

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, at 3:48 a.m. on the morning of Sunday, May 22, an 8-year-old girl from my hometown of Lake Worth, Florida, was reported missing. She was thought to have been abducted by someone she knew and the Lake Worth Police Department quickly went into action.

In coordination with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, an Amber Alert was issued at 7:30 a.m. and an all-points bulletin, including off-duty police, were called in to respond. Under the leadership of Deputy Chief Patrick Hampshire, more than 100 officers from five agencies responded within an hour.

Sergeant Michael Hall was charged with searching for her at the city dump. Opening a large bin, Sergeant Hall found cement blocks, but on a second look he saw the faint shadow of a small hand. With the help of Corporal Robert Cresswell of the Palm Beach Sheriff's Department, Lieutenant Dave Matthews of the Lake Worth Police Department, Special Agent Mike Driscoll of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the searchers were able to get this young girl out from under these blocks and debris and save her life. SWAT Medic Earl Bakki gave her medical attention until she could get to the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, these are true heroes, working as a team and using the tools they had been provided to save this young, precious life. I want to commend Chief William Smith and the members of the Lake Worth Police Department for their swift, heroic response on Sunday, as well as the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department, Lantana Police Department, Boca Raton Police Department, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for aiding in the search for this young girl.

#### TRIBUTE TO KATIE BROWNELL

(Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a young girl who is truly in a league of her own, Kate Brownell.

Katie is a shy 11-year-old girl of few words, but when she gets on the baseball field she lets her pitching do the talking, and she rocks. Brownell is the only girl in the Oakfield-Alabama Little League Baseball Program. Last week, she threw a perfect game for the Dodgers in an 11-0 victory for the Yankees.

How dominant was she? She struck out all 18 batters she faced, yielding no more than two balls to any batter in a 6-inning victory. Katie accomplished something that league officials cannot remember anyone, boy or girl, ever doing. Brownell is not just good at pitching, she is also great at the plate, and her batting average is .714.

When I first read her story, I was excited and inspired by this young girl's

talent. I was so impressed that I wanted to be sure to come down to the floor and recognize her achievement. She exemplifies what you can achieve, regardless of gender.

That is why it is bewildering to me that in this day and age we are debating whether or not to allow women in combat. If anything, young women like Katie serve to remind us that we can pretty much do anything that men can, and sometimes even better.

#### WE NEED THE MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the States should decide. Is that not what we heard in debate on gay marriage?

Well, that is what Nebraska did, with a constitutional amendment passed by their State legislature and approved by over 70 percent of their voters in a referendum. The State decided that the definition of marriage should be limited to one man and one woman, a definition that nearly everyone in this country agrees with.

But recently an activist Federal judge disagreed and the duly enacted law of the State, the decision of the State and its reelected representatives and voters, was overruled by an activist Federal court.

Does not sound like States deciding to me. On the contrary, it is exactly what many of us have said would happen, activist courts would erode the will of the people in States like Nebraska. The other side, the side screaming for States' rights just 10 months ago, has not said a word while Federal courts decide and impose their will of what marriage is on the States.

This is too far. We need to act. The Federal Marriage Protection Amendment will ensure that States decide this issue of critical importance. If the other side really believes their own rhetoric, they will back this amendment and fight for judges who allow the people and their elected representatives to debate and decide cultural issues.

#### CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE BILL

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, there are many Caribbean Americans who have helped to shape American government, politics, business, arts, education, science and culture: Sidney Poitier, Tito Puente, Colin Powell, Edwidge Danticat, Harry Belafonte, Julia Alvarez, Kelsey Grammer, Wyclef Jean, Celia Cruz, Mervyn Dymally, Raul Julia, Jesus Colon, Gloria Estafan, Shirley Chisholm, Alex Rodriguez, and John Point du Sable. These are just a

few Caribbean Americans who have contributed so much to the United States.

This year, I reintroduced a resolution which we introduced last year, H. Con. Res. 71. It is a bipartisan and long-overdue effort to create a national Caribbean American Heritage Month. I ask all of my colleagues to join me, the 72 cosponsors, and numerous Caribbean American voices from across the country who have supported this measure.

When we return from the Memorial Day recess, I hope the House will consider this bipartisan goodwill resolution that honors the legacy and the diversity of the Caribbean American community. It is long overdue.

#### ECONOMIC GROWTH

(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, earlier this week I came to the floor to share great economic news from my State of Tennessee. We had just learned that Tennessee expects to have a \$272 million boost in sales revenue, State revenues. It appears that our fight to restore the sales tax deductibility to our Federal income tax is paying off big time, and we thank the leadership for that.

But, Mr. Speaker, the good thing we have learned is that this news is not just limited to Tennessee. Just this morning the Bureau of Economic Analysis revised the Nation's first quarter growth upward. America's GDP grew at 3.5 percent, not 3.1 percent, as had previously been estimated.

If you do not know what that means, let me tell you. It means that the Republican support for lower taxes and less regulation is paying off. It works. It works. In April, America's free enterprise system created 274,000 new jobs.

Everyone in this body should recognize the fact that our leadership and our majority are putting America on the right track for growth and job creation.

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF REPUBLICAN-LED CONGRESS TO DATE

(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. Mr. Speaker, as we head home for the Memorial Day recess this weekend, let us take a look at all of the accomplishments of our Republican-led Congress so far this year: bankruptcy reform, class action fairness, REAL ID Act with immigration reform, permanent repeal of the death tax, continuity of government, comprehensive energy policy, and many others that I would like to list, but the time is too short.

All of these bills were overwhelming bipartisan and overwhelming

common-sense, good government legislation. Constituents will appreciate the fact that Republicans are listening to their concerns and taking positive, productive steps to reach solutions.

There is much work to do, and we are methodically getting that work done. It may not be flashy, but it is responsibility in action, and Americans appreciate this. Republicans will continue to tackle the tough issues of the day rather than pass the buck on to future generations. Americans may not read about it in their newspapers or hear about it on the nightly news; however, solutions are happening here and now.

Mr. Speaker, success is defined in terms of solutions, not in terms of rhetoric, and solutions are what Republicans are bringing to the American people.

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#### IN HONOR OF TODD VENETTE

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of a great American, Todd Venette, whose life was cut short by a terrorist attack in Iraq.

Todd, a former Marine, was helping Iraq's young democracy as a government contractor when he was killed by a terrorist car bomb in Baghdad. As his friends and family would tell you, Todd was a selfless person who volunteered to reenlist shortly after the war in Iraq started. When he completed his tour, his dedication to the mission led him to return to Iraq as a government contractor.

A giving person, a mentor, and a servant are among the words that have been used to describe Todd. As a firefighter in Russellville, Arkansas, Todd helped protect the community. His service to the people of Russellville did not end there. Todd was instrumental in establishing a wrestling program for kids at the local Boys and Girls Club, putting his talents to work as a mentor to shape the lives of young people of Russellville in a positive way.

Mr. Speaker, Todd touched many people in his short life. I ask my colleagues to keep Todd's family and friends in their thoughts and prayers during these very difficult times.

#### RECOGNIZING JIM LONGWORTH

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Triad Today for being awarded the Spectrum of Democracy Award for Responsible Election Coverage by the North Carolina Center For Voter Education. The program is aired in the Fifth Congressional District on Sinclair Broadcast-

ing's WXLV/WUPN station covering the Winston-Salem/Greensboro/High Point metropolitan area.

Triad Today was created October 2003 by veteran television broadcaster, author, and columnist Jim Longworth. It is the Piedmont Triad's only local television talk show. Its guests have included Senators and Congressmen, mayors and sports celebrities like Richard Petty. But most of the time it serves the community by disseminating information about the issues that matter the most to the community, like health care, public safety, and government.

But it was another kind of public service for which Triad Today was recently recognized. During the 2004 election cycle, Jim Longworth distributed free blocks of air time on his show to scores of congressional and gubernatorial candidates. His action helped raise citizen awareness of candidates and issues and encouraged more people to participate in the political process. For this, Mr. Longworth and Triad Today were awarded the Spectrum of Democracy Award.

Mr. Speaker, the press has a responsibility to fulfill its role as the fourth estate, that is, to serve as a guardian of democracy and defender of the public interest. I am pleased to congratulate Triad Today for its outstanding commitment to keeping the community informed.

#### REPUBLICANS RETURN CONTROL TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan once said that the government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: if it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it; and if it stops moving, subsidize it.

I believe the American people, not the government, have a better view of our economy. By working to remove the economic barriers of taxation, litigation and regulation, House Republicans are returning control of the economy to the American people. The 109th Congress has passed legislation this year which will permanently repeal the death tax, decrease the deficit, strengthen American borders, prevent frivolous lawsuits, improve our highways, and provide our country with a comprehensive energy policy.

In my home State of South Carolina, the unemployment rate continues to decrease and over 1,300 new jobs have been created since March. This great news is positive proof that the Republican leaders are creating more jobs, growing the economy, and returning control to the American people.

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

#### THE HISTORY OF MEMORIAL DAY

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to celebrate Memorial Day, let me give a brief history lesson. We know that Southern families decorated the graves of their fallen friends after the Civil War on what was known as Decoration Day.

However, it was a former Member of Congress, a Democrat-turned-Republican, an individual who got elected to the Senate, General John A. Logan, who gets credit for memorializing Memorial Day as he established the Grand Army of the Republic and issued General Order 31 which formerly established Memorial Day.

General Logan was from Illinois in the deep southern part of the State. He was a congressman, a U.S. Senator and a vice presidential candidate. He is memorialized with a statue here in Washington, DC and a statue in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he kept Union soldiers from burning down the city. He also has a community college named after him in the southern part of the State of Illinois.

As we remember the men and women who have fallen in combat, let us also remember our soldiers from all wars and the folks that made it possible for us to have and celebrate Memorial Day, and one of those individuals is General John A. Logan.

#### HONORING OUR VETERANS

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, shortly after the conclusion of the Civil War, a group of veterans began a tradition known as Decoration Day. The day was set aside to decorate the graves of the men who had perished during battle, and it was believed Decoration Day was always during the month of May because flowers needed for the occasion were finally blooming. Two centuries later, Decoration Day is now Memorial Day, but two core traditions remain: we honor those who died protecting our Nation, and we still do so in May when the flowers are blooming.

Today, as our Nation spends its third consecutive Memorial Day at war, we remember the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice defending the precious gift of liberty. We honor the people who have left behind husband, wives, children and parents, as well as the riches and celebrations of life, to fight for the freedoms of all Americans; and we should remain always mindful of that symbolic tradition of Decoration Day, that flowers will bloom, a beautiful America will bloom from the sacrifices made by our fallen veterans.