.

Our allies in Europe are among our most committed partners. NATO took the unprecedented step of invoking article 5 of its charter, considering the attacks on the United States as attacks on the alliance as a whole. The European Union has offered broad diplomatic support and nations throughout Europe, from France and Germany to Poland, have offered military and domestic counterterrorism units. Unique among these loyal European partners is Great Britain who has stood with us diplomatically and fought alongside us in Afghanistan. The depth of this special friendship is one for which we should be profoundly grateful.

Beyond our European partners, our allies in Asia—Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand—have all provided combat or support forces for this fight. Our relationships with Russia and with India have improved greatly because of our common struggle against terrorism and their continued efforts to support us.

Finally, I would like to note the remarkable actions of Muslim countries

in this global struggle. So many are our friends and recognize that the war against terrorism is not a war against Islam. Pakistan has been crucial to our efforts in Afghanistan and has demonstrated great courage in helping lead the struggle against radical terrorism. Our NATO partner, Turkey, has provided special operations troops and has helped bridge the gap between the West and other Muslim nations. States in the Gulf and throughout Central Asia have also chosen to stand with the global community, seizing terrorist assets, providing public support for our military efforts and granting critical overflight and basing rights.

As President Bush has said many times, this war will be a long and multifaceted one. To succeed, we will need the continued strength and commitment of the American people, but we will also need the ongoing support of our friends around the world. It is in the global interest to end terrorist activity and it will take global efforts to achieve this goal.

#### EXPRESSING THANKS TO JOAN BATES KORICH ON THE AN- NOUNCEMENT OF HER RETIRE- MENT

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress, we all receive numerous honors every year. But having someone named after you is truly a special honor. There is a young boy named Eric Royce Bates out in California. What makes it so special is that his grandmother is my chief of staff, Joan Bates Korich, who has announced her retirement. Joni has worked for me for 19 years, starting in the California State Senate in 1982. I came to Sacramento as a young State Senator at the age of 31. I knew what I believed and I knew what my goals were. What I did not know was how to go about accomplishing those goals.

That is where Joni came in. She helped me learn how to turn ideas into accomplishments. She taught me that friendships can transcend politics and that just because you may disagree with someone, that that does not make them your enemy. She is the ultimate professional who takes her work seriously but never loses her sense of humor.

Thanks to Joni's leadership, our office is known for civility and professionalism. Our constituents in California have benefited tremendously from the unique care and interest she has demonstrated over the years. She has also proven time and time again how much she cares about every member of our staff. To this day, interns and young staff members who worked with us in Sacramento many years ago

still call Joni to ask for advice, or just to tell her how their family is doing.

I still do not know how I managed to convince her and her husband Kim to leave her children and grandchildren and come with me to Washington when I was elected to Congress in 1992, but whatever I said, it was one of the best speeches I ever made.

In just over a month, Joni will return to her home in Sacramento and to her three children and eight grandchildren, including Eric Royce Bates. For Joni, there is nothing more important than family. I just consider myself fortunate to have been part of her extended family for the past 19 years. I will miss her very much as will every member of my staff.

Thank you, Joni, for all you did for me. You will be 3,000 miles away, but you will never be forgotten by me or by anyone who has had the good fortune to work with you.

#### MAJORITY LEADER ARMEY

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today Majority Leader DICK ARMEY announced that he would not run for reelection. I received this news with mixed emotions.

First, I am very happy for DICK ARMEY because he is moving to the next phase of his life where he will continue to pursue his dreams. This morning he fondly spoke of his wife Susan and how he was looking forward to spending more time at home with her. The gentleman from Texas spoke of her admiringly and spoke of the sacrifice that she has made, being a spouse of a Member of Congress. We all stood and applauded when Susan ArmeY was recognized. We stood because each of us knew what our spouses have endured—the long hours, the brutal campaigns, the time away from our families. We know what Susan has endured.

DICK and Susan ARMEY will get to spend more time together, and I am very happy for them. But also, Mr. Speaker, I am saddened by the gentleman from Texas' announcement. I am saddened because I consider him a friend and I respect what he has accomplished, but I will miss him and I wonder who will fill the void. DICK ARMEY has fought for so many things that have made this a better place to live: Welfare reform that has improved the lives of more than 6 million Americans who are working today and pursuing their dreams. It was DICK ARMEY who fought so hard for Congress to balance the budget, and finally we see a surplus for the first time in a generation. It was DICK ARMEY who fought for a flatter, fairer tax system for Americans.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am going to miss DICK ARMEY when he leaves. I am going

to miss my friend. Thank you, DICK, for carrying on the banner, for accomplishing so much, making life in America better for me and for my children.

God bless you and God bless America.

#### TEACHER CERTIFICATION

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight because occasionally I still read articles or hear news reports about a teacher shortage in this Nation. This is a government-induced, contrived or special interest produced shortage, because this is a problem that could be solved very simply and very quickly if we would do a few simple things.

Many, many years ago, I taught American government and journalism at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, Virginia, the school that the famous movie "Remember the Titans" was made about. I have had many, many teachers in my family. My grandmother taught for 40 years. My older sister taught for 30 years. Nobody admires teachers, I suppose, more than I do. But I think some of the certification requirements are warped, are out of whack. It makes no sense, for instance, that people who have Ph.D.s or master's degrees and long experience and great success in a particular field cannot teach in most of the public schools of this Nation.

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What spurred me to speak here tonight was an article that was in yesterday's Washington Post entitled "Down to Basics on Teacher Certification." This article says:

"University of Virginia Professor Frederick M. Hess says states should dump their current teacher certification requirements and instead ask prospective educators three simple questions:

1. Do you have a college degree?
2. Can you pass a test in your subject area?
3. Can you pass a criminal background check?

If the answers are yes, yes and yes, you could apply for any teaching job in the state.

To those who are picturing a crime-free yet clueless misfit at the front of their child's class, Hess says: Give school principals some credit. Allowing someone to apply for a job is not the same as guaranteeing them employment, he wrote in a recent paper for the Progressive Policy Institute.

Currently, each state sets its own complex guidelines for certification. They require a degree from an education program. The problem is that nobody agrees on what these programs should be teaching, Hess writes, in "Tear Down This Wall," the case for a

radical overhaul for teacher certification."

That is what we need, Mr. Speaker, a radical overhaul of teacher certification. It makes no sense, if, say, a Ph.D. chemist who works at Oak Ridge in East Tennessee and who has spent, say, 30 years in that field and decides he would like to teach for a few years, he cannot be hired over some 22-year-old recent college graduate who has a bachelor's degree in chemistry, because that young person took a few education courses, and this Ph.D.-experienced chemist did not.

It makes no sense, Mr. Speaker, that a person who has a Ph.D. in political science cannot go teach American government in most of the high schools, public high schools, in this country. Or you could name any other field.

Let us say that we know that many private small colleges are struggling financially. Some of them close. Some of them cannot pay as well as the public school systems in this country. So let us say a person who has a Ph.D. in English and has taught 25 years at some small college wants to go teach in a public school. They should be able to.

The school systems of this Nation, the school boards, should be allowed to say a degree in education is a plus and a factor in favor of someone being hired; but they should have the flexibility to hire somebody who has great experience in a field and has maybe even advanced degrees in a particular field, and they should not be disregarded or excluded from even being considered for teaching positions in this country just because they did not take an education course when they were in college.

So I appeal to the Committee on Education and the Workforce members here and at the various State levels across this Nation to give our school boards and school systems more freedom and flexibility in who they can hire. I believe that we will get much more qualified teachers and wipe out this contrived, government-induced, pressure group-produced teacher shortage in this Nation.

#### NATIONAL AVIATION CAPACITY EXPANSION ACT

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to introduce the National Aviation Capacity Expansion Act. This measure will codify into Federal law a historical agreement reached between Illinois Governor George Ryan and Chicago's Mayor Richard Daley that would benefit not only the Chicago area, but the entire Nation.