

Helen will be remembered for her commitment to the betterment of the lives of those she served. We will certainly miss her enthusiasm and passion that she brought to her work each and every day.

On behalf of the Sixth District of Michigan, our prayers and sincere regards go out to Helen's family and friends—she will certainly be deeply missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2005*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I received Unanimous Consent for an excused absence for February 1, 2005 and the balance of the week on account of family medical reasons, I witnessed the birth of my first grandchild Lauren Elissa Hewlett and I ask Unanimous Consent to include this personal explanation in the RECORD.

On February 1, 2005, I was unable to be present for Rollcall votes #14 and #15, and on February 2, 2005, I was unable to be present for Rollcall votes #16, #17, #18, and #19.

On Rollcall vote #14, a Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 23 "Honoring the contributions of Catholic schools," I would have voted "Yea."

On Rollcall vote #15, a Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 120, "To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 30777 Rancho California Road at Temecula, California, as the Dalip Singh Saund Post Office Building," I would have voted "Yea."

On Rollcall vote #16, agreeing to the Resolution H. Con. Res. 36, "Expressing the continued support of Congress for equal access of military recruiters to institutions of higher education," I would have voted "Yea."

On Rollcall vote #17, a Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 56, "Commending the Palestinian people for conducting a free and fair presidential election on January 9, 2005, and for other purposes," I would have voted "Yea."

On Rollcall vote #18, a Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 57, "Expressing the strong concern of the House of Representatives that the European Union may end its embargo against the Peoples Republic of China," I would have voted "Yea."

On Rollcall vote #19, agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 60, "Relating to the free election in Iraq held on January 30, 2005," I would have voted "Yea."

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2005*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, the President's budget is a blueprint of his priorities. A way of showing what direction he wants to move the country. Based on the last four

years, it is no surprise that the President's budget is more of the same: continued tax cuts for the wealthy paid for by slashing programs that Americans depend on.

While the President has urged a return to fiscal discipline, he has been more of a culprit than a savior. This year's budget continues to move in the wrong direction, and the FY 2006 deficit will likely be the largest in history. The President's projected deficit is not even a credible accounting, as the budget completely omits the President's own plans for tax cuts, Social Security privatization, and fighting the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. These programs alone will cost trillions of dollars over the next decade.

The President says spending cuts are necessary to keep the deficit from increasing even more. This is only half accurate. Without the tax cuts enacted since 2001, our nation's fiscal health would be much rosier, and the President would not be asking the neediest and most vulnerable Americans to sacrifice.

With control of the White House and both Houses of Congress, this blueprint shows America the real Republican agenda. They want to cut Medicaid by \$60 billion over ten years and put more of the burden on states and the 45 million Americans who do not have health insurance. They want to eliminate 48 education programs that provide assistance with vocational education, education technology, and civic education. And they want us to fall \$12 billion further behind in our commitments under No Child Left Behind, handing an unfunded mandate to states and short-changing our teachers and students.

While the Department of Homeland Security receives an overall increase in funding, the President proposes cutting FIRE grants by 30 percent and first responder funding by 10 percent, in addition to a 42 percent cut for the hugely successful COPS program. How does this budget make us safer?

Perhaps most egregiously during this time of war, the President wants to impose new fees and increase copayments for veterans' health care, adding an undue burden to those who have served their country so honorably.

I urge my colleagues to join me in returning fiscal responsibility to the budgetary process and creating a realistic blueprint that meets the needs of the American people, not just the President's wealthiest supporters.

HONORING JOE F. COLVIN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. JOE BARTON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2005*

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Joe F. Colvin, who is retiring as president and chief executive officer of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). Over his long and distinguished career, Mr. Colvin has played a key role in ensuring that America will continue to enjoy the benefits of nuclear energy.

Mr. Colvin began his career more than 40 years ago as a submarine officer in the U.S. Navy. After leaving the Navy, he held many

different leadership positions in the nuclear energy industry.

Over the past nine years as head of NEI, Mr. Colvin has led the industry through a period of extraordinary change. When he began, the future of nuclear energy was by no means certain as many expected that most of America's reactors would close.

Recent events have proven dramatically different. Today, our country's 103 reactors are essential to the stability of our electricity supply and our clean air. Instead of closing, reactors are renewing their licenses and extending their operation. Now, several companies have begun to explore possibilities for licensing new nuclear power plants in the United States. This transformation is a testament to Mr. Colvin's vision and diligence.

Mr. Colvin has testified numerous times before the Committee on Energy and Commerce and other congressional committees, and has represented his industry well. In doing so, he has guided important policy initiatives, advanced numerous regulatory and legislative issues and cultivated a favorable investor climate for the industry that NEI represents.

Mr. Colvin's dedication and commitment to the industry he served will be missed, as will his enthusiasm and good nature. He will be missed also by his many friends in Congress. Hence, I extend to him best wishes for his retirement, and on behalf of the House of Representatives, thank him for his contributions.

DR. H.D. "DAVE" LUCK, A MAN OF HONOR

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2005*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Dr. H.D. "Dave" Luck, a statesman, a leader, a veteran, and a true gentleman who passed away on January 3, 2005 in Arkansas at the age of 79. Dr. Luck was a man who, in deed and action, distinguished himself as someone who set forth to make Arkansas a better place to live as a champion for civil rights and higher education.

Born in 1925 in New York City, Dr. Luck graduated from Bates College in Maine in 1945, and earned his M.D. degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland. After doing post graduate work in medical education at the United States Naval School of Aviation Medicine in Florida, and at University Hospital in Little Rock, Dr. Luck eventually settled in Arkadelphia where he founded the Arkadelphia Medical Clinic in 1979.

Dr. Luck began a life of public service in Arkadelphia, where he served as President of General Industries Corporation from 1962 until 1968, the Arkadelphia Chamber of Commerce, and the Arkadelphia Kiwanis Club. He was awarded the Junior Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Award in 1963.

Dr. Luck continued an inspiring career of public service on the state as Chair of the Democratic Party. In 1964, he chaired the Committee for Voter Registration. Dr. Luck's