

Nation. Just this week, we sent the President H.R. 1530, a Defense Authorization bill that restores a reasonable quality of life for our military, sustains basic military readiness, reinvigorates the Pentagon's efforts to modernize weapons, and makes a downpayment on our effort to make the Pentagon run more like a business.

The bill gets the Pentagon back into the business of defending our country, without a skyrocketing Defense budget.

Despite the fact that this bill includes a long overdue 2.4-percent pay raise, a 5.2-percent increase in housing allowance for our troops and their families, and \$35 million to educate children of military personnel, the newspapers now tell us that President Clinton will veto that bill.

Any sergeant, colonel, admiral, or general will tell you that their most important asset is a well-trained and dedicated man or woman. Unfortunately, because of a declining quality of military life and number of broken Government promises, the rank and file soldier and sailor is becoming an increasingly rare asset.

We have American soldiers and sailors trying to feed their families with food stamps. Some of the kids that the President is sending into harm's way in Bosnia are leaving their families behind in housing that is substandard. Clinton's historic 1993 tax hike not only forced more taxes on hard-working middle-income American families—despite a promise to actually cut taxes—it also delayed COLA's for military retirees by three-quarters of a year—breaking a promise that was made to many of those men and women while they served this country overseas and at war. The Defense Authorization bill fixes the Clinton COLA grab.

The veterans, retirees, and active military families that I talk to every day tell me that they don't trust the government anymore. Fully half of this country's new military enlistees come from military families, and those families are beginning to tell their kids that it just isn't worth it. As a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, I dedicated my life and service to this country in exchange for a few promises of pay and benefits. If the Government, led by President Clinton, continues to break those promises and deny a reasonable quality of life, our military families will find it even more difficult to dedicate themselves to military service.

Mr. Speaker, what the President is doing is wrong. I challenge him to change his ways and demonstrate a commitment to our men and women in uniform. At a time when he plans to send over 32,000 troops into war-torn Bosnia, enactment of the Defense Authorization bill is a good place to start.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 1995

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, on December 13, 1995, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 851, the adoption of House Resolution 297, a rule to permit the House to adopt, by a simple majority, rules for certain legislation on the same day that they are reported by the Rules Committee. Had I been present for vote No. 851, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM A. COBURN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 1995

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, due to weather delays in my return from Oklahoma, I was unable to cast my vote on House Joint Resolution 132, the resolution supporting a balanced budget in 7 years. I have made clear since January that balancing the budget is our highest priority if we are to secure a bright future for our children and grandchildren. Therefore, had I been here, I would have voted "aye" on House Joint Resolution 132.

HONORING THE LUDLOW BOY'S SOCCER TEAM'S STATE CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 1995

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to Coach Tony Goncalves and his Ludlow High School Lions boy's soccer team for their outstanding 4 to 1 victory over Somerville High School to win the Massachusetts Boys Division I State Soccer Championship. The impressive performance by the Lions in the championship capped off a tremendous 17-2-3 campaign for Coach Goncalves and his team and earned them a spot in the top 25 of the Umbro Boys High School Soccer Poll. Over the years Ludlow High School has enjoyed a rich tradition of soccer excellence and this team will certainly be remembered as one of the best in Ludlow High School history.

I would also like to recognize Coach Goncalves' assistants Jack Vilaca, Greg Kolodziej, and Jon Cavallo for their outstanding efforts throughout this championship season. It is the unsung efforts of people like these that often make championships possible, and Ludlow was quite fortunate to be assisted by such able individuals.

Finally, I would like to recognize the players who delivered this spectacular victory: Seniors, Bob Nascimento, Eddie Pires, Rich Huff, John Summerlin, Aaron Majka, Carlos Gomes, Adriano Dos Santos, Wesley Manuel, Chris Goncalves, Mark Eusebio, Jeff Leandro, Juniors, Robe Gomes, Matthew Goncalves, Adriano Genovevo, Danny Elias, Jason Alves, Ryan Lemek, Sophomores, Alex Carvalho, Dave Garcia, Jon Haluch, and Justin Larame.

The achievements of these young men are a tremendous source of pride for not only the town of Ludlow but for the entire Second Congressional District. I am honored to represent such outstanding individuals and I join with the citizens of the Second Congressional District in offering a most heartfelt congratulations. I would also like to wish the returning players the best of luck as they embark on their title defense next season.

HONORING A McCREARY COUNTY LEADER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 20, 1995

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my good friend Napoleon "Nip" Perkins who recently passed away just shy of his 90th birthday. My family and thousands of others throughout McCreary County and southern Kentucky are deeply saddened by this tragic loss.

Our area has lost a topnotch businessman, an inspiring civic and community volunteer, a political leader, and a good friend. He helped everyone he could and always was willing to sacrifice his time for others.

Nip Perkins was a retired land agent and an engineer for Stearns Coal and Lumber Co., where his high energy, friendly style is what always stood out most.

Politics was where Nip was most influential. Serving as a field representative for my two predecessors in Congress, Congressmen Eugene Siler and Tim Lee Carter, he has been a recognized leader for more than seven decades.

Nip was also a great confidant for me, always keeping his ear close to the ground and my best interests at heart. He was wise, informed, and always positive.

Nip served six terms as the McCreary County Republican chairman and was the first inductee of the Fifth Congressional District Lincoln Club Hall of Fame for his honorable and dedicated service.

I could not think of a better person to be our first Hall of Fame inductee.

In addition to his political service, Nip was a former McCreary County master commissioner and served on the County Selective Service Board. He was a 65-year member of the Orie S. Ware Lodge in Stearns and the 32d degree Mason in the Valley of Covington.

My heart goes out to Nip's wife of 62 years, Evelyn Anderson Perkins, and his wonderful family. He was a great friend and a good man, and he will be sorely missed.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JOHN DINGELL ON HIS 40TH ANNIVERSARY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 1995

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to a man who has provided 40 years of dedicated service to the people of Michigan's 16th Congressional District and the United States of America, my good friend and dean of this esteemed body, JOHN D. DINGELL. The fact that Mr. DINGELL is still recognized by many of his colleagues from both sides of the aisle as "Mr. Chairman" is one example of the high level of respect and appreciation we have for his service.

Like his father before him, JOHN DINGELL has worked diligently to serve his constituents in the State of Michigan. His tireless efforts to