

parents to commit to raising their children together.

It is time we remembered the traditional two-parent family. Single parents often do a great job, even against the odds. There are millions of heroic single parents in this country doing their best to support and raise their children. But ask them what they think, and they will be the first to tell you that kids would be better off with both mother and dad caring for them.

#### TIME TO PASS A FLAT TAX

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. From the womb to the tomb, Madam Speaker, the Internal Rectal Service is one big enema. Think about it: they tax our income, they tax our savings, they tax our sex, they tax our property sales profits, they even tax our income when we die. Is it any wonder America is taxed off? We happen to be suffering from a disease called Taxes Mortis Americanus.

Beam me up. It is time to pass a flat, simple 15 percent sales tax, and fire these nincompoops at the IRS.

Think about it.

I yield back the socialist, communist income tax scheme of these United States.

#### THE BUDGET, BY THE NUMBERS

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, the facts are in, and the numbers do not lie. The budget proposed by this Republican-led Congress will meet not only all of the needs, but the priorities as well of the American people.

This budget continues our commitment to improving education by investing \$80 billion next year, that is a 14 percent increase, in the education budget; and it supports our national defense with a \$14 billion budget increase, and a \$5.7 billion increase specifically for improving service members' pay, housing, and veterans health care.

In addition, this budget also includes \$153 billion for Medicare reform, and \$2.8 billion for the National Institutes of Health. We pay down a historic \$2 trillion of the public debt, and ensure that the \$2.6 trillion Social Security trust fund remains safe from the Washington spendthrifts.

Madam Speaker, we achieve all these goals while still giving the American families meaningful and fair tax relief, meaning \$1,600 for the average family of four will be back in their pockets for them to spend.

Madam Speaker, the numbers simply do not lie. And there is one more, mil-

lions, and that is how many Americans want us to pass this reasonable budget and tax relief now.

#### 180TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to rise in honor of the 180th anniversary of Greek independence.

It was 180 years ago that the Greek patriots rose up against the Ottomans in a courageous act of defiance. Many of them fought and died for what they believed in, the right of self-determination, self-governance, that an independent Greek nation should rightfully exist alongside other sovereign nations, free of foreign domination, oppression and constraints.

A country with a rich history stretching back more than 4,000 years, Greece remains the cradle of democracy and one of the most important contributors to Western Civilization.

When the Founding Fathers of this country sought to create a government of, by, and for the people, they reached for inspiration in the words and theories of the great Greek philosophers.

On this day we reaffirm the common democratic heritage we share. Like our day of independence on July 4th, in which we are always reminded of the cost of freedom and independence, it is only fitting that the Congress of the United States commemorate the struggle that led to Greek independence. We fought the same battles, and won, as did those Greek patriots.

#### PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE USING A LOCK BOX

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, more than 76 million baby boomers are marching toward retirement, creating the greatest demographic challenge this Nation has ever faced. Our government is not prepared to meet their needs. Medicare could be insolvent in the near future. In just a few years, Social Security could be in the red.

The implications are frightening. Seniors currently rely on Social Security for nearly half of their incomes. Medicare provides a staggering amount of the elderly with their basic insurance benefits.

That is why the Republican Congress has taken the first step. We stopped the 30-year raid on the Social Security trust fund, and also on Medicare. Republicans made retirement security a priority and followed through on our

word. Now Congress has adopted a lock box on the Social Security program and the Medicare program.

Madam Speaker, Republicans stopped Congress from spending the surplus out of these trust funds for new spending programs.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK AND AG DAY

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women of America who help feed the world. This week is National Agriculture Week, and today is Ag Day. It is a time when we take a moment to pay tribute to those that work the land to feed our world.

For many of the constituents in my district, it is a very special day. Southwest Minnesota is a national leader in producing soybeans, corn, sugar, turkeys, pork, and dairy products.

The efficiency of U.S. farmers is a benefit to all Americans. American families spend approximately 9 percent of their income on food, compared to 11 percent in the United Kingdom, 17 percent in Japan and 53 percent in India.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues not to forget the farmer among all of the other pressing issues of the day. Agriculture is a vital link to the success of our Nation, and we must help our farmers by working to grow demand for their products.

#### ADMINISTRATION DOING NOTHING TO HELP POWER CRISIS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, the Pacific Northwest is locked in an unprecedented drought. We have lost hydropower generation and we are going to have to buy energy. But the energy markets have gone haywire because of the failed California deregulation. Prices are 10 times what they were a comparable month 2 years ago.

This is outrageous price gouging and profiteering on the part of some national energy companies. It is threatening residential ratepayers and businesses alike in the Northwest and California.

The Northwest delegation just met with Vice President CHENEY, and we have had the response of the Bush-Cheney administration. They will do one thing to help us, one thing to help the residential ratepayers and the businesses of the Pacific Northwest in the face of this catastrophe that is coming with huge rate increases for profiteering by a few national energy companies based, strangely enough, in Texas.

They will do one thing to help us, they told us, and that one thing is nothing.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE PINA BROOKS SWIFT

(Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a great lady of Virginia, my friend Pina Brooks Swift, who recently died unexpectedly at the age of 65.

Pina was the chairman of the Virginia Board of Elections and served as past chairman of Republican counties both in the city of Fredericksburg and in Stafford County, Virginia, two prominent localities in Virginia's first district.

Pina was a woman of great energy and integrity who always let you know where she stood, but at the same time respected the opinion of others. She had friends in all walks of life and in both parties. Even those who disagreed with her on some issues, admired her for her candor and genuine affection for her fellow human beings.

In my own case, Pina and I shared a common philosophy, though there were a few issues on which we diverged. But no matter, we spoke freely to one another and always parted as the best of friends.

The death of Pina Brooks Swift marks the end of a remarkably productive life. She will long be remembered as one of the founding ladies of the modern Republican Party of Virginia, as well as a person who was forceful, kind, caring and a great credit to humanity. She will be deeply missed.

OFFICER JAMES NAIM TRIBUTE

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

Ms. HART. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a fallen hero. James Naim of Hopewell Township in Pennsylvania was a police officer who was ambushed and fatally shot at point-blank range while he was on foot patrol this past Thursday night. It was a senseless act of violence and cowardice; but unfortunately, such violence has become all too common in our society today.

Officer Naim was at a turning point. He was 32 years old. He was only a police officer in the city of Aliquippa for 14 months, and he was only a few weeks away from earning his college degree. He had been working on it part-time. He was about to be reunited with his wife, Sofia, a native of Bulgaria, who had been having trouble getting her visa to return to the United States.

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This young couple had a bright future ahead of them. In the midst of all

of this opportunity and change, James Naim knowingly risked his life every day doing what he loved: protecting the lives of others.

All too often we find ourselves looking for heroes in movies and on television, when all we have to do is look next door and see someone like Officer Jim Naim, someone who never sought recognition for his honorable dedication to others, but courageously paid the ultimate price in achieving it.

Today over 1,000 police officers attended the burial of Officer Naim, which reflects the profound impact he had on the lives of those around him. I join them in their tribute to his service and ultimate sacrifice, and recognize that the world has tragically lost another hero.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that she will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF COMBATTING TUBERCULOSIS

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 67) recognizing the importance of combatting tuberculosis on a worldwide basis, and acknowledging the severe impact that TB has on minority populations in the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 67

Whereas tuberculosis is a horrible disease that is preventable and treatable;

Whereas one third of the world's population is infected with the TB bacteria, including between 10 and 15 million people in the United States;

Whereas someone in the world dies of TB every 15 seconds;

Whereas TB will kill more people this year than any other year in history;

Whereas TB rates are substantially higher for minorities in the United States;

Whereas African Americans suffer from TB at a rate that is eight times greater than that of Caucasians, Latinos at six times greater, Native Americans at five times greater and Asians at a rate of nearly fifteen times greater;

Whereas a substantial number of States have TB rates above the national average, the highest rates being found in Texas, Hawaii, California, Alaska, Florida, Georgia, and New York;

Whereas the increased threat of TB emerging in the United States is an unavoidable byproduct of increased international travel, commerce, and migration;

Whereas leading TB experts agree that in order to control TB in the United States, it is necessary to control TB in the developing countries that contribute the vast majority of the global TB burden and are the destination of tens of thousands of American visitors each year; and

Whereas it is possible to control tuberculosis worldwide, as the global community eradicated smallpox and may soon eradicate polio, if the worldwide political will to do so is found: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the importance of increasing United States investment in international tuberculosis control within the foreign aid budget for fiscal year 2002;

(2) recognizes the importance of supporting and expanding domestic efforts to eliminate TB in the United States; and

(3) calls upon local, national and global leaders, including the President of the United States, to commit to putting an end to the worldwide TB epidemic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution presently being considered.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 67, introduced by our colleagues, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ), seeks to draw more attention at home and abroad to the growing threat posed by tuberculosis. This deadly disease not only poses a threat throughout the developing world, but also disproportionately afflicts minority and poor populations in the United States.

Tragically, Madam Speaker, one-third of the world's population is infected with tuberculosis, a treatable and curable disease. Yet millions die from the disease because its victims lack education and an awareness about its deadly consequences on them or the meager resources needed for treatment. More alarming is the fact that between 10 million and 15 million Americans are infected with tuberculosis in the United States and thousands die of that disease each year.

Madam Speaker, every 15 seconds a person is infected with the deadly tuberculosis virus; and as a consequence, more people will die of the disease this year than in any other year in history. It is also important to underscore that