

pay 75 percent, or more, of benefits. That could be described as a possible potential future problem but certainly not an immediate crisis and a long way from bankruptcy.

So what does the President propose? Privatization which would actually make Social Security shortfall certain, precipitate the crisis. He would mandate a 40 percent cut in benefits. Think of it. To solve the problem, a possible reduction in benefits by 25 percent, he mandates up front a 40 percent cut, then would borrow \$2 trillion, put that on the back of the taxpayers and future workers so people could gamble possibly to try and make up that shortfall through privatized accounts and most probably would fail.

What a deal. Let us get real about it. Let us fix Social Security, not destroy it.

#### MILITARY RECRUITER ACCESS TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, there are few greater causes than serving your Nation. Generations of Americans from every single walk of life have dedicated themselves to defending our Nation as part of the United States Armed Forces. They are worthy of our thanks, our praise, and over the past few days we have watched them bring great honor to our Nation.

Yet today many of our country's law schools are treating America's military with disdain and disrespect.

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I bet there are millions of Americans who have no idea that many of the Nation's elite law schools, schools that receive tax dollars in the form of loan subsidies and grants, are refusing to allow military recruiters on campus. They allow the well-heeled law firms from New York, from Washington, Chicago on campus to recruit; but they say no to this Nation's military.

I ask all my colleagues to join the gentleman from California (Chairman HUNTER) in his efforts today to ensure that our institutions of higher learning treat the American military with the respect and the access that it deserves. I ask them to support House Concurrent Resolution 36.

#### EXPRESSING SADNESS UPON PASSING OF JUDGE HENRY LATIMER

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express great

sadness about the tragic death of my good friend, former Broward Circuit Court Judge Henry Latimer.

Known by his friends as "Lat," Henry Latimer was an extraordinary gentleman who achieved great success as a teacher, lawyer, judge, and trial attorney. Growing up in Jacksonville's projects, he attended segregated schools and was initially unable to supplement scholarship offers he had received from colleges around the country. Instead, he chose to serve in the United States Marines for 3 years and went on to teach economics and history at Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. His achievements are too numerous to mention without great prolixity.

Many, as I, relied on him as a mentor and friend. Judge Latimer and I became close personal friends in law school and while he was serving on the bench and in our fraternity. He has been an invaluable source of support. He has made profound contributions to the legal community in Florida as exemplified by his impressive achievement. I will greatly miss his wise counsel, compassion, and unwavering personal support during the good times and the bad. As a friend, the loss is simply immeasurable.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by again expressing my great sadness on the behalf of the House of Representatives. I offer my deepest sympathies to Judge Latimer's family: his wife, Mildred; and his two daughters and other family members.

#### PRaising THE PEOPLE OF IRAQ

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, having served as poll manager, poll watcher, county election commissioner, State ballot security coordinator, campaign manager, and candidate, I know firsthand the challenges of free elections.

In our developed democracy, we are confronted with serious problems of securing polling locations, recruiting poll workers, printing intelligible ballots, finding dedicated managers, providing current poll lists. The challenges are endless, but unlike Iraqi voters, we have rarely been asked to brave bullets, bombs, and terrorist thugs on our way to the polls.

The millions of Iraqi voters are to be commended for their bravery. I also credit the Iraqi security forces, American servicemembers, and coalition troops for securing the over-5,000 polling sites across the nation.

The success of Sunday's election is a tangible fulfillment of the vision of President George W. Bush and proves that democracy abroad is the best way to protect American families at home. Terrorist extremists cannot and will not survive in free nations.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, tonight the President will converse with the American people. And I hope that he will announce tonight, as I join and support him, the increase of the survivor benefit for those who have lost their lives in battle in the United States military to \$250,000 and to those who die in the service of the military whether in battle or not, the \$250,000 survivor benefit to their families. It is long overdue.

Mr. President, use the bully pulpit for that legislation to be passed immediately on behalf of America's military families. I do believe it is crucially important that the President announces to the American people the next step after the democratic elections in Iraq. Tell us the exit strategy for our troops and the strategy for rebuilding Iraq and returning our troops home to their families. Now is the time to respond to the needs of the American people as we build with the Iraqi people the next step of freedom.

And then I believe it is important to tell the American people that you are not going to betray them by eliminating Social Security. Social Security is not a retirement benefit. It is also a survivors benefit for children and the disabled. It is time now to recognize that we invested in Social Security. Do not betray us. Tell the American people how we can move forward together.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to the President.

#### IN SUPPORT OF ALBERTO GONZALES AS ATTORNEY GENERAL

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and also support the nomination of Judge Alberto Gonzales to serve as Attorney General of the United States. Judge Gonzales has served as counsel to the President, a jurist on the Supreme Court of Texas, Secretary of State and chief elections officer in Texas, as well as then-Governor Bush's chief counsel. Before joining the Governor's staff, he was one of