Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as we have heard from our House Republican leadership team, this week the House will lose one of its most faithful servants to the private sector, when my good friend Kathryn Lehman leaves her post as chief of staff of the House Republican Conference after more than 15 years of service here in the House on Capitol Hill.

After graduating from Catholic University with a law degree, Kathryn came to the Hill in 1989 to serve then-ranking member, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), as his only staffer on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights.

After the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) became the subcommittee's ranking member, Kathryn continued her work and learned much from his example in leadership.

When the Republicans took over control of the House in 1994, Kathryn became the subcommittee's chief counsel and helped usher in some of the most important reforms of the first 100 days of our Congress. In 1997, Karen began working for Speaker Gingrich, playing an important part in many of the most memorable events in Congress's history. She also advised Speaker Gingrich on oversight issues involving the committees on Judiciary, Education and the Workforce, House Administration, and Government Reform.

In 1998, she took the helm as policy director for then-majority whip, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY). There, she made her mark on some of the most impressive legislative accomplishments of the Congress. Kathryn's talents then took her to the Speaker's office, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT).

Obviously, she had a hard time keeping a job at any one time, but she oversaw his coalitions and outreach efforts. In 2002, Kathryn became chief of staff for the House Republican Conference under the leadership of my great friend, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE). There she effectively crafted our message and led us to new levels of accomplishment and unity.

Kathryn now leaves the House for Holland & Knight where she will continue to be what she has always been, a bold woman who is not afraid to speak her mind. At Holland & Knight, she will follow in the tradition of her and another great mind, the late Congresswoman Tillie Fowler, my friend from Florida.

And Kathryn's long and impressive career is an example of what we can all achieve if we stick to our principles and never quit until the fight is over. Kathryn has learned much during her tenure, but she has taught others much more.

It is not surprising that Kathryn has so many friends. Through her sheer force of character and great personality, Kathryn has forged friendships with Republican and Democrat Members and staff alike. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) for example, the dean of the House, is one such friend; and I know that the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) shares in my best wishes for Kathryn's future successes.

Kathryn deserves the thanks of so many Members on an individual level, but also deserves the thanks of the House of Representatives as a body.

Few have done more to protect its integrity and its efficacy, as Kathryn Lehman; and I know that she will be missed. She is more than just a staffer, she is more than just the Chair of so many important positions, she is more specially important, my friend, mi amiga, and always will be.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my best wishes and a fond farewell to Kathryn Lehman who is leaving Capitol Hill after 15 years of service. Kathryn has been like few others: effective, universally admired, and respected. And she has always offered blunt advice.

During her Hill career, Kathryn has served two Judiciary Committee Chairmen, one Majority Whip, one Conference Chairman, and two Speakers of the House—including myself.

Kathryn cut her teeth on the House Judiciary Committee working for then-Ranking Member SENSENBRENNER on the Civil and Constitutional Rights Subcommittee and, following that, then-Ranking Member HYDE. Those tough days in the minority prepared Kathryn for the responsibility of her role as Chief Counsel following the Republican victory in 1994. She went on to serve as Special Assistant to Speaker Newt Gingrich, Policy Director for then-Majority Whip TOM DELAY, my Director of Coalitions and Outreach, and finally Chief of Staff for the House Republican Conference.

Kathryn has not only been in the room when some of the most important decisions of this House were made, but she also helped to make them. From habeas corpus reform to tax reform, Kathryn has touched it all. She has impacted more legislation during her career than she'd probably care to admit, and each time she acted with strength and conviction.

Many staffers have a laundry list of legislative achievements and career highlights, but Kathryn is more than the sum of her accomplishments. Her tenure is marked just as surely by the friendships she has made—on both sides of the aisle—than by the laws she helped to craft or the bills she ushered through to passage.

But perhaps Kathryn's most astonishing—and admirable—characteristic is her unwavering idealism. Throughout her time on Capitol Hill, she has never lost her way and has been guided by her beliefs and values. In good times and bad, Kathryn always spoke her mind and kept us all on the right track. I will miss her loyalty, her ability to make you laugh, and her sound judgment.

I wish Kathryn the very best and know that she will continue to be a standard bearer for what is right in Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that our colleagues have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of Kathryn Lehman's departure and tenure in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

REFLECTING ON THE 2–YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRESIDENT'S ''MISSION ACCOMPLISHED'' SPEECH

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday, May 1, marked the 2-year anniversary of President Bush's speech abroad the USS *Lincoln*, the ''mission accomplished'' speech.

So what have we accomplished in the last 2 years? Saddam Hussein's regime has fallen. Yet today we find ourselves mired in an endless occupation.

This past January witnessed a successful election, yet progress on developing a functioning government has been slow at best. The terror and the insurgency remain as strong as ever and seems to be growing at certain points. Explosions killed more than 100 people last week alone.

The economy is stalled, the civil society is unable to come together, and millions of Iraqis remain without regular electrical services and basic services from their government. The brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces continue to fight a very vigorous fight, but the battle has taken its toll. We have lost 1,600 fellow citizens in the last 2 years, 2½ years, and more than 12,000 have been wounded.

The strain has been so great that recruiters cannot meet their enlistment goals. Through the first 5 months of fiscal year 2005, the Army is short of their recruitment goal by 15 percent. The Pentagon now says that they are stretched so thin it would be difficult for the military to meet other obligations should they need to do so.

Mr. Speaker, Operation Iraqi Freedom was a war of choice. And as President Kennedy once said, to govern is to choose. One can only hope that the war in Iraq was the right choice. This week we will appropriate an additional $81 billion, bringing the total cost of the war in dollar sense, to $300 billion: $300 billion, 1,600 American lives, 12,000 citizens wounded.

And yet the insurgency continues and the war goes on. The $300 billion we have added to the structural deficit is on top of a $2 trillion new debt created since President Bush originally took office in 2001.

And what have we done while we have added $300 billion to Iraq? Every President when they have taken the battle and taken the war, has thought about how to build America post that war.

President Lincoln finished the transcontinental railroad, the land grant colleges. Roosevelt not only had the

Great Depression that he dealt with for the Great Society, and rather the New Deal. He also thought after the war of a GI bill.

Universal health care with Harry S Truman. Eisenhower talked of the interstate highway. President Kennedy in the middle of his days of Vietnam thought of putting a man on the Moon. What do we think about at the end of the Iraq war, as we think maybe we will see a point on the horizon? We cut Medicaid by $10 billion. We eliminate vocational training. We eliminate the COPS program that puts 100,000 cops on the American streets.

Every President and every Congress thought about America after the war, thought about what it could do, how do we build that future; not only what we did overseas, but what are we going to do for Americans here at home. We, unlike our predecessors, do not think of a vision in the future. We have thought about how to limit America's horizon and not think forward.

This President made an attempt once to talk about putting a space ship on Mars, but we cancelled that. We have cancelled our review of the stem cells. We are not investing in America's future like we are investing in Iraq's future.

$300 billion in Iraq. Sixteen hundred American lives. Twelve thousand wounded. $10 billion cut from our health care programs. Vocational training programs eliminated. Is this the tradition when Roosevelt thought of the GI bill after World War II, President Kennedy in the early days of Vietnam thought of a man on the Moon? Lincoln, in the days of the Civil War thought of reconstruction, the land grant colleges, and the transatlantic railroad system.

This is not in the tradition of America to think less of our future than the one we are building overseas. We can do better than we are thinking of today. And all of the while that we are not investing in America and we are investing in Iraq, and we have put ourselves in line in Iraq, and everything of America is on the line there, North Korea has crossed the red zone, and now has the ability of nuclear capability.

A senior military strategist testified in the Senate last week that North Korea can mount a nuclear weapon on their missiles. While we have been bogged down in Iraq, Iran is developing their capability. The fact is, if there is one area where the United States should be acting unilaterally, it is North Korea; the one place we should be acting in coalition is Iraq. We got it mixed up.

But it is high time we invest in America and stop thinking less about our future and stop putting our dollars like we have in Iraq, start putting them here in America and follow the tradition that Presidents Lincoln and Kennedy and Johnson and Roosevelt did by thinking about the future for America.

□ 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PRICE of Georgia). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY).

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

There was no objection.

DANGERS OF METHAMPHETAMINES

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

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to spend some time this evening talking about something that I think should concern all of us on both sides of the aisle here, something that sometimes flies under the radar screen in our country, and that is the epidemic of methamphetamine abuse.

Methamphetamines first came into prominence during World War II. It was often given to kamikaze pilots, Japanese military, before they took off, never to return. Some of the German military units going on almost certain deaths missions also used it.

It is the most highly addictive drug that has been discovered. It often causes addiction after one usage; and hardly any other drug that is known to man will do that to you. It releases huge amounts of dopamine, thousands of times the amount of dopamine that a normal pleasurable experience that is not drug-induced might cause a person to experience. It creates euphoria that last between 6 and 8 hours, and an increased sense of well-being and confidence.

Increased energy, many times soccer moms, people who are working two jobs will fall prey to methamphetamine abuse. And of course, it also provides the ability to remain awake for long periods of time, sometimes as much as 6 or 7 days so truck drivers, people in those types of professions, oftentimes begin to use it.

It often results in weight loss and it is relatively inexpensive. So there are many attractive elements to it. But the long term effects are disastrous. Whatever comes up must come down, and you come down really hard off of methamphetamine. It produces anxiety, depression, hallucinations, many times psychoses. Violent behavior is often a side effect.

It usually rots teeth very rapidly. Crank bugs, the feeling that bugs are crawling on your skin and, therefore, people try to pick them out so there are usually huge skin lesions on the arms and legs of those addicted to methamphetamines. Early death and stroke.

It always causes brain damage. Every time you use methamphetamines it destroys brain tissue. It is not long before a person who maybe is a young person who has been on meth for 6 months or a year will have a brain scan almost identical to a 70- or 80-year old Alzheimer's patient because of the brain lesions in the brain.

It is very common in rural areas. It is often manufactured in the country side because of the odor and toxic chemicals that are used. It is made from pseudophedrine, a common cold medicine which all of us have had some experience with. But there are some other additives that are a little less innocuous, lithium batteries, drain cleaner, starter fluid, anhydrous ammonia, and iodine so it is a tremendously toxic mix.

It costs roughly 5 to $6,000 to clean up a meth lab. Some areas in middle America have had as many as 1,500 to 2,000 meth labs a year being cleaned up, so it is a huge expense and it is a real blight on the countryside.

The average meth addiction and addict in my State, Nebraska, will commit roughly 60 crimes a year to support their habit. So if you have a small community with 10 meth addicts, you have got 600 crimes being committed. It has changed the whole tenor of small towns in many areas because of this increased crime.

Many counties in these areas spend 70 to 80 percent of their law enforcement dollars and their manpower on meth prevention and meth treatment. The majority of jail and prison cells are occupied by those who are addicted by meth. And most of the child abuse in these areas, most of the child neglect and most of the deaths that children experience are as a result of parents and others who are addicted to methamphetamine.

So the question is what can Congress do?

First of all, the Byrne grants that we are somewhat familiar with are what fund the meth lab clean-ups. And the Byrne grants absolutely have to be funded so this is critical. Also the COPS program is critical to the interdiction and the disruption of meth traffic.

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), and also the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER), have introduced legislation that regulates the sale of pseudophedrine that is necessary to manufacture methamphetamine, and provide funds for meth lab cleanup, law enforcement and child protection.

So I hope that my colleagues both sides of the aisle will join in this fight. This is a real blight on our country and is creating a devastation throughout our country, but particularly in the rural area.