

wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. The event is an annual opportunity to recognize women who play and have played a critical role in the Armed Forces, both in times of war and peace, and currently now in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Our troops and all of our service-women deserve our utmost respect for protecting our freedom. As of March 2005, an estimated 203,000 women serve in our U.S. military and another 142,000 women serve in the reserve units in the U.S. Armed Forces. These women give of themselves and make extraordinary sacrifices.

The Congressional Caucus of Women's Issues is committed to supporting women in our Armed Forces. As Democratic Chair of that women's caucus, I want to thank all the servicewomen for their unyielding courage, selfless commitment, and long-standing dedication to our military and our country. Let us remember them over the Memorial Weekend.

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HONORING AMERICA'S MILITARY

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor America's military men and women. As we approach Memorial Day, our grateful Nation says thank you to those who have sacrificed so much in the name of freedom.

We here at home often show our appreciation for all that our troops have done by sending care packages, letters and phone cards to them while they serve, but our appreciation for their efforts, their courage, and their valor go far beyond the battlefield. These selfless acts of heroism have helped maintain our most fundamental freedoms, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all Americans, all earned with the help of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

At the same time, we have a responsibility to our veterans and their families. While Memorial Day is filled with parades and festivals in many towns across the country, let us not forget its true meaning: A heartfelt thank-you to those who serve our country.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Americans to join me in thanking America's military men and women in all they do for us. Their sacrifices have proven that we should never underestimate the price of freedom and all it stands for.

SENATE SHACKLES DEMOCRACY

(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. Madam Speaker, as we approach Memorial

Day, we should recognize that the honor of our men and women in the United States military should be a yearlong event.

Madam Speaker, I rise to question the idea of democracy as articulated by the United States Senate. President Lyndon Baines Johnson indicated that a man cannot finish a race if his hands and feet are shackled. The furlough of democracy took place in the United States Senate.

The compromise on the filibuster is really an extinguishing of democracy. It is now extinct because now there is an override, if you will, on whether or not men and women can rise to the floor of the Senate and express the views of the minority, not a minority of African Americans or Hispanics or others, but simply the minority view. That is what democracy is.

It is an outrage that any qualification would be put on the rights of those in the United States Senate whom happen to be in the minority to speak on the issues of concern. The judges that will receive a vote today have great opposition from many in this country. Now the filibuster is not in place, because it has been limited, and now democracy has been shackled and tied.

AMERICAN EDUCATION BEING LEFT BEHIND

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, in a recent Washington Times technology section, Fred Reed gives us good evidence while America is on the path towards a third-rate economy.

First, in 2001 through the end of the last school year, New York City 8th graders' failure rate in history and government grew from 61 percent to 81 percent. That is four out of five students.

Second, 22 percent of the students entering college in Indiana needed remedial math.

Third, this year's top U.S. university finished in 17th place in an international collegiate programming contest.

We are not preparing for tomorrow's economy. The world is getting more and more technical, and we are falling behind. While China is creating 350,000 engineers every year, while India is creating 80,000 software engineers every year, we are putting more and more of our students in remedial math. We have to change the educational environment in America if we are going to avoid becoming a third-rate economy.

Education is just one of the issues the Economic Competitive Caucus will be addressing this year so we can prepare for tomorrow's economy.

HONORING MAJOR BILL MCCOLLOUGH

(Mr. CUNNINGHAM asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to salute and wish a hearty farewell to Major Bill McCollough of the House Marine Corps liaison office.

In the midst of a career in the field and leading troops around the globe, Bill was selected by the Marine Corps leadership to serve as a Congressional Fellow in 2002.

Representing the Nation's largest Navy-Marine Corps complex, I had hoped to get a military fellow with the right mix of brains, brawn, and ability to "get things done" to help me better serve the San Diego community.

I met Bill, and knew I had found the right fit. Bill worked a number of sensitive military issues for me with great skill and finesse. So our office quickly rewarded him with an expanded portfolio, including domestic issues of critical importance to my district.

Major McCollough impressed me with his professionalism, his good will and dedication to family and Nation. I will always be grateful for the opportunity to work with him and his family.

As he returns to Camp Pendleton, and likely another tour in the Middle East soon, I wish Bill, his wife, Caroline, and sons, Hunter and Jack, the best of luck and a fond farewell. They know they will always have a family here in Washington.

HONORING DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of women who have made an incomparable contribution to Northfield, Minnesota, and have set an example of service for all Americans.

The Daughters of the American Revolution is a volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for our children.

Next month the Josiah Edison Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, in Northfield will celebrate their 100th anniversary. Over the past century they have established a proud tradition of service from bestowing Good Citizen Awards to high school students to volunteering at VA centers and laying wreaths during memorial services.

The women of the Josiah Edison Chapter are mothers and grandmothers, business women, teachers, ministers and veterans united by a belief in God, love of country, commitment to preserving our history, and dedication to improving education.

As a proud husband of a member, I can assure you these women live their motto of "God, Home and Country." On this anniversary, I want to thank the